

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

25th to 31st July, 2022

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

FORUMIAS



Schemes/ Programmes/ Institutions

Q.1) Which of the following institution releases World of Work Report?

- a) World Bank
- b) ILO
- c) Both a and b
- d) ADB

ANS: B

Explanation: The World of Work Report has been released by the ILO.

Key Findings the Report

- Job loss: About 11.2 crore jobs might have been lost during the first quarter of 2022.
- Working hours: The number of hours worked globally dropped in the first quarter of 2022, to 3.8% below the pre-pandemic benchmark (4th quarter of 2019).
- Reason for reduction of working hours: The fresh lockdowns in China, the conflict between Ukraine and Russia, and the global rise in the prices of food and fuel are the major reasons.
- Financial turbulence, potential debt distress and global supply chain disruptions are growing risks of a further deterioration in working hours in 2022.

Source: EPIC June 2022

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Samudrayaan Mission:

1. It is India's first manned ocean mission.
2. National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) is the Implementing Agency for the mission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: About the Samudrayaan Mission:

- The Samudrayaan mission is India's first manned ocean mission. It is a part of the Deep Ocean Mission.
- Its aims is to send men deep into the ocean in a submersible vehicle for deep-ocean exploration and rare mineral mining. As a part of the mission, in 2023, Sea trials of a 500-meter rated shallow water version of the manned submersible will be done.
- The trial will be followed by a mission that will send 3 people to a depth of 6,000 meters in the sea in a manned submersible vehicle called MATSYA 6000 for deep underwater studies.
- National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) is the Implementing Agency for the mission.

Source: EPIC June 2022

Q.3) Consider the following statements about International Science Council:

1. It was formed in 2021.
2. It is an international non-governmental organization that unites scientific bodies at various levels across the social and natural sciences.

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: About International Science Council:

It was formed in 2018. It is an international non-governmental organization that unites scientific bodies at various levels across the social and natural sciences. It is headquartered in Paris, France.

Key Highlights

The report considered three potential scenarios through the year 2027:

First: It is the most likely scenario. COVID-19 will have worsened inequalities in health, economics, development, science and technology, and society.

Second: COVID-19 will have become an endemic disease worldwide and low-income states may face risk of health system collapse and growing food insecurity. Mental health concerns will grow even further.

Third: It is the most pessimistic scenario. The world faces high levels of harm to social wellbeing — with long-term school closures, unemployment and increased gender-based violence. Growing nationalism and polarization will inhibit cooperation on global vaccinations and trade and give rise to conflict.

Source: EPIC June 2022

Q.4) Which of the following Ministry has recently released Draft Notification for Electronic Waste Management?

- a) Ministry of science and technology
- b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- c) Ministry of Environment
- d) Ministry of Health and Family welfare

ANS: C

Explanation: The Ministry of Environment has released the Draft Notification for Electronic Waste Management.

Key Provisions of Draft Notification for Electronic Waste Management

Targets: Consumer goods companies and makers of electronics goods have to ensure at least 60% of their electronic waste is collected and recycled by 2023 with targets to increase them to 70% and 80% in 2024 and 2025, respectively.

The rules bring into effect a system of trading in certificates, akin to carbon credits, that will allow companies to temporarily bridge shortfalls.

The extended producer responsibility (EPR) certificates certify the quantity of e-waste collected and recycled in a particular year by a company. An organisation may sell surplus quantities to another company to help it meet its obligations.

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Companies will have to register on an online portal and specify their annual production and e-waste collection targets.

Monitoring authority: Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is the chief entity that coordinates the trade of EPR certificates and monitors if companies are meeting their targets. A steering committee to be headed by the Chairman of the CPCB will oversee the overall implementation of these regulations.

Source: EPIC June 2022

Q.5) Which of the following institutions releases Environmental Performance Index?

- a) UNEP
- b) WEF
- c) World Bank
- d) UNESCO

ANS: B

Explanation: About the Environmental Performance Index:

The EPI is an international ranking system of countries based on their environmental health. It is a biennial index, first started in 2002 as the Environment Sustainability Index by the World Economic Forum. It is prepared by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy in collaboration with Columbia University Center for International Earth Science Information Network.

It uses 40 performance indicators to assess and rank 180 countries. The indicators 'measure how close countries are in meeting internationally established sustainability targets for specific environmental issues'.

The 40 indicators are under the broad categories of (a) Climate Change Performance; (b) Environmental health; (c) Ecosystem vitality.

Source: EPIC June 2022

Q.6) Consider the following statements about I2U2:

1. The group is also referred as 'International Forum for Economic Cooperation'.
2. I2U2 is the grouping formed by 4 nations: India, Israel, the UAE and the US.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: I2U2

I2U2 is the grouping formed by 4 nations: India, Israel, the UAE and the US. The 1st summit of I2U2 nations will be held in a virtual mode in July 2022. Issues like food security and other areas of cooperation will be discussed at the summit. The group members met for the first time under a new framework in October 2021. At that time, the grouping was called 'International Forum for Economic Cooperation'. The Ambassador of UAE to India had referred to the new grouping as the 'West Asian Quad'.

Source: EPIC June 2022

Q.7) International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) has been commissioned at which of the following place?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Gujarat
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Telangana

ANS: C

Explanation: International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT):

The International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT) has been commissioned in Devasthal, Uttarakhand. It has been built by India, Belgium and Canada. It is located at an altitude of 2450 meters at the Devasthal Observatory campus of Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES). It is the first liquid mirror telescope in the country and the largest in Asia.

Source: EPIC June 2022

Q.8) Which of the following given statement is/are correct?

1. First Movers Coalition was launched by the President of the USA and the World Economic Forum (WEF).
2. It aims to decarbonise the heavy industry and long-distance transport sectors.

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: First Movers Coalition:

India has joined a public-private partnership initiative called First Movers Coalition. It was launched by the President of the USA and the World Economic Forum (WEF) at COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021. The aim of the initiative is to decarbonise the heavy industry and long-distance transport sectors that are responsible for 30% of global emissions. The target sectors include aluminium, aviation, chemicals, concrete, shipping, steel and trucking. Without any urgent progress on clean technology innovation, these sectors might witness over 50% of global emissions by mid-century.

Source: EPIC June 2022

Q.9) Which of the following given statement is incorrect?

- a) India has a National Mission to achieve 100 MT Coal Gasification by 2040.
- b) Coal gasification is a process in which coal is partially oxidised with air, oxygen, steam or carbon dioxide to form a fuel gas.
- c) China has the biggest number of coal gasification projects in the world.
- d) None of the above

ANS: A

Explanation: Coal Gasification:

The Ministry of Coal has prepared a National Mission document to achieve 100 MT Coal Gasification by 2030. Coal gasification is a process in which coal is partially oxidised with air, oxygen, steam or carbon dioxide to form a fuel gas. This gas is then used instead of piped natural

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gas, methane and others for deriving energy. China has the biggest number of coal gasification projects in the world. 5% of China's total coal consumption is from its gasifier. It can be used in the production of electricity and making chemical products such as fertilisers. Coal gasification is one of the more water-intensive forms of energy production. There are concerns about water contamination, land subsidence and disposing of wastewater safely.

Source: EPIC June 2022

Q.10) Consider the following statements about Jan Samarth Portal:

1. It is a unique digital portal linking 13 credit-linked Government Schemes on a single platform.
2. The portal will help increase turnaround time and facilitate faster sanction of loans to beneficiaries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Jan Samarth Portal:

The Portal was launched by the Prime Minister. It is a unique digital portal linking 13 credit-linked Government Schemes on a single platform. The portal will be an 'end-to-end delivery platform' and more people will come forward to avail of loans because of the ease of compliance. The portal will help reduce turnaround time and facilitate faster sanction of loans to beneficiaries.

Source: EPIC June 2022

Science

Q.1) Who among the following is credited to work for the unification of electricity, magnetism and optics field of Physics?

- a) James Clerk Maxwell
- b) Michael Faraday
- c) Haris Christian Oersted
- d) Isaac Newton

ANS: A

Explanation: James Clerk Maxwell made the efforts for the unification of electricity, magnetism and optics field of Physics. He showed that light is an electromagnetic wave. James Clerk Maxwell was a Scottish mathematician, physicist and is known best for his mathematical work on electromagnetism and on the behaviour of gases.

Source: NCERT

Q.2) The Kinetic energy of a satellite is maximum in which of the following conditions?

- a) When the satellite is at perigee
- b) When the satellite is at apogee
- c) It is equal at perigee and apogee
- d) None of the above

ANS: A

Explanation: The Kinetic energy will be maximum when the satellite is closest to the central body (at perigee) and minimum when it is farthest from the central body (at apogee). Potential energy will be minimum when kinetic energy = maximum i.e., the satellite is closest to the central body (at perigee) and maximum when kinetic energy = minimum i.e., the satellite is farthest from the central body (at apogee).

Source: NCERT

Q.3) On which of the following principles is Hydraulic lift based?

- a) Pascal law
- b) Bernoulli's principle
- c) Stoke's law
- d) Torricelli's law

ANS: A

Explanation: Pascal law states that whenever external pressure is applied on any part of a fluid contained in a vessel, it is transmitted undiminished and equally in all directions. This is another form of the Pascal's law. Devices such as hydraulic lift and hydraulic brakes, are based on the Pascal's law.

Source: NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following waves are also called as heat waves?

- a) UV rays
- b) X-rays
- c) Infrared
- d) Micro waves

ANS: C

Explanation: Infrared waves vibrate not only the electrons, but entire atoms or molecules of a substance. This vibration increases the internal energy and consequently, the temperature of the substance. Therefore, infrared waves are often called as heat waves.

Source: NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following is the phenomenon responsible for the trade winds?

- a) Convection
- b) Conduction
- c) Radiation
- d) None of the above

ANS: A

Explanation: The trade-wind, which is the steady surface wind on the earth blowing in from north-east towards the equator, is an example of natural convection.

Source: NCERT

Q.6) The absorption by blotting paper involves which of the following?

- a) Viscosity of ink
- b) Capillary action phenomenon
- c) Diffusion of ink through the blotting
- d) Siphon action

ANS: B

Explanation: The absorption of ink by blotting paper involves capillary action phenomenon because the blotting paper is a thin and a smooth paper which allows a little thicker liquids like ink to absorb.

Source: NCERT

Q.7) On a rainy day, small oil films on water show brilliant colours. This is due to which of the following phenomenon?

- a) Dispersion
- b) Interference
- c) Diffraction
- d) Polarization

ANS: B

Explanation: On a rainy day, small oil films on water show brilliant colours. This is due to Interference.

Interference is a phenomenon in which two waves superimpose to form a resultant wave of greater, lower or same amplitude.

Source: NCERT

Q.8) Materials for rain-proof coats and tents owe their water-proof properties to

- a) Surface tension
- b) Viscosity
- c) Specific gravity
- d) Elasticity

ANS: A

Explanation: The material of rain proof coats have the property of not minimizing the surface tension which will tend the water molecule to be in its drop form.

Source: NCERT

Q.9) Which of the following statement about superconductors is correct?

- a) Conduct electricity at low temperature
- b) Offer high resistance to the flow of current
- c) Offer no resistance to the flow of electricity
- d) Conduct electricity at high temperatures

ANS: C

Explanation: By definition, superconductors are substances which display zero electrical resistance when a current is supplied, and are able to propagate such a current in a circuit indefinitely.

Source: NCERT

Q.10) Radio telescopes are better than optical telescopes because of which of the following reason?

- a) They can detect faint galaxies which no optical telescope can
- b) They can work even in cloudy conditions
- c) They can work during the day and night
- d) All of the above

ANS: D

Explanation: Radio telescopes are better than optical telescopes because they can detect faint galaxies which no optical telescope can, they can work even in cloudy conditions and they can work during the day and night.

Source: NCERT

Economy

Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to Core Inflation:

1. Core inflation shows price rise in all goods and services excluding energy and food articles.
2. In India, first time introduced in 2003-04.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: This nomenclature is based on the inclusion or exclusion of the goods and services while calculating inflation. Popular in western economies, core inflation shows price rise in all goods and services excluding energy and food articles. In India, it was first time used in the financial year 2000–01 when the government expressed that it was under control—it means the prices of manufactured goods were under control. This was criticized by experts on account of excluding food articles and energy out of the inflation and feeling satisfied on the inflation front. Basically, in the western economies, food and energy are not the problems for the masses, while in India these two segments are of most vital importance for the common people.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to Galloping Inflation:

1. This form of inflation is 'large and accelerating' which might have the annual rates in million or even trillion
2. Latin American countries such as Argentina, Chile and Brazil had such rates of inflation

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: This is a 'very high inflation' running in the range of double-digit or triple digit (i.e., 20 per cent, 100 per cent or 200 per cent in a year). In the decades of 1970s and 1980s, many Latin American countries such as Argentina, Chile and Brazil had such rates of inflation—in the range of 50 to 700 per cent. The Russian economy did show such inflation after the disintegration of the ex-USSR in the late 1980s. Contemporary journalism has given some other names to this inflation —hopping inflation, jumping inflation and running or runaway inflation.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.3) In which Decade “Decadal Inflation” is highest among the following decades?

- a) 1950’s
- b) 1960’s
- c) 1970’s
- d) 1980’s

ANS: C

Explanation: Decadal inflation in India looks comparatively normal with reference to many developing economies. But it has sporadic incidences of double-digit tendencies mainly due to supply-side shortfalls caused by droughts (monsoon failures), price rise of crude oil in the international market or fund diversions due to wars (the Chinese war of 1962 and the Pakistan wars of 1965–66 and 1971). The decadal inflation in India has been as given below:

- (i) During 1950s: remained at 1.7 per cent.
- (ii) During 1960s: remained at 6.4 per cent.
- (iii) During 1970s: remained at 9.0 per cent.
- (iv) During 1980s: remained at 8.0 per cent.
- (v) During 1990s: remained at 9.5 per cent (though it reached 0.5 per cent by the fourth quarter of the fiscal 1998–99)

Source: ForumIAS

Q.4) Which of the following constitutes the stages of Business-Cycle of an economy?

- 1. Depression
- 2. Recovery
- 3. Boom
- 4. Recession
- 5. Growth

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Economists have pointed out that the business cycle is characterised by four phases or stages in which economies alternate:

- (i) Depression
- (ii) Recovery
- (iii) Boom
- (iv) Recession

Source: ForumIAS

Q.5) In which year Great Depression of world economy happened?

- a) 1928
- b) 1929
- c) 1930
- d) 1931

ANS: B

Explanation: Though depression has visited the world economy only once in 1929, economists have pin-pointed enough number of traits to recognise it. The major traits of depression could be as given below:

- (i) an extremely low aggregate demand in the economy causes activities to decelerate;
- (ii) the inflation being comparatively lower;
- (iii) the employment avenues start shrinking forcing unemployment rate to grow fast;
- (iv) to keep the business going, production houses go for forced labour-cuts or retrenchment (to cut down production cost and be competitive in the market,) etc.

The economic situations become so chaotic in the phase of depression that governments have almost no control over the economy. The Great Depression of 1929 gave rise to the ideas of strong government Intervention in the economy, such as deficit financing, monetary management, etc.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.6) Multipliers will be lower with which one of the following?

- a) High marginal propensity to consume
- b) Low marginal propensity to consume
- c) High marginal propensity to invest
- d) Low marginal propensity to save

ANS: B

Explanation: Every time there is an injection of new demand into the circular flow of income there is likely to be a multiplier effect. This is because an injection of extra income leads to more spending, which creates more income, and so on. The multiplier effect refers to the increase in final income arising from any new injection of spending.

The size of the multiplier depends upon household's marginal decisions to spend, called the marginal propensity to consume (mpc), or to save, called the marginal propensity to save (mps). It is important to remember that when income is spent, this spending becomes someone else's income, and so on. Marginal propensities show the proportion of extra income allocated to particular activities, such as investment spending by UK firms, saving by households, and spending on imports from abroad. For example, if 80% of all new income in a given period of time is spent on UK products, the marginal propensity to consume would be $80/100$, which is 0.8.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.7) In National Income (NI) accounts, Personal Income (PI) is defined as

- a) NI - undistributed profits – net interest payments made by households - corporate tax + transfer payments to the households from the government and firms
- b) NI - undistributed profits - corporate tax + transfer payments to the households from the government and firms
- c) undistributed profits - net interest payments made by households + transfer payments to the households from the government and firms
- d) undistributed profits – net interest payments made by households - corporate tax

ANS: A

Explanation: National income is a broader national level economic measure than is personal income. National income includes payments to individuals (income from wages and salaries, and other income), plus payments to government (taxes), plus retained income from the corporate sector (depreciation, undistributed profits), less adjustments (subsidies, government and consumer interest, and statistical discrepancy).

Personal income measures national level income to persons and nonprofit corporations. Personal income includes payments to individuals (income from wages and salaries, and other income), plus transfer payments from government, less employee social insurance contributions.

Disposable personal income measures the after-tax income of persons and nonprofit corporations. It is calculated by subtracting personal tax and nontax payments from personal income. In 1999, disposable personal income represented approximately 72 percent of gross domestic product (i.e., total U.S. output).

Source: ForumIAS

Q.8) The Global Infrastructure Facility is a/an

- a) ASEAN initiative to upgrade infrastructure in Asia and financed by credit from the Asian Development Bank.
- b) World Bank collaboration that facilitates the preparation and structuring of complex infrastructure Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to enable mobilization of private sector and institutional investor capital.
- c) Collaboration among the major banks of the world working with the OECD and focused on expanding the set of infrastructure projects that have the potential to mobilize private investment.
- d) UNCTAD funded initiative that seeks to finance and facilitate infrastructure development in the world.

ANS: B

Explanation: The Global Infrastructure Facility (GIF) is a partnership among governments, multilateral development banks, private sector investors, and financiers. It is designed to provide a new way to collaborate on preparing, structuring, and implementing complex projects that no single institution could handle on its own.

The comprehensive project support provided by the GIF draws on the combined expertise of its technical and advisory partners. This group, which includes commercial banks and institutional investors, ensures that well-structured and bankable infrastructure projects are brought to market in a way that sustainably meet the needs of governments and service users. Funding partners provide financial contributions to the GIF.

The GIF partnership is overseen by a Governing Council that supervises strategic programming and funds management as well as the development of operational policies and procedures. It

also holds the GIF's management accountable for delivering on objectives and principles. The Governing Council comprises representatives of funding and technical partners and representatives of emerging markets and developing economies, and is co-chaired by the World Bank Group and a Funding Partner.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.9) Which of the following statements best describes the term 'Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A)'?

- a) It is a procedure for considering ecological costs of developmental schemes formulated by the Government.
- b) It is a scheme of RBI for reworking the financial structure of big corporate entities facing genuine difficulties.
- c) It is a disinvestment plan of the Government regarding Central Public Sector Undertakings.
- d) It is an important provision in 'The insolvency and Bankruptcy Code' recently implemented by the Government

ANS: B

Explanation: In order to further strengthen the lenders' ability to deal with stressed assets and to put real assets back on track by providing an avenue for reworking the financial structure of entities facing genuine difficulties, the Reserve Bank of India has today issued guidelines on a 'Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets'.

Resolution of large borrowal accounts which are facing severe financial difficulties may, inter-alia, require co-ordinated deep financial restructuring which often involves a substantial write-down of debt and/or making large provisions. Often such high write-downs act as a disincentive to lenders to effect a sustainable change in the liability structure of borrows facing stress. Banks have also represented for a regulatory framework which would facilitate lenders taking up the exercise of reworking of the liability structure of companies to which they have significant exposures, in the context of asset quality stress currently faced by them.

Accordingly, the Reserve Bank, after due consultation with lenders, has formulated the 'Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets' (S4A) as an optional framework for the resolution of large stressed accounts. The S4A envisages determination of the sustainable debt level for a stressed borrower, and bifurcation of the outstanding debt into sustainable debt and equity/quasi-equity instruments which are expected to provide upside to the lenders when the borrower turns around. In order to make sure that that the entire exercise is carried out in a transparent and prudent manner, S4A envisages that the resolution plan will be prepared by credible professional agencies, while an Overseeing Committee, set up by the Indian Banks Association, in consultation with the RBI, comprising of eminent experts will independently review the processes involved in preparation of the resolution plan, under the S4A, for reasonableness and adherence to the provisions of these guidelines, and opine on it.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) helps in promoting the financial inclusion in the country.
2. NPCI has launched RuPay, a card payment scheme.

Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India, is an initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for creating a robust Payment & Settlement Infrastructure in India. NPCI, during its journey, has made a significant impact on the retail payment systems in the country. Dedicated to the nation by our former President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, endorsed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and later made the card of choice for the ambitious Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, RuPay is now a known name. RuPay is an indigenously developed Payment System – designed to meet the expectation and needs of the Indian consumer, banks and merchant eco-system. RuPay supports the issuance of debit, credit and prepaid cards by banks in India and thereby supporting the growth of retail electronic payments in India.

Source: ForumIAS

Polity

Q.1) Which one of the following statement is correct?

- a) In India, the same person cannot be appointed as Governor for two or more States at the same time
- b) The Judges of the High Court of the States in India are appointed by the Governor of the state just as the Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President
- c) No procedure has been laid down in the Constitution of India for the removal of a Governor from his/her post
- d) In the cases a Union Territory having a legislative setup the Chief Minister is appointed by the Lt. Governor on the basis of majority support

ANS: C

Explanation: In India, the same person cannot be appointed as Governor for two or more States at the same time - This option is incorrect because according to the 7th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1956, the same person can be appointed as Governor for two or more States at the same time.

- The Judges of the High Court of the States in India are appointed by the Governor of the state just as the Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President - This option is incorrect because the High Court Judges are also appointed by the President as in the case of Judges of the Supreme Court. But, the procedure is slightly different. The appointment of Chief Justice of High Court is dealt with in Article 217 of the Constitution which states that he is appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India as well as the Governor of the state in question. The collegium headed by the Chief Justice of India gives recommendations for the appointment of High Court Judges.
- In the cases a Union Territory having a legislative setup the Chief Minister is appointed by the Lt. Governor on the basis of majority support - This option is also incorrect because the Section 45 in the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 states that the Chief Minister must be appointed by the President. Rest of the Ministers is appointed by the President on the advice of the Chief Minister.
- Thus, the only correct statement is No procedure has been laid down in the Constitution of India for the removal of a Governor from his/her post.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.2) Which one of the following comes under the 'State List' under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India?

- a) Relief of the disabled and unemployable
- b) Regulations of labour and safety in mines
- c) Regulation and control of manufacture, supply and distribution of salt
- d) Social security and social insurance

ANS: A

Explanation: State List:

- The seventh schedule under Article 246 of the constitution deals with the division of powers between the union and the states.

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- It contains three lists: Union List, State List and Concurrent List.
- The union list details the subjects on which Parliament may make laws while the state list details those under the purview of state legislatures.
- The concurrent list, on the other hand, has subjects in which both Parliament and state legislatures have jurisdiction. However, the Constitution provides federal supremacy to Parliament on concurrent list items in case of a conflict.
- The State List is a list of 61 (Originally 66) items in the Schedule Seven to the Constitution of India.
- The respective state governments have exclusive power to legislate on matters relating to these items.
- 'Relief of the disabled and unemployable' comes under the state list of the seventh schedule.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.3) Match the Articles of The Indian Constitution given in column 1 with corresponding provisions given in column II and provide the correct answer from the option given below:

Column I

1. Article 153
2. Article 154
3. Article 155
4. Article 156

Column II

- a. Appointment of Governor by the President
- b. Mandates office of Governor
- c. Specifies Term of the Governor
- d. Specifies Executive Authority of Governor

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: GOVERNOR

152. Definition of state
153. Governors of states
154. Executive power of state
155. Appointment of governor
156. Term of office of governor
157. Qualifications for appointment as governor
158. Conditions of governor's office
159. Oath or affirmation by the governor
160. Discharge of the functions of the governor in certain contingencies
161. Power of governor to grant pardons, etc., and to suspend, remit or commute sentences in certain cases
162. Extent of executive power of state

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.4) Which of the following is not in the concurrent list of the Indian Constitution?

- a) Criminal Procedure
- b) Sale of Electricity
- c) Archaeological sites
- d) Public Order

ANS: B

Explanation: Some of the topics in Concurrent List (LIST-III)

1. Criminal Law, including all matters included in the Indian Penal Code.
2. Criminal procedure, including all matters included in the Code of Criminal Procedure.
3. Preventive detention for reasons connected with the security of a state, the maintenance of public order, or the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community.
4. Archaeological sites and remains other than those of national importance.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.5) Which of the following is/are correct regarding the office of Governor in India?

1. One Governor can act as Governor of more than one State.
2. The Governor has the power to grant pardons, reprieves, remission of punishment to persons convicted under the State Law.
3. The Governor is appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Chief Minister of the respective State.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Office of Governor

- 7th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1956 facilitated the appointment of same person as a governor of 2 or more states.
- Under Article 161 of the Constitution, the Governor of a state can grant pardons, reprieves, respites and remissions of punishment or suspend, remit and commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence against a state law.
- The Governor is appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.

Governor:

- He is the chief executive head of the state.
- But, like the President, he is the nominal executive head.
- He also acts as an agent of the central Government.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution provides for the abolition or creation of legislative councils in states.
2. Such a specific resolution must be passed by the state assembly by a simple majority.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Constitution provides for the abolition or creation of legislative councils in states. Accordingly, the Parliament can abolish a legislative council (where it already exists) or create it (where it does not exist), if the legislative assembly of the concerned state passes a resolution to that effect. Such a specific resolution must be passed by the state assembly by a special majority, that is, a majority of the total membership of the assembly and a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the assembly present and voting.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.7) Consider the following statements.

1. The legislative assembly consists of representatives directly elected by the people on the basis of universal adult franchise
2. Its maximum strength is fixed at 500 and minimum strength at 60.

Which of the above given statement is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The legislative assembly consists of representatives directly elected by the people on the basis of universal adult franchise. Its maximum strength is fixed at 500 and minimum strength at 60.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.8) Salary allowance and other services conditions of the State Chief Information Commissioners are similar to which of the following:

- a) Election commissioner
- b) Chief Secretary of the state government
- c) Chief Information Commissioner
- d) Chief Justice of Supreme Court

ANS: A

Explanation: Salary allowance and other services conditions of the State Chief Information Commissioners are similar to the Election Commissioner of India.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.9) Who is final interpreter of the provisions of the constitution of India in the state legislative assembly?

- a) Speaker
- a) b)President
- b) Prime Minister
- c) Chief Minister

ANS: A

Explanation: The Speaker of state legislative assembly is the final interpreter of the provisions of the Constitution of India, the rules of procedure and conduct of business of assembly, and also the legislative precedents, within the assembly.

Source: Laxmikanth

Q.10) On which of the following basis the seats are reserved for the SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha and the state legislative assemblies?

- a) Area
- b) Population
- c) Gender
- d) Locality

ANS: B

Explanation: Seats are to be reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha or the Lower House of the Parliament and the state legislative assemblies on the basis of population ratios.

Source: Laxmikanth

Geography

Q.1) The soils that cannot retain moisture and are infertile are the:

- a) Desert sands
- b) Alluvial soils
- c) Laterites
- d) Black cotton soils

ANS: A

Explanation: Desert Sands:

Desert soils form in areas where the demand for water by the atmosphere (evaporation) and plants (transpiration) is much greater than precipitation. Deserts cover 20 to 33% of the Earth's land surface and can be found in the tropics, at the poles, and in between. It has a low content of nitrogen and organic matter with very high calcium carbonate and phosphate, thus making it infertile. It thus is susceptible to wind erosion and supports a low density of population. Kankar or impure Calcium carbonate content is high which restricts the infiltration of water.

Sources: NCERT

Q.2) With reference to Tropical Evergreen Forests, consider the following statements:

1. They are found in warm and humid areas with annual precipitation of over 200 cm.
2. They are well stratified, with different layers of vegetation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Tropical Evergreen Forests:

- These forests are found in the western slope of the Western Ghats, hills of the northeastern region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- They are found in warm and humid areas with annual precipitation of over 200 cm and mean annual temperature above 22 degrees centigrade.
- Tropical evergreen forests are well stratified, with layers closer to the ground and are covered with shrubs and creepers, with short structured trees followed by a tall variety of trees.
- In these forests, trees reach great heights up to 60 m or above.
- There is no definite time for trees to shed their leaves, flowering, and fruition.
- As such these forests appear green all year- round.
- Species found in these forests include rosewood, mahogany, ebony, etc.

Sources: NCERT

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. Community forestry combines forestry with agriculture, thus, altering the simultaneous production of food, fodder, fuel, timber, and fruit.
2. Agro-forestry is a term applied to the process under which farmers grow trees for commercial and non-commercial purposes on their farmlands

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Farm Forestry:

- Farm forestry is a term applied to the process under which farmers grow trees for commercial and non-commercial purposes on their farmlands Agro-Forestry and Community Forestry Agro-forestry is the raising of trees and agriculture crops on the same land inclusive of the waste patches.
- It combines forestry with agriculture, thus, altering the simultaneous production of food, fodder, fuel, timber, and fruit.
- Community forestry involves the raising of trees on public or community land such as the village pasture and temple land, roadside, canal bank, strips along railway lines, and schools, etc.
- The community forestry programme aims at providing benefits to the community as a whole.
- Community forestry provides a means under which the people of landless classes can associate themselves in tree-raising and thus, get those benefits that otherwise are restricted for landowners.

Sources: NCERT

Q.4) With reference to Reforestation, consider the following statements:

1. Reforestation is the establishment of trees in an area where no previous tree cover exists.
2. Reforestation can be used to rebuild natural habitats and mitigate global warming.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Reforestation:

- Reforestation is the natural or intentional restocking of existing forests that have been previously depleted or degraded.
- Reforestation can be used to rebuild natural habitats and ecosystems, mitigate global warming since forests facilitate bio-sequestration of atmospheric carbon dioxide, etc.
- Reforestation need not be only used for recovery of accidentally destroyed forests. It is also done intentionally. For e.g. in many counties where pulp and paper industry is dominant, trees are planted to replace those that have been cut down.

Sources: NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following can be the possible impacts of Deforestation on the Environment?

1. Drier Climates
2. Change inflow of winds
3. Floods and landslides
4. Reduced Genetic variations

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Deforestation:

- Indiscriminate felling of trees as a result of urbanization, industrialization, mining operations, and use of wood for domestic and other purposes have caused heavy depletion of forests. This is called deforestation.
- Deforestation results in the conversion of forest land to a non-forest use.

Causes

of

Deforestation

Agriculture: As per UNFCCC, agriculture is the direct cause of deforestation. Subsistence farming, commercial agriculture, shifting cultivation, and industrial logging all-cause deforestation.

- Developmental Projects like hydroelectric projects, reservoirs etc. require immense deforestation.
- Raw Material requirements Overgrazing by cattle Other causes like mining, overpopulation, and urbanization, floods, forest fires due to climate change etc.

Impacts

of

Deforestation

Environmental Impacts: Deforestation is a contributor to global warming and is often cited as one of the major causes of the enhanced greenhouse effect as it causes carbon stores held in the soil to be released.

- Deforestation affects wind flows, water vapor flows and absorption of solar energy thus clearly influencing local and global climate.
- The water cycle is also affected by deforestation. Trees extract groundwater through their roots and release it into the atmosphere. When part of a forest is removed, the trees no longer transpire this water, resulting in a much drier climate.
- Deforestation causes: Increase in the rate of soil erosion. This can further lead to flooding in the river and makes the soil susceptible to landslides.
- Removal or destruction of significant areas of forest cover has resulted in a degraded environment with reduced biodiversity. Deforestation can destroy genetic variations (such as crop resistance) irretrievably.

Economic

Impacts:

A short-term economic gain made by conversion of forest to agriculture, or over-exploitation of wood products, typically leads to a loss of long-term income and long-term biological productivity.

Sources: NCERT

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding soil degradation:

1. It is caused by soil erosion.
2. The degree of soil degradation depends upon the amount of rainfall and wind velocity.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Soil Degradation:

- It can be defined as the decline in soil fertility i.e when the nutritional status declines and depth of the soil go down due to erosion and misuse.
- Soil degradation is the main factor leading to the depleting soil resource base in India. The degree of soil, degradation varies from place to place according to the topography, wind velocity and amount of rainfall.

Sources: NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following soils has the highest salt content?

- a) Desert soil
- b) Black soil
- c) Peaty soil
- d) Laterite soil

ANS: A

Explanation: Desert or Arid Soil:

- Arid soils range from red to brown in color.
- They are generally sandy in structure and saline in nature.
- In some areas, the salt content is so high that common salt is obtained by evaporating the saline water. Due to the dry climate, high temperature and accelerated evaporation, they lack moisture and humus.
- Nitrogen is insufficient and the phosphate content is normal. Lower horizons of the soil are occupied by 'kankar' layers because of the increasing calcium content downwards.
- The 'Kankar' layer formation in the bottom horizons restricts the infiltration of water, and as such when irrigation is made available, the soil moisture is readily available for sustainable plant growth.
- Arid soils are characteristically developed in western Rajasthan, which exhibits characteristic arid topography. These soils are poor and contain little humus and organic matter.

Sources: NCERT

Q.8) Which of the following statements is incorrect regarding Regur soils?

- a) These are highly fertile
- b) These suit leguminous crops
- c) These are good for citrus fruits
- d) Regur soils on uplands are more productive.

ANS: D

Explanation: Regur soils:

- Black soils are essentially mature and fertile soils which have been produced by relief and climate, rather than by a particular type of rock. Chemically, the black soils are rich in lime, iron, magnesia, and alumina. Owing to their iron-rich granular structure makes them resistant to wind and water erosion. They are poor in humus yet highly moisture-retentive, thus responding well to irrigation. They also contain potash.
- This soil has been used for growing a variety of crops for centuries without adding fertilizers and manures, with little or no evidence of exhaustion. These soils are best suited for cotton crops. Hence these soils are called regur and black cotton soils. Other major crops grown on the black soils include leguminous crops, wheat, jowar, linseed, Virginia tobacco, castor, sunflower and millets.
- Rice and sugarcane are equally important where irrigation facilities are available. Large varieties of vegetables and fruits including citrus fruits are also successfully grown on the black soils.
- A typical black soil is highly argillaceous with a large clay factor, 62 percent or more. In general, black soils of uplands are of low fertility while those in the valleys are very fertile.

Sources: NCERT

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the Peaty soil and the Forest soil?

1. Unlike Peaty soil, forest soil is acidic with low humus content.
2. Forest soil is loamy and silty on valley sides, while peaty soil, at many places, is alkaline in nature.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Peaty Soil:

- They are found in the areas of heavy rainfall and high humidity, where there is a good growth of vegetation.
- Thus, a large quantity of dead organic matter accumulates in these areas and this gives rich humus and organic content to the soil.
- Organic matter in these soils may go even up to 40-50 percent.
- These soils are normally heavy and black in color. In many places, they are alkaline also.
- It occurs widely in the northern part of Bihar, the southern part of Uttarakhand and the coastal areas of West Bengal, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu.

Forest Soils

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- These are formed in the forest areas where sufficient rainfall is available. The soils vary in structure and texture depending on the mountain environment where they are formed.
- They are loamy and silty on valley sides and coarse-grained in the upper slopes. In the snow-bound areas of the Himalayas, they experience denudation and are acidic with low humus content. The soils found in the lower valleys are fertile

Sources: NCERT

Q.10) Which of the following is/are the main agent(s) of soil erosion?

- a) Wind and water
- b) Rocks
- c) Sand
- d) None of these

ANS: A

Explanation: Soil Erosion:

- Soil erosion has been defined as the gradual removal of the topsoil by running water, wind, glacier, sea waves, anthropogenic agents and animals.
- Soil erosion is a universal phenomenon.
- According to one estimate about 75, 000 million tonnes of soil is removed by these agents annually. - In India, about 6000 million tonnes of soil are removed annually. Topsoil is currently lost 16 to 300 times faster than it can be replaced (which takes 200 to 1000 years).

Agents of soil Erosion:

- Running water:Uniform removal of soil Rill erosionGully erosion (e.g. northern Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, M.P. U.P) Wind Erosion: Mainly in the arid and semi-arid regions.

Sources: NCERT

Environment

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Photic zone is the upper layer of the aquatic ecosystems.
2. In aphotic zone, only respiration activity takes place.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Based on light penetration and plant distribution they are classified as photic and aphotic zones

Photic zone:

- It is the upper layer of the aquatic ecosystems, up to which light penetrates and within which photosynthetic activity is confined.
- The depth of this zone depends on the transparency of water.
- Both photosynthesis and respiration activity takes place.
- photic (or “euphotic”) zone is the lighted and usually well-mixed portion that extends from the lake surface down to where the light level is 1% of that at the surface.

Aphotic zone:

- The lower layers of the aquatic ecosystems, where light penetration and plant growth are restricted form the aphotic zone.
- Only respiration activity takes place.
- aphotic zone is positioned below the littoral and photic zones to bottom of the lake where light levels are too low for photosynthesis. Respiration occurs at all depths so the aphotic zone is a region of oxygen consumption. This deep, unlit region is also known as the profundal zone.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.2) With reference to eutrophication, which of the following statement is/are correct?

1. The nutrient-enrichment of the lakes promotes the growth of algae, aquatic plants and various fauna. This process is known as cultural eutrophication.
2. The nutrient enrichment of lakes at an accelerated rate is caused by human activities and the consequent ageing phenomenon is known as Natural eutrophication.

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 nutrient-enrichment of the lakes promotes the growth of algae, aquatic plants and various fauna. This process is known as natural eutrophication. Similar nutrient enrichment

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of lakes at an accelerated rate is caused by human activities (discharge of wastewaters or agricultural runoff) and the consequent ageing phenomenon is known as 'cultural eutrophication'.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.3) Which of the following given statement is/are correct?

1. Aquatic plant nutrient flux in oligotrophic lake is high.
2. Oxygen in the hypolimnion of eutrophic is absent.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: General Characteristics of Oligotrophic and eutrophic Lakes

Type of lake			
Sl.no	Parameter	Oligotrophic	Eutrophic
1.	Aquatic plant production	Low	Eliminated due to Eutrophication
2.	Aquatic animal production	Low	Eliminated due to Eutrophication
3.	Aquatic plant nutrient flux	Low	High
4.	Oxygen in the hypolimnion (bottom layer)	Present	Absent
5.	Depth	Tend to be deeper	Tend to be shallower
6.	Water quality for domestic & industrial uses	Good	Poor
7.	Total salts or conductance	Usually lower	Sometimes higher
8.	Number of plant and animal species	Many	Fewer

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.4) Ameenpur Lake, the first Biodiversity Heritage Site under the biodiversity act, 2002 is located in which of the following state?

- a) Telangana
- b) Bihar
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Madhya Pradesh

ANS: A

Explanation: Ameenpur Lake - First Biodiversity Heritage Site

Ameenpur Lake gets the status of the first Biodiversity Heritage Site in the country under the biodiversity act, 2002. It is an ancient man-made lake in a western part of Telangana. Biodiversity Heritage Site is areas of biodiversity importance, which harbor rich biodiversity, wild relatives of crops, or areas, which lie outside the protected area network. Biodiversity Heritage sites are managed by a locally constituted Biodiversity Management Committee and get funding for its protection.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.5) Which of the following about the causes of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) is/are correct?

- 1. Unusual warm water is conducive to blooms.
- 2. Nutrient deficiency of water, especially phosphates and nitrogen.

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: What are the causes of these blooms?

- Blooms occur when several colonies start combining rapidly when conditions such as nutrient concentrations, salinity and temperature are optimal.
- Blooms can be due to a number of reasons. Two common causes are nutrient enrichment and warm waters.
- Nutrient enrichment of water, especially phosphates and nitrogen, is often the result of pollution and can cause algal blooms.
- Water temperature has also been related to the occurrence of algal blooms, with unusually warm water being conducive to blooms.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.6) Which of the following statement about wetland ecosystem is/are correct?

1. Wetlands are areas intermediate in character between deepwater and terrestrial habitats.
2. One of the functions performed is filtration of sediments and nutrients from surface water.

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: Wet Land Ecosystem

- Wetlands are areas intermediate in character between deepwater and terrestrial habitats, also transitional in nature, and often located between them.
- These habitats experience periodic flooding from adjacent deepwater habitats and therefore supports plants and animals specifically adapted to such shallow flooding or water logging of the substrate, were designated as wetlands.
- They included lake littorals (marginal areas between highest and lowest water level of the lakes), floodplains (areas lying adjacent to the river channels beyond the natural levees and periodically flooded during high discharge in the river) and other marshy or swampy areas where water gets stagnated due to poor drainage or relatively impervious substrata & Bogs, fens and mangroves due to similar ecological characteristics

Functions of Wetlands

- Habitat to aquatic flora and fauna, as well as numerous species of birds, including migratory species.
- Filtration of sediments and nutrients from surface water
- Nutrients recycling
- Water purification
- Floods mitigation
- Maintenance of stream flow
- Ground water recharging
- Provide drinking water, fish, fodder, fuel, etc
- Control rate of runoff in urban areas
- Buffer shorelines against erosion
- Comprise an important resource for sustainable tourism, recreation and cultural heritage
- Stabilization of local climate
- Source of livelihood to local people
- Genetic reservoir for various species of plants (especially rice)
- Supporting specific diversity

Source: Shankar IAS

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Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. Dominant producer in a lake are macrophytes, while in a wetland are phyto plankton.
2. There is thermal stratification in a lake and not in a wetland.

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: Comparison between Lake and Wetlands

Sl. no	Characteristic	Lake	Wetland (shallow lake)
1.	Origin	various process	Fluvial/ Geomorphic processes
2.	Water turnover	Permanent	Permanent or Temporary
3.	Water level changes	relatively small	Relatively Large
4.	Littoral: Pelagial ratio	Small	Large
5.	Thermal stratification	Yes	No
6.	Vertical mixing	Thermally regulated	Wind regulated
7.	Dominant Producer	Phyto plankton	Macrophytes
8.	Food chain	Grazing Pathway	Detritus Pathway
9.	Nutrient Cycles	Microbial loops less important	Microbial loop dominant
10.	Productivity	Low	High
11.	Trophic status	Oligo trophic	Mostly Eutrophic (Except desirable in bogs)
12.	Biodiversity	Generally low	Generally high
13.	Functions- Flood control	Less Significant	Significant
14.	Groundwater recharge	Negligible/low	Low-high
15.	Waste treatment	No	Yes
16.	Management objectives	Control of eutrophication High Water quality	Biodiversity conservation Specific Functions

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) Which of the following statement is/are correct?

1. Kannimara teak is one of the largest living teak tree in the world.
2. Kannimara tree has been awarded 'Mahavriksha Puraskar' by the Government of India.

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: Kannimara teak is one of the largest living teak tree in the world. It has an amazing girth of 6.48m and a crown height of 48.75m. It is believed to be around 400 years old.

According to the local tribal belief here when this tree was tried to cut down, the blood spurted out from the place of cut. This tree was being since then worshipped by the local tribes in Parambikulam as "Virgin tree". Kannimara - 'Kanni' means 'Virgin'. This tree has been awarded 'Mahavriksha Puraskar' by the Government of India.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.9) Which of the following statement is/are correct?

1. Floating treatment wetland works on the basis of hydroponics technique.
2. The Nekkampur Lake in Hyderabad is the largest floating treatment wetland in the country.

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: Nekkampur Lake - First FTW Lake

The Nekkampur Lake, Hyderabad is the largest floating treatment wetland in the country. Floating treatment wetland works on the basis of hydroponics technique. Hydroponics permits plants to grow on the water with the help of sunlight (no need of soil). A floating island unit is essentially a platform designed using styrofoam, bamboo, gunny bags and coir and it performs the function of a wetland.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) Montreux Record is the principal tool under which of the following convention?

- a) Ramsar Convention
- b) Basel Convention
- c) Stockholm Convention
- d) Bonn Convention

ANS: A

Explanation: Montreux Record

Montreux Record is the principal tool under the Ramsar Convention, is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance. It highlights those sites where adverse changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference and which are therefore in need of priority conservation attention. It is maintained as part of the Ramsar List.

Montreux Record are employed to identify priority sites for positive national and international conservation attention. Sites may be added to and removed from the Record only with the approval of the Contracting Parties in which they lie.

Source: Shankar IAS

History

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the Militant Nationalist:

1. They did not believe in the capacity of the masses to challenge authority.
2. They believed that true nationalists should always be ready for personal sacrifice.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Militant Nationalism:

- A radical trend of a militant nationalist approach to political activity started emerging in the 1890s and it took concrete shape by 1905.
- By the dawn of the twentieth century, a band of nationalist thinkers had emerged who advocated a more militant approach to political work.
- These included Raj Narain Bose, Ashwini Kumar Datta, Aurobindo Ghosh and Bipin Chandra Pal in Bengal; Vishnu Shastri Chiplunkar and Bal Gangadhar Tilak in Maharashtra; and Lala Lajpat Rai in Punjab. Tilak emerged as the most outstanding representative of this school of thought.

The reason behind the growth of Militant nationalism:

- Recognition of the True Nature of British Rule
- Growth of Confidence and Self-Respect
- Growth of Education
- International Influences
- Reaction to Increasing Westernisation
- Dissatisfaction with Achievements of Moderates
- Reactionary Policies of Curzon
- Existence of a Militant School of Thought
- The emergence of a Trained Leadership

The basic tenets of this school of thought were:

- Hatred for foreign rule, Indians should work out their own salvation.
- Swaraj to be the goal of the national movement.
- Direct political action was required.
- Belief in capacity of the masses to challenge the authority.
- Personal sacrifices are required and a true nationalist to be always ready for it.

Source: NCERT

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Q.2) Which of the following events happened during the tenure of Lord Curzon?

1. Two British officials were assassinated by the Chapekar brothers.
2. Agriculture research institute at PUSA.

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: B

Explanation: Lord Curzon:

Following are the important events happened during the tenure of Lord Curzon (1899-1905):

- Lord Curzon set up a Famine Commission.
- The Punjab Land Alienation Act of 1900 prohibited the sale of agricultural lands for its attachment in execution of a decree.
- Agricultural banks were established.
- In 1904, the cooperative credit society's act was passed.
- The Department of Agriculture was established in 190
- He founded on agricultural research Institute at Pusa.
- Commission was appointed in 1901 to consider the problems of education.
- In order to preserve and protect the ancient monuments of India, he passed the Ancient Monuments Protection Act, and the Archaeological Department was established in 190.
- The setup of the Police Commission under the Chairmanship of Sir Andrew Frazer in 190
- A Criminal Investigation Department was opened in each district. In 1901 the Imperial Cadet Corps was set up.
- Split in congress took place in 1907.
- Assassination by Chapeker brothers was done in 1897.

Source: NCERT

Q.3) Who among the following is/are associated with the "Swadeshi Sangam Samiti"?

- a) Alluri Sitarama Raju
- b) Pingali Venkayya
- c) V.O. Chidambaram Pillai
- d) All of the above

ANS: C

Explanation: Swadeshi Sangam:

In Tirunelveli, (Tamil Nadu), V.O. Chidambaram Pillai, Subramania Siva and some lawyers formed the Swadeshi Sangam which inspired the local masses.

These samitis generated political consciousness among the masses through magic lantern lectures, swadeshi songs, providing physical and moral training to their members, social work during famines and epidemics, organisation of schools, training in swadeshi crafts and arbitration courts.

Source: NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are not correct regarding Women's Organisations during British Rule?

1. All India Women's Conference (AIWC) is considered the first major Indian women's organisation set up by women.
2. Sarla Devi Chaudhurani founded the Arya Mahila Samaj.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Women's Organisations:

- In 1910, Sarla Devi Chaudhurani convened the first meeting of the Bharat Stree Mahamandal in Allahabad. Considered as the first major Indian women's organisation set up by a woman, its objectives included the promotion of education for women, abolition of the purdah system and improvement in the socio-economic and political status of women all over India.
- Ramabai Ranade founded the Ladies Social Conference (Bharat Mahila Parishad), under the parent organisation National Social Conference, in 1904 in Bombay.
- Pandita Ramabai Saraswati founded the Arya Mahila Samaj to serve the cause of women. She pleaded for improvement in the educational syllabus of Indian women before the English Education Commission which was referred to Queen Victoria.
- The All India Women's Conference (AIWC), founded by Margaret Cousins in 1927, was perhaps the first women's organisation with an egalitarian approach. Its first conference was held at Ferguson College, Pune. Important founding members included Maharani Chimnabai Gaekwad, Rani Sahiba of Sangli, Sarojini Naidu, Kamla Devi Chattopadhyaya and Lady Dorab Tata.

Source: NCERT

Q.5) Consider the following statements about Morley Minto Reforms 1909:

1. Number of elected members in Imperial Legislative Council was increased.
2. Provision for reservation of seats for landlords and British capitalist in India was removed.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Morley Minto Reforms, 1909:

It increased the number of elected members in Imperial Legislative Council and the provincial councils. But most of the elected members were indirectly elected, by the provincial councils in case of Imperial Legislative Council and by municipal committees and district boards in case of Provincial Councils.

Some of the elected seats were reserved for landlords and British capitalists in India.

Source: NCERT

Q.6) Saddler Commission was established to review the:

- a) The functioning of Calcutta University.
- b) Condition of Minorities in British India.
- c) Problems of Secondary education in British India.
- d) None of the above

ANS: A

Explanation: Saddler Commission (The Calcutta University Commission of 1917):

- In 1917 the Government of India appointed a Commission to study and report on the problems of Calcutta University. Dr. M.E. Saddler, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds, was appointed its Chairman. The Commission included two Indian members, namely Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee and Dr. Zia-ud-din Ahmad.
- While the Hunter Commission had reported on problems of secondary education and the University Commission of 1902 mainly on the different aspects of university education, the Saddler Commission reviewed the entire field from school education to university education.
- The Saddler Commission held the view that the improvement of secondary education was a necessary condition for the improvement of university education.

Source: NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following commission is related to the reforms in civil services?

- a) Islington Commission
- b) Frazer Commission
- c) Hartog Commission
- d) Saddler Commission

ANS: A

Explanation: Islington Commission, 1912:

It is a Royal Commission formed to recommend reforms in the Public Service of British India with Lord Islington as its chairman. A ten-member commission, which included three Indians, was given the task of examining the Indian demand to increase the number of Indians in the Higher Civil Services and, most importantly, holding the simultaneous examination in India. The commission was guided by three principal considerations:

- Firstly, to maintain high standards of civil administration in British India;
- Secondly, to safeguard the paramount interest of British rule; and
- Thirdly, to satisfy the reasonable aspirations of Indians and promote friendly relations between Indians and Europeans for better governance.
- The commission completed its report in 1915, but owing to the outbreak of the First World War, the report was not published until 1917.

It recommended:

- 25 percent of the posts in the superior civil service should be filled from among Indians, partly by direct recruitment and partly by promotion
- The examination for the recruitment of civil servants should be held in India.

Source: NCERT

Q.8) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the annulment of the partition of Bengal in 1911?

1. A separate Assam province was created.
2. The capital of British India was moved to Bombay from Calcutta in 1911.

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: A

Explanation: Annulment of the partition of Bengal in 1911:

- Owing to mass political protests, the partition was annulled in 1911.
- New provinces were created based on linguistic lines rather than religious lines. Bihar and Orissa Province was carved out of Bengal. (Bihar and Orissa became separate provinces in 1936).
- A separate Assam province was created.
- The capital of British India was moved to Delhi from Calcutta in 1911.
- Despite the annulment, the partition did create a communal divide among the Hindus and Muslims of Bengal.

Source: NCERT

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding Swarajists and No-changers:

1. Motilal Nehru, along with C. Rajagopalachari and M.A. Ansari were called as Swarajists.
2. The 'No-changers' followed the 'end or mend strategy' and advocated concentration on constructive work.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Swarajists and No-changers:

- The 'Swarajists' section was led by C.R. Das, Motilal Nehru, and Ajmal Khan. They wanted an end to the boycott of legislative councils so that the nationalists could enter them to expose the basic weaknesses of these assemblies and use these councils as an arena of political struggle to arouse popular enthusiasm.
- In other words, they advocate 'end or mend' these councils, i.e., if the government did not respond to the nationalists' demands, then they would obstruct the working of these councils.
- The other school of thought led by C. Rajagopalachari, Vallabhbhai Patel, Rajendra Prasad, and M.A. Ansari came to be known as the 'No changers'.
- They opposed council entry and 'end or mend strategy'. They advocated concentration on constructive work, and continuation of boycott and non-cooperation, and quiet preparation for the resumption of the suspended civil disobedience programme.

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- The No-Changers argued that parliamentary work would lead to neglect of constructive work, loss of revolutionary zeal and to political corruption. Constructive work would prepare everyone for the next phase of civil disobedience.

Source: NCERT

Q.10) The Hartog Committee Report was appointed to:

1. Survey the growth of importance of civil services in British India.
2. Survey the economic conditions of Indians.

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: Hartog Committee:

- In 1929, the Hartog Committee submitted its report. This Committee was appointed to survey the growth of education in British India.
- It “devoted far more attention to mass education than Secondary and University Education”. The committee was not satisfied with the scanty growth of literacy in the country and highlighted the problem of ‘Wastage’ and ‘Stagnation’ at the primary level.
- It mentioned that the great waste of money and efforts which resulted because of the pupils leaving their schools before completing the particular stage of education. Its conclusion was that “out of every 100 pupils (boys and girls) who were in class I in 1922-23, only 18 were reading in class IV in 1925-26. Thus, resulted in a relapse into illiteracy. So, it suggested the following important measures for the improvement of primary education.
 - Adoption of the policy of consolidation in place of multiplication of schools;
 - Fixation of the duration of the primary course to four years;
 - Improvement in the quality, training, status, pay, service condition of teachers
 - Relating the curricula and methods of teaching to the conditions of villages in which children live and read
 - Adjustment of school hours and holidays to seasonal and local requirements
 - Increasing the number of Government inspection staff.

Source: NCERT