

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

December, 2023

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Environment Institutions & Measures

Q.1) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) for the period 2017-2031”?

1. It has 5 components and 17 themes.
2. The plan focuses on preservation of genetic diversity and sustainable development.
3. It is third action plan.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The first National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) of 1983 has been revised and the Wildlife Action Plan (2002- 2016) has been adopted.

- India’s National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) for the period 2017-2031 focuses on preservation of genetic diversity and sustainable development.
- The NWAP has five components, 17 themes, 103 conservation actions and 250 projects.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.2) The National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board set up in?

- a) 1972
- b) 1982
- c) 1992
- d) 2002

ANS: C

Explanation: National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board set up in August 1992, is responsible for promoting afforestation, tree planting, ecological restoration and eco-development activities in the country, with special attention to the degraded forest areas and lands adjoining the forest areas, national parks, sanctuaries and other protected areas as well as the ecologically fragile areas like the Western Himalayas, Aravallis, Western Ghats, etc.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.3) The term “CAMPA” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Afforestation fund
- b) Conservation agriculture
- c) Cyclone management
- d) Cyber protection

ANS: A

Explanation: The Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF Act), 2016 and Rules, 2018 provide elaborate guidelines and activities for utilization of CAMPA Fund.

The CAMPA funds are utilized for compensating the loss of forest land and ecosystem services by raising of compensatory afforestation, improving quality of forests through assisted natural regeneration, enrichment

of biodiversity, improvement of wildlife habitat, control of forest fire, forest protection and soil and water conservation measures.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.4) The “Joint Forest Management (JFM)” is often seen in news, came into effect through?

- a) Wildlife protection act, 1972
- b) Environment protection act, 1981
- c) National forest policy of 1988
- d) Sustainable action plan 2002

ANS: C

Explanation: Joint Forest Management (JFM) is partnership involving both the forest departments and local communities in natural forest management.

The concept was introduced by Government of India through the National Forest Policy of 1988.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.5) The term “Social Forestry” first came into effect through?

- a) National Commission on Agriculture in 1976
- b) Environment protection act, 1981
- c) National forest policy of 1988
- d) Sustainable action plan 2002

ANS: A

Explanation: The National Commission on Agriculture, Government of India, first used the term ‘social forestry’ in 1976.

It was then that India embarked upon a social forestry project with the aim of taking the pressure off the forests and making use of all unused and fallow land.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “National Bamboo Mission”:

- 1. It is a central sector scheme.
- 2. It is implemented by NABARD.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The National Bamboo Mission is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 100% contribution from Central Government.

It is being implemented by the Horticulture Division under Department of Agriculture and Co-operation in the Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.7) The “Lighting A Billion Lives (LABL)” is an initiative of?

- a) World Bank
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) TERI
- d) Centre for Science & Environment

ANS: C

Explanation: LaBL is a campaign by TERI that promotes the use of solar lanterns specially designed and manufactured on a decentralized basis.

- LaBL has been able to engage with government interventions under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Madhya Pradesh Rural Livelihood Project, Rasthriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi, and has facilitated the spread of mobile telephony with support from Department of Telecommunications, Government of India.
- LaBL has successfully engaged the private sector and leveraged Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF)”:

1. It was constituted in the public account of India in the Finance Bill 2010-11.
2. Its objective is to invest in entrepreneurial ventures and research & innovative projects in the field of clean energy technology.

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: National Clean Energy Fund’ (NCEF) was constituted in the public account of India in the Finance Bill 2010-11.

Objective - to invest in entrepreneurial ventures and research & innovative projects in the field of clean energy technology.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.9) The “FAME India Scheme” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Electric vehicles
- b) Fertilizers
- c) Incubation centres
- d) Nuclear reactors

ANS: A

Explanation: Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India) Scheme Phase-II is being implemented by the Ministry of Heavy Industries for a period of five years commencing from 1st April,2019 with a total budgetary support of Rs. 10,000 crore.

- This phase mainly focuses on supporting electrification of public & shared transportation, and aims to support through demand incentive 7090 eBuses, 5 lakh e-3 Wheelers, 55000 e-4 Wheeler Passenger Cars and 10 lakh e-2 Wheelers.
- In addition, creation of charging infrastructure is also supported under the Scheme.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) The “Neyyar and Peppara wildlife sanctuaries” are recently seen in news located at?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Kerala
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Karnataka

ANS: B

Explanation: The MoEFCC has issued a draft notification to declare an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) that will encompass large swathes of areas around the Neyyar and Peppara wildlife sanctuaries in Thiruvananthapuram.

Source: FORUMIAS

Environment Institutions & Measures

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Animal Welfare Board of India”:

- 1. It is a statutory body.
- 2. It was established through wildlife protection act, 1972.

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: The Animal Welfare Board of India is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country.

The Animal Welfare Board of India, the first of its kind to be established by any Government in the world, was set up in 1962, in accordance with Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Acts 1960.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.2) The famous “Shrimati Rukmini Devi Arundale” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Zoological park
- b) Animal welfare board
- c) Jim Corbett national park
- d) National green tribunal

ANS: B

Explanation: Shrimati Rukmini Devi Arundale pioneered the setting up of the Animal welfare Board, with its Headquarters' at Chennai. She guided the activities of the Board for nearly twenty years till her demise in 1986.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.3. The “Central Zoo Authority” was constituted through amendment of which of the following act?

- a) Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Acts 1960
- b) Wildlife protection act, 1972
- c) Biological Diversity Act ,2002
- d) National green tribunal act, 2010

ANS: B

Explanation: The amendment made to the Wild Life (Protection) Act in 1991 added a new chapter dealing with zoos to the Act and allowed for the Central Government to constitute an authority known as the Central Zoo Authority to oversee the functioning and development of zoos in the country.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.4) Which of the following is/are function/s of “Central Zoo Authority”?

- 1. To specify the minimum standards for housing, upkeep and veterinary care of animals kept in a zoo.
- 2. To recognize and derecognize zoos.
- 3. To identify endangered species of wild animals for purposes of captive breeding and assigning responsibility in this regard to a zoo.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The following are the functions of the Central Zoo Authority as specified in the Act:

- 1. To specify the minimum standards for housing, upkeep and veterinary care of animals kept in a zoo
- 2. To evaluate and assess the functioning of zoos with respect to the standards or the norms as are prescribed
- 3. To recognize and derecognize zoos
- 4. To identify endangered species of wild animals for purposes of captive breeding and assigning responsibility in this regard to a zoo
- 5. To co-ordinate the acquisition, exchange and loaning of animals for breeding purposes

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.5) The “National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)” was established in?

- a) 1972
- b) 1992
- c) 2003
- d) 2010

ANS: C

Explanation: The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established in 2003 to implement India’s Biological Diversity Act (2002).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Wildlife Crime Control Bureau”:

1. It was established in 2002.
2. It was established through amendment of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Government of India constituted a statutory body, the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau on 6th June 2007, by amending the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The bureau would complement the efforts of the state governments, primary enforcers of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and other enforcement agencies of the country.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.7) The “Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)” is often seen in news associated with?

- a) Wildlife protection act, 1972
- b) Environment protection act, 1986
- c) Biodiversity act, 2002
- d) National green tribunal act, 2010

ANS: C

Explanation: The Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at local level was formed under India’s Biological Diversity Act (2002).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) The famous “Wular Lake” is often seen in news located at?

- a) Chennai
- b) Ahmadabad
- c) Lucknow
- d) Kashmir

ANS: D

Explanation: Lake Wular belongs to the largest freshwater lakes in India and lies in the Kashmir Valley, 40 km northwest of Srinagar City in the Northwest of India. With a size of 189 sq. km, Wular Lake is also one of the largest freshwater lakes in Asia.

- The lake lies at an altitude of 1,580 m. Its maximum depth is 14 metres, it has a length of 16 km and a breadth of 10 km.
- In recognition of its biological, hydrological and socio-economic values, the lake was included in 1986 as a Wetland of National Importance under the Wetlands Programme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India for intensive conservation and management purposes.
- Subsequently in 1990, it was designated as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The “Mouling National Park” is recently seen in news located at?

- a) Assam
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Sikkim

ANS: B

Explanation: Mouling National Park is a national park located in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, spread primarily over the Upper Siang district and parts of the West Siang and East Siang district. It was the second national park to be created in the state, after Namdapha National Park in 1972.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The “Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary” is recently seen in news located at?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Karnataka
- d) Goa

ANS: C

Explanation: The Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Kodagu District, Karnataka State, India, within the Western Ghats and about 250 km from Bangalore.

The sanctuary derives its name from the highest peak of the mountain range, Brahmagiri Peak. It was declared a sanctuary on June 5, 1974.

Source: FORUMIAS

Climate Change & India

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “climate change”:

1. The Earth’s climate is not static.
2. Climate change is a change of weather in a particular day.

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: Climate is the long-term average of a region’s weather events. The Earth’s climate is not static.

- Over the billions of years of earth’s existence, it has changed many times in response to natural causes like sun spot, ice age glaciations, etc.
- The phrase ‘climate change’ represents a change in the long-term weather patterns.
- Climate change is not a change of weather in a particular day; it is the cumulative change of long term weather pattern i.e. changes in climate.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.2) Which of the following is/are green house gas/gases?

1. Carbon dioxide
2. Ozone
3. Water vapor

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Greenhouse gases consist of carbon dioxide, methane, ozone, nitrous oxide, chlorofluorocarbons, and water vapor.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.3) Which of the following is emitted through wetlands?

- a) Carbon monoxide
- b) Ozone
- c) Methane
- d) Chlorofluorocarbon

ANS: C

Explanation: Methane (CH₄) is emitted by natural sources such as wetlands, as well as human activities such as leakage from natural gas systems and the raising of livestock.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.4) Which of the following is/are source/s of Nitrous oxide?

1. Synthetic fertilizers
2. Livestock manure
3. Transportation fuels

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Nitrous oxide is emitted when people add nitrogen to the soil through the use of synthetic fertilizers.

- Nitrous oxide is also emitted during the breakdown of nitrogen in livestock manure and urine, which contributed to 6% of N₂O emissions in 2010.
- Nitrous oxide is emitted when transportation fuels are burned.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.5) In which of the following area/s Hydro fluorocarbons is/are used?

1. Aerosol propellants
2. Fire retardants
3. Refrigerants

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Hydro fluorocarbons are used as refrigerants, aerosol propellants, solvents, and fire retardants. These chemicals were developed as a replacement for chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydro chlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) because they do not deplete the stratospheric ozone layer.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.6) Which of the following is/are source/s of “black carbon”?

1. Biomass burning
2. Solid fuels
3. Diesel exhaust

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Black carbon (BC) is a solid particle or aerosol, (though not a gas) contributes to warming of the atmosphere.

Source of black carbon are biomass burning, cooking with solid fuels, and diesel exhaust, etc.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Global warming potential (GWP)”:

1. Gases with a higher GWP absorb more energy than gases with a lower GWP.
2. Methane (CH₄) has a GWP more than 20 times higher than CO₂.

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: Gases with a higher GWP absorb more energy, per pound, than gases with a lower GWP, and thus contribute more to warming Earth.

Methane (CH₄) has a GWP more than 20 times higher than CO₂ for a 100-year time scale.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) Which of the following has the highest “Global warming potential (GWP)”?

- a) Carbon dioxide
- b) Methane
- c) Hydro fluorocarbons
- d) Sulfur hexafluoride

ANS: D

Explanation: Global warming potential describes the impact of each gas on global warming.

GWP & Lifetime of Green House Gases:

S. No	GAS	GWP (100-year)	LIFETIME (years)
1	Carbon di oxide	1	100
2	Methane	21	12
3	Nitrous oxide	310	120
4	Hydro fluoro carbons (HFCs)	140-11,700	1-270
5	Perfluoro carbons (PFCs)	6,500-9,200	800-50,000
6	Sulfur hexafluoride (SF6)	23,900	3,200

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.9) The “shoal forests” are found in which of the following region in India?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Assam
- d) Himachal Pradesh

ANS: A

Explanation: Shola forest, temperate forest is an evergreen ecosystem found at the high altitude regions. It is distributed in Nilgris and Palani hills of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. Spices and condiments are flavoring agents obtained from plants.
2. Spices and condiments are classified as foods.

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: Spices and condiments are flavoring agents obtained from plants. Because they have little nutritive value, they are not classified as foods.

- They contain essential oils, which impart flavor and aroma to food and add greatly to the pleasure of eating.
- They stimulate the appetite and increase the flow of gastric juices.

Source: Shankar IAS

Climate Change & Mitigation Strategies

Q.1) Which of the following change/s is/are correct about “ocean acidification process”?

1. The concentration of hydrogen ions in the ocean increases.
2. The concentration of carbonate ions in the ocean increases.
3. The pH of the oceans increases.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: A

Explanation: Ocean acidification is the change in ocean chemistry - lowering of ocean pH (i.e. increase in concentration of hydrogen ions) driven by the uptake of carbon compounds by the ocean from the atmosphere.

As the uptake of atmospheric carbon dioxide by the ocean increases, the concentration of hydrogen ions in the ocean increases, the concentration of carbonate ions decreases, the pH of the oceans decreases and the oceans become less alkaline – this process is known as ocean acidification.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.2) Which of the following is the primary nutrient in the process “Eutrophication”?

- a) Carbon
- b) Sulfur
- c) Potassium
- d) Nitrogen

ANS: D

Explanation: Coastal waters are also affected by excess nutrient inputs, mostly nitrogen, from agriculture, fertilizers and sewage.

The resulting eutrophication leads to large plankton blooms, and when these blooms collapse and sink to the sea bed the subsequent respiration of bacteria decomposing the algae leads to a decrease in sea water oxygen and an increase in CO₂ (a decline in pH).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.3) Which of the following is/are the mitigation strategy/strategies of “ocean acidification”?

1. Reducing carbon dioxide
2. Eliminate offshore drilling
3. Advocating for energy efficiency

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Mitigation strategies of ocean acidification are:

- Reducing CO₂
- promoting government policies to cap CO₂ emissions,
- eliminate offshore drilling,
- by advocating for energy efficiency and
- Alternative energy sources such as wind power, solar, etc.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “upwelling of coastal oceans”:

1. In upwelling events where deeper ocean water circulates onto continental shelves and near-shore areas.
2. The hot water of ocean circulation contains more nutrients & more CO₂.

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: Surface Coastal regions periodically experience upwelling events where deeper ocean water circulates onto continental shelves and near-shore areas.

This exposes the productive upper ocean ecosystems to colder water containing more nutrients & more CO₂.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Ozone”:

1. It is a natural gas.
2. It is an allotrope of oxygen consisting of three atoms of oxygen bound together in a non-linear fashion.

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: Ozone is a natural gas; it is an allotrope of oxygen consisting of three atoms of oxygen bound together in a non-linear fashion. The chemical symbol of ozone is O₃.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.6) Which of the following ape is found in India?

- a) Gorilla
- b) Gibbon
- c) Orangutan
- d) Langur

ANS: B

Explanation: Hoolock Gibbon is the only ape found in India. Rest of the monkeys is all macaques and langurs. In India is distributed in the northeast India.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.7) Which of the following is/are characteristic/s of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)?

- 1. Non-corrosiveness
- 2. High inflammability
- 3. Low toxicity

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: CFCs has a wide and varied application due to its properties like non-corrosiveness, non-inflammability, low toxicity and chemical stability, etc.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding "bromine":

- 1. It contains compounds called halons and Hydro-bromo fluorocarbons (HBFCs).
- 2. Bromine atom destroys more ozone molecules than the chlorine atom.

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: Bromine containing compounds called halons and HBFCs, i.e. hydrobromo fluorocarbons [both used in fire extinguishers and methyl bromide (a widely used pesticide)].

Each bromine atom destroys hundred times of more ozone molecules than what a chlorine atom does.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.9) The "Dobson unit" is associated with which of the following?

- a) Ozone
- b) Ocean acidification
- c) Eutrophication
- d) Upwelling

ANS: A

Explanation: The most common measure of total ozone abundance is the Dobson unit (named after the pioneering atmospheric physical Gordon Dobson) which is the thickness of the ozone column (compressed at Standard Temperature and Pressure (STP)) in milli-centimeters.

At STP one Dobson unit is equal to 2.69×10^{20} molecules per square meter.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) The “Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Rajasthan

ANS: D

Explanation: National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has given its approval for the establishment of the Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve in the state of Rajasthan.

It has secured its position as the fifth tiger reserve in the state of Rajasthan following Mukundra Hills, Ramgarh Vishdhari, Ranthambore, and Sariska.

Source: FORUMIAS

Environment

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. That it allows decision makers to assess a project's impacts in all its phases
2. That it allows the public and other stakeholders to present their views and inputs on the planned development
3. That it contributes to and improve the project design, so that environmental as well as socioeconomic measures are core parts of it.

Which of the above given statements is/are essential in an Environment Impact Assessment?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: An EIA should allow decision makers to assess a project's impacts in all its phases. It should also allow the public and other stakeholders to present their views and inputs on the planned development. Furthermore, to be truly effective, an EIA must contribute to and improve the project design, so that environmental as well as socioeconomic measures are core parts of it. Information used in the EIA needs to be based on good data, use accepted methodological approaches and be summarized in plain language that is understandable for decision makers.

Finally, the EIA does not end with the granting of a licence to operate. It is critical that that the approved practices and design are followed during the project operations and construction and that ongoing monitoring is in place during the lifetime of the project.

Essentials of EIA:

- Applicable to all actions expected to have a significant environmental impact.
- Presents two alternatives to compare to the proposed actions (including the possibility of not acting).
- Makes clear the significance of probable impacts to experts and laypeople.
- Includes broad public participation.
- Programmed toward providing information for decision makers.

- Includes monitoring and control procedures.

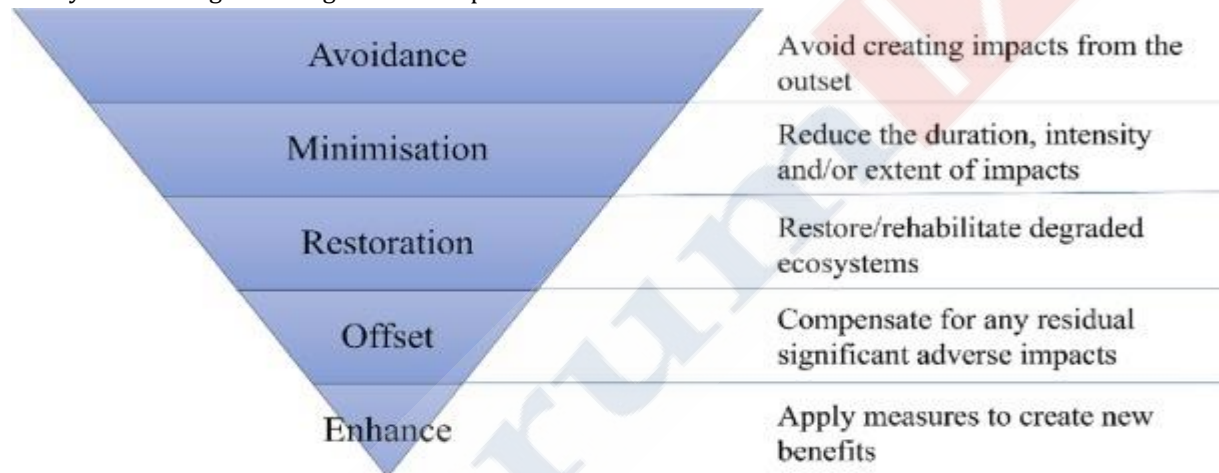
Source: UNEP, 2002; Friends of the Earth, 2005

Q.2) Negative impacts on the environment identified during the EIA can be alleviated through mitigation measures. Which of the following gives the correct mitigation hierarchy?

- Reduce - Remedy - Avoid - Compensate - Adopt
- Avoid - Reduce - Remedy - Compensate - Adopt
- Compensate - Reduce - Remedy - Avoid - Adopt
- Remedy - Avoid - Compensate - Reduce - Adopt

ANS: B

Explanation: The mitigation hierarchy is a widely used tool that guides users towards limiting as far as possible the negative impacts on biodiversity from development projects. It emphasises best-practice of avoiding and minimising any negative impacts, and then restoring sites no longer used by a project, before finally considering offsetting residual impacts.



Source: ForumIAS

Q.3) 'Silent Spring' a landmark book written by Rachel Carson (in 1962) highlighted the environmental problems due to which of the following?

- Excessive use of pesticides
- Excessive air pollution due to industrial operations and vehicles in cities
- Excessive noise produced by industrial operations and vehicles in cities
- Both (a) and (b)

ANS: A

Explanation: The book 'Silent Spring' published in 1962 which set the tone for an environmental movement in the world was written by Rachel Carson.

Silent Spring is an environmental science book which documents the adverse environmental effects caused by the indiscriminate use of pesticides.

Her notable books were The Edge of the Sea, The Sense of Wonder and Lost Woods.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.4) How many of the following statements regarding EIA is/are correct?

1. EIA helps in early identification and prevention of impacts
2. EIA helps in generating public awareness about environmental issues
3. EIA helps in formulating environmental management plan for residual issues

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) Only one statement
- b) Only two statements
- c) All three statements
- d) None of the above statements

ANS: C

Explanation: Objective of EIA

- To bring out a national policy to encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and environment.
- To promote efforts to prevent or eliminate damage to the environment.
- To increase understanding of ecological systems and natural resources important to the nation

Why we need Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)? / Significance of EIA / Benefits of EIA

- Facilitates sustainable development: In present times anthropogenic activities like rapid industrialization, mass production and clearing of forests have created immense pressure on the natural environment. Tools like EIA help in balancing the need for economic growth with equally important concept of sustainability.
- Mitigating negative impacts & informed decision-making- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) helps in minimizing the negative impact of various development projects. It enables monitoring programmes to be established to assess future impacts and provide data on which managers can take informed decisions to avoid environmental damage.
- Aids cost-effectiveness- EIA helps in selection and design of projects, programmes or plans with long term viability and therefore improves cost effectiveness.
- Advance assessments also helps avoid future losses that may be incurred if the project is found environmentally unacceptable at a later stage. Cost of adaptation when a project is already running is usually more.

Thus, EIA as a tool aims to minimize the environmental impacts emanating out of any economic activity that have the potential to cause environmental degradation.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.5) Who are responsible for the public consultation process of EIA?

- a) State Pollution Control Board
- b) State Pollution Control Board and District Collector
- c) State Pollution Control Board and CPCB Chairman
- d) State Pollution Control Board and Civil Society

ANS: B

Explanation: The public hearing is a mandatory step in the process of environmental clearance for certain developmental projects. This provides a legal space for people of an area to come face-to-face with the project proponent and the government and express their concerns.

The process of public hearing is conducted prior to the issue of NOC from SPCB. The District Collector is the chairperson of the public hearing committee. Other members of the committee includes the official from the district development body, SPCB, Department of Environment and Forest, Taluka and Gram Panchayat

representative, and senior citizen of the district, etc. The hearing committee hears the objections/suggestions from the public and after inserting certain clauses it is passed on to the next stage of approval (Ministry of Forest and Environment).

Source: ForumIAS

Q.6) Why are greenhouse gases essential to the survival of humans and other living things?

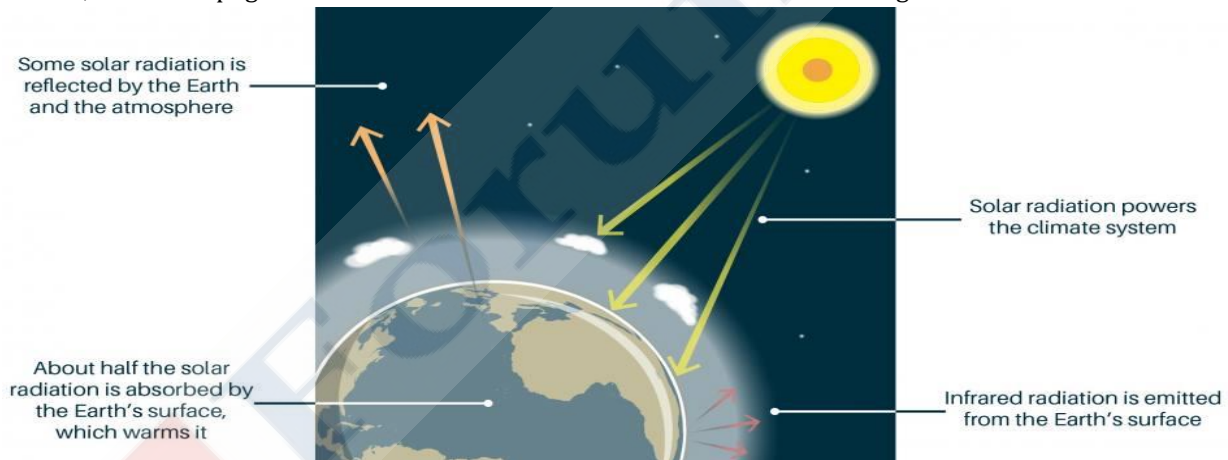
- a) They make the Earth habitable
- b) They cause global warming
- c) They reduce air pollution
- d) They are toxic to most living things

ANS: A

Explanation: 'Greenhouse gases' are crucial to keeping our planet at a suitable temperature for life. Without the natural greenhouse effect, the heat emitted by the Earth would simply pass outwards from the Earth's surface into space and the Earth would have an average temperature of about -20°C .

A greenhouse gas is called that because it absorbs infrared radiation from the Sun in the form of heat, which is circulated in the atmosphere and eventually lost to space. Greenhouse gases also increase the rate at which the atmosphere can absorb short-wave radiation from the Sun, but this has a much weaker effect on global temperatures.

The CO₂ released from the burning of fossil fuels is accumulating as an insulating blanket around the Earth, trapping more of the Sun's heat in our atmosphere. Actions carried out by humans are called anthropogenic actions; the anthropogenic release of CO₂ contributes to the current enhanced greenhouse effect



Source: ForumIAS

Q.7) What is the full form of UNFCCC with respect to global warming convention?

- a) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- b) United Nations Federation Convention on Climate Change
- c) United Nations Framework Center on Climate Change
- d) United Nations Federation Center on Climate Change

ANS: A

Explanation: In order to control the continuous increase in the carbon dioxide level many countries have signed a convention to reduce greenhouse gas under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Source: ForumIAS

Q.8) Too many greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere may block heat from escaping into space and trap too much heat next to the Earth's surface causing:

- a) another ice age
- b) global warming
- c) earthquakes
- d) volcanic eruptions

ANS: B

Explanation: Global warming occurs when carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other air pollutants collect in the atmosphere and absorb sunlight and solar radiation that have bounced off the earth's surface. Normally this radiation would escape into space, but these pollutants, which can last for years to centuries in the atmosphere, trap the heat and cause the planet to get hotter. These heat-trapping pollutants—specifically carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, water vapor, and synthetic fluorinated gases—are known as greenhouse gases, and their impact is called the greenhouse effect.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.9) The concept of carbon credit originated from which of the following?

- a) Kyoto Protocol
- b) Earth Summit
- c) Montreal Protocol
- d) Doha Round

ANS: A

Explanation: The concept of carbon credits emerged during the Kyoto Protocol discussions and is an integral part of today's environmental economics. Carbon credits basically refer to certificates giving the beholder the right to emit 1 tonne of carbon dioxide or its equivalent.

Source: ForumIAS

Q.10) The Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) shows the relationship between per capita GDP and environmental loss. What is the shape of Environmental Kuznets Curve?

- a) Inverted 'U' shaped
- b) Inverted 'T' shaped
- c) Inverted 'L' shaped
- d) None of these

ANS: A

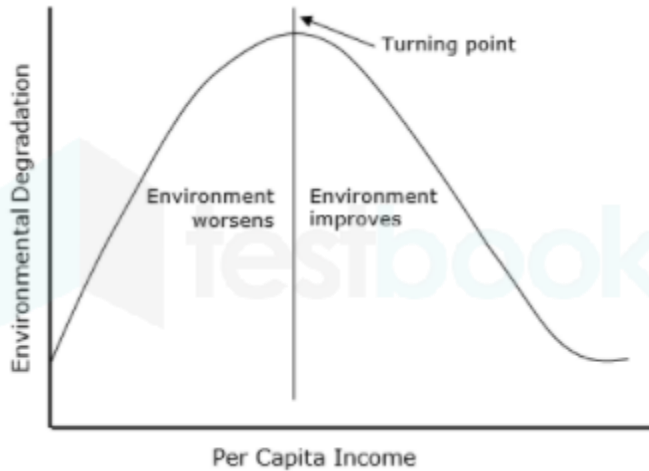
Explanation: Environmental Kuznets curve -

The environmental Kuznets curve (EKC) is a relationship between environmental quality and economic development.

According to this theory, many indicators of environmental degradation tend to get worse as modern economic growth occurs until average income reaches a certain point over the course of development.

In other words, the environmental Kuznets curve suggests that economic development initially leads to a deterioration in the environment, but after a certain level of economic growth, a society begins to improve its relationship with the environment, and levels of environmental degradation reduce.

The EKC suggests that the solution to pollution is economic growth.



Source: ForumIAS

Conservation Efforts

Q.1) Which of the following vulture species is/are found in India?

1. Oriental White-backed Vulture
2. Slender billed Vulture
3. Long billed Vulture

How many of the statements given above are correct?

3. Only one
4. Only two
5. Only three
6. None

ANS: C

Explanation: India has nine species of vultures in the wild. They are:

- Oriental White-backed Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*),
- Slender billed Vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*),
- Long billed Vulture (*Gyps indicus*),
- Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*),
- Red Headed Vulture (*Sarcogyps calvus*),
- Indian Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*),
- Himalayan Griffon (*Gyps himalayensis*),
- Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) and
- Bearded Vulture or Lammergeier (*Gypaetus barbatus*).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.2) The term “Meloxicam” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Livestock drug
- b) Asthma medicine
- c) Nanorobot
- d) Super computer

ANS: A

Explanation: Meloxicam is a second generation NSAID and rated better than Diclofenac for the treatment of livestock, with reduced risk of side effects, and is also approved for human use in more than 70 countries. Meloxicam is licensed as a veterinary drug in India, Europe and USA.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.3) Which of the following is/are vulture breeding centres in India?

- 1. Pinjore
- 2. Rani
- 3. Buxa

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Vulture Breeding and Conservation Centre had already been established at Pinjore, Haryana in 2001, and Rani, Guwahati (Assam) and another one has been established at Buxa, West Bengal in 2005. The Central Zoo Authority of India has also committed for supporting 4 such centers in the zoos at Junagadh, Bhopal, Hyderabad and Bhubhaneshwar in 2006-07.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.4) The rhino/s is/are found in which of the following areas/parks?

- 1. Manas national park
- 2. Kaziranga national park
- 3. Periyar national park

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: Concentrating so many rhinos in a single protected area like Kaziranga exposes the species to risks of calamities (epidemics, floods, massive poaching attempts).

The goal set was to populate the potential rhino habitat areas identified viz. Manas NP, Dibru Saikhowa WLS, Laokhowa - Bura Chapori WLS with a viable population of rhino through translocations from Kaziranga NP and Pobitora WLS.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.5) The “secure Himalaya project” was launched by ministry of environment with the help of?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The project was launched by the MoEF&CC in collaboration with UNDP.

- The plan intends to conserve the snow leopards by protecting their habitats and improve the ecology of Himalayan ranges and lives of the mountain communities.
- It covers Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.6) Which of the following is the nodal agency for conservation of olive ridley turtles?

- a) Central Zoo Authority
- b) Wildlife institute of India
- c) Coast guard
- d) Centre for Science & Environment

ANS: B

Explanation: With the objective of conservation of olive ridley turtles and other endangered marine turtles, Ministry of Environment & Forests initiated the Sea Turtle Conservation Project in collaboration of UNDP in November, 1999 with Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun as the Implementing Agency.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.7) In which of the following place/s is/are dolphin/s found?

1. Sea water
2. Fresh water
3. Brackish water

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Dolphins are animals of aquatic ecosystems. They are found in the sea, brackish water and fresh water.

A total of 15 species of marine and harbor dolphins have been reported from Indian waters and coasts.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) The Irrawady Dolphins are found in brackish waters of?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Goa
- d) Odisha

ANS: D

Explanation: The Irrawady Dolphins are found in brackish waters of Odisha.

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- Amongst the fresh water dolphins, the Gangetic Dolphin is found in the Ganges River and its tributaries.
- Apart from this, Indus River Dolphins have also been reported in Indus River in Punjab.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.9) The “bonsai method” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Japan
- b) Switzerland
- c) Afghanistan
- d) Mexico

ANS: A

Explanation: Bonsai—i.e., tailored or human-made miniature or dwarfed living trees that have been prevented from reaching their normal size—are grown in pots and kept in greenhouses, drawing rooms, etc. This technique was first perfected by the Japanese.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) The silent valley national park is recently seen in news located at?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Kerala
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Sikkim

ANS: B

Explanation: Silent Valley National Park is a national park in Kerala, India. It is located in the Nilgiri hills and has a core area of 89.52 km². It is surrounded by a buffer zone of 148 km².

- This national park has some rare species of flora and fauna.
- Silent Valley National Park was explored in 1847 by the botanist Robert Wight.

Source: FORUMIAS

Revision

Q.1) The most of the “epiphytic plants” are confined to which of the following region?

- a) Arctic & Antarctica areas
- b) Tundra areas
- c) Taiga areas
- d) Tropical rain forest areas

ANS: D

Explanation: Tropical rainforest covers about 7% of the earth’s surface & 40% of the world’s plant and animal species.

- Multiple storeys of broad-leafed evergreen tree species are in abundance.
- Most animals and epiphytic plants are concentrated in the canopy or tree top zones.

Source: Shankar IAS

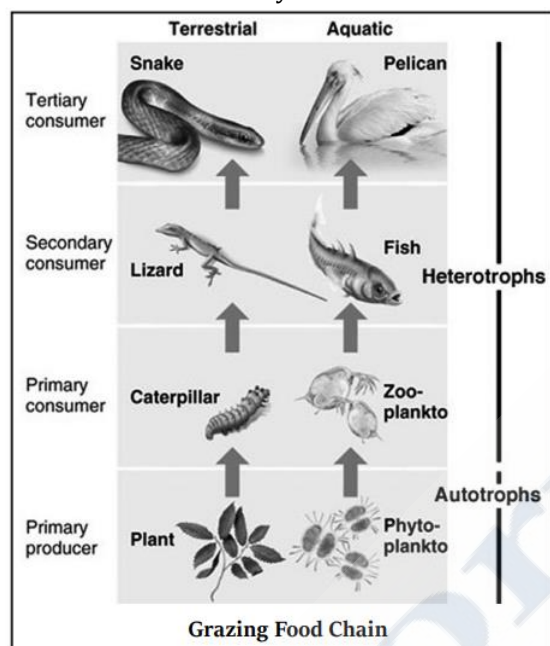
Q.2) Which of the following is a tertiary consumer in food chain?

- a) Phytoplankton
- b) Zooplankton
- c) Caterpillar
- d) Snake

ANS: D

Explanation: The consumers which start the food chain, utilizing the plant or plant part as their food, constitute the grazing food chain.

- This food chain begins from green plants at the base and the primary consumer is herbivore.
- For example, in terrestrial ecosystem, grass is eaten up by caterpillar, which is eaten by lizard and lizard is eaten by snake.



Source: Shankar IAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “cetaceans”:

1. It is a creature belonging to a group of water living mammals that have no hind limbs and a blow hole for breathing.
2. Dolphins, Porpoises and whales are called cetaceans.

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: Dolphins, Porpoises and whales are called cetaceans.

A cetacean is a creature belonging to a group of water living mammals that have no hind limbs and a blow hole for breathing.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “snake”:

1. When a snake sticks out its tongue it smells its surroundings.
2. The moist tongue collects scents and small organisms from whatever it touches and from the air around it.

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: All snakes smell with their tongues. When a snake sticks out its tongue it smells its surroundings.

- The moist tongue collects scents and small organisms from whatever it touches and from the air around it.
- When the tongue goes back into the mouth the forks touch a special sensory spot called the Jacobson’s organ on the roof of the mouth and tell the snake what it smells.
- Snakes have a small notch in their lips that they can stick their tongues through so they don’t need to open their mouths. Some snakes can smell with their noses.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. In bioaccumulation there is an increase in concentration of a pollutant from the environment to the first organism in a food chain.
2. Bio-magnification refers to the tendency of pollutants to concentrate as they move from one tropic level to the next.

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: Movement of these pollutants involves two main processes: i) Bioaccumulation ii) Bio-magnification.

- In bioaccumulation there is an increase in concentration of a pollutant from the environment to the first organism in a food chain.
- Bio-magnification refers to the tendency of pollutants to concentrate as they move from one tropic level to the next.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.6) The elements or mineral nutrients are always in circulation moving from non-living to living and then back to the non-living components of the ecosystem in a more or less circular fashion - describes?

- a) Bio – remediation
- b) Bio – geo chemical cycles
- c) Bio – accumulation
- d) Bio – magnification

ANS: B

Explanation: Carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen and phosphorus as elements and compounds make up 97% of the mass of our bodies and are more than 95% of the mass of all living organisms.

- In addition to these about 15 to 25 other elements are needed in some form for the survival and good health of plants and animals.
- These elements or mineral nutrients are always in circulation moving from non-living to living and then back to the non-living components of the ecosystem in a more or less circular fashion.
- This circular fashion is known as biogeochemical cycling (bio for living; geo for atmosphere).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. When succession is brought about by living inhabitants of that community itself, the process is called autogenic succession.
2. The change brought about by outside forces is known as allogenic succession.

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: When succession is brought about by living inhabitants of that community itself, the process is called autogenic succession, while change brought about by outside forces is known as allogenic succession.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) In which of the following area/s arctic tundra climate found?

1. Canada
2. Alaska
3. Serbia

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: Tundra means a “barren land” since they are found where environmental conditions are very severe. There are two types of tundra- arctic and alpine.

- Arctic tundra extends as a continuous belt below the polar ice cap and above the tree line in the northern hemisphere.

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- It occupies the northern fringe of Canada, Alaska, European Russia, Siberia and island group of Arctic Ocean. On the South Pole, tundra is very small since most of it is covered by ocean.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.9) In which of the following place/s tropical dry evergreen forest is/are found?

1. Tamil Nadu
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Karnataka

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Dry evergreens are found along Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka coast. It is mainly hard-leaved evergreen trees with fragrant flowers, along with a few deciduous trees.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) The “Sri Venkateshwara Zoological Park” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Karnataka
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Kerala

ANS: C

Explanation: Sri Venkateshwara Zoological Park located in Tirupati city in Andhra Pradesh is the largest zoo in the country.

Source: Shankar IAS

Environmental Pollution & Issues

Q.1) Which of the following is/are primary pollutant/s?

1. DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane)
2. Plastic
3. Peroxyacetyl Nitrate

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: Primary pollutants: These persist in the form in which they are added to the environment e.g. DDT, plastic.

- Secondary Pollutants: These are formed by interaction among the primary pollutants.

- For example, peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN) is formed by the interaction of nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.2) Which of the following pollutant/s is/are manmade?

1. Fungicides
2. Herbicides
3. DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane)

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Qualitative Pollutants: These do not occur in nature and are man-made. E.g. fungicides, herbicides and DDT etc.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.3) Which of the following is/are cause/s of pollution?

1. Controlled growth in human population
2. Rapid industrialization
3. Urbanization

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: Causes of pollution:

- Uncontrolled growth in human population
- Rapid industrialization
- Urbanization
- Uncontrolled exploitation of nature and
- Forest fires, radioactivity, volcanic eruptions, strong winds.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.4) Which of the following is/are source/s of carbon monoxide pollution?

1. Incomplete burning of carbon-based fuels.
2. Combustion of synthetic products
3. Incomplete burning of wood

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Carbon monoxide (CO): It is a colorless, odorless gas that is produced by the incomplete burning of carbon-based fuels including petrol, diesel, and wood.

It is also produced from the combustion of natural and synthetic products such as cigarettes.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.5) In which of the following products lead is present?

1. Petrol
2. Paints
3. Hair dye

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Lead is present in petrol, diesel, lead batteries, paints, hair dye products, etc. Lead affects children in particular.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding "ozone":

1. It occurs naturally in the troposphere of the atmosphere.
2. Vehicles and industries are the major source of ground level ozone emissions.

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: Ozone occurs naturally in the upper layers (Stratosphere) of the atmosphere.

- This important gas shields the earth from the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.
- However, at the ground level, it is a pollutant with highly toxic effects.
- Vehicles and industries are the major source of groundlevel ozone emissions.
- Ozone makes our eyes itch, burn, and water. It lowers our resistance to cold and pneumonia.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.7) Which of the following is/are suspended particulate matter (SPM)?

1. Smoke
2. Dust
3. Vapor

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Suspended particulate matter (SPM) consists of solids in the air in the form of smoke, dust, and vapor that can remain suspended for extended periods and is also the main source of haze which reduces visibility.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) Which of the following is/are effect/s of smog?

1. It hampers visibility and harms the environment.
2. Deaths relating to bronchial diseases.
3. Respiratory problems.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The effects of smog:

- It hampers visibility and harms the environment.
- Respiratory problems
- Deaths relating to bronchial diseases.
- Heavy smog greatly decreases ultraviolet radiation.
- Heavy smog results in the decrease of natural vitamin D production leading to a rise in the cases of rickets.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.9) Which of the following is/are advantage/s of fly ash?

1. Fly ash bricks are light in weight and offer high strength and durability.
2. Fly ash is a better fill material for road embankments and in concrete roads.
3. Fly ash can be used in reclamation of wastelands.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Fly ash is one such residue which rises with the gases into the atmosphere.

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- Fly ash is a very fine powder and tends to travel far in the air. The ash which does not rise is termed as bottom ash.
- Cement can be replaced by fly ash up to 35%, thus reducing the cost of construction, making roads, etc.
- Fly ash bricks are light in weight and offer high strength and durability.
- Fly ash is a better fill material for road embankments and in concrete roads. Fly ash can be used in reclamation of wastelands.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) The “Nanda Devi National Park” is recently seen in news located at?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Karnataka
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Sikkim

ANS: C

Explanation: The Nanda Devi National Park or Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, established in 1982 is a national park situated around the peak of Nanda Devi in Chamoli Garhwal district of Uttarakhand, in northern India. The entire park lies at an elevation of more than 3,500 m above mean sea level.

Source: FORUMIAS

Environment Pollution & Issues

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Smog has been coined from a combination of the words fog and smoke.
2. Smog is a condition of fog that had soot or smoke in it.

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: Smog term was first used (1905) by Dr H A Des Voeux.

- Smog has been coined from a combination of the words fog and smoke.
- Smog is a condition of fog that had soot or smoke in it.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.2) Which of the following pollutant/s is/are included in National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)?

1. Sulfur Dioxide
2. Nitrogen Dioxide
3. Mercury

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) were notified in the year 1982, duly revised in 1994 based on health criteria and land uses.

The NAAQS have been revisited and revised in November 2009 for 12 pollutants, which include

1. Sulfur dioxide (SO₂),
2. Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂),
3. Particulate matter having size less than 10 micron (PM₁₀),
4. Particulate matter having size less than 2.5 micron (PM_{2.5}),
5. Ozone,
6. Lead,
7. Carbon monoxide (CO),
8. Arsenic,
9. Nickel,
10. Benzene,
11. Ammonia, and
12. Benzopyrene.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding "Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)":

1. It was established on 1st July 1916.
2. It has been declared as the designated repository for the National Zoological Collection.

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: Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) was established on 1st July 1916 to promote the survey, exploration, research and documentation leading to the advancement in our knowledge on various aspects of animal taxonomy of the Indian subcontinent.

- ZSI is a premier institution on animal taxonomy in India under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- ZSI has been declared as the designated repository for the National Zoological Collection as per Section 39 of the National Biodiversity Act, 2002.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.4) The term “putrescibility” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Solar energy
- b) Black carbon
- c) Fly ash
- d) Decomposition

ANS: D

Explanation: Putrescibility is the process of decomposition of organic matter present in water by microorganisms using oxygen.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. Water pollution by organic wastes is measured in terms of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD).
2. BOD is the amount of dissolved oxygen needed by bacteria in decomposing the organic wastes present in water.

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: Water pollution by organic wastes is measured in terms of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD).

- BOD is the amount of dissolved oxygen needed by bacteria in decomposing the organic wastes present in water.
- It is expressed in milligrams of oxygen per liters of water.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.6) The “Minamata disease” is caused by which of the following compound?

- a) Nitrate
- b) Mercury
- c) Lead
- d) Cadmium

ANS: B

Explanation: A crippling deformity called Minamata disease due to consumption of fish captured from mercury contaminated Minamata Bay in Japan was detected in 1952.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.7) The term “methaemoglobinemia” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Mercury
- b) Nitrate
- c) Cadmium
- d) Phosphate

ANS: B

Explanation: Excess nitrate in drinking water reacts with hemoglobin to form non-functional methaemoglobin, and impairs oxygen transport.

This condition is called methaemoglobinemia or blue baby syndrome.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) Which of the following health problem/s is/are faced by humans due to excess fluoride consumption?

1. Neuro-muscular disorders
2. Gastro-intestinal problems
3. Teeth deformity

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Excess fluoride in drinking water causes neuro-muscular disorders, gastro-intestinal problems, teeth deformity, hardening of bones and stiff and painful joints (skeletal fluorosis).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.9) The “Pangti village” - Amur falcon capital is located at?

- a) Sikkim
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Nagaland
- d) Rajasthan

ANS: C

Explanation: Amur Falcons, which come to roost every year at Doyanglake during their flight from Mongolia to South Africa.

- Amur falcons are the longest travelling raptors in the world.
- World has recognized Pangti village in Nagaland as the world’s Amur Falcon capital, as more than one million birds can be seen in just 30 minutes.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) The “Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary” is recently seen in news located at?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Kerala
- c) Goa
- d) Andhra Pradesh

ANS: B

Explanation: Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary is a 285 km² Protected area in Chittur taluk in Palakkad district of Kerala state, South India.

Established in 1973, it is in the Sungam range of hills between the Anaimalai Hills and Nelliampathy Hills.

Source: FORUMIAS

Environmental Conventions

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding conference of parties (CoP) of UNFCCC:

1. It is the apex decision-making body of the United Nations Climate Change Framework Convention (UNFCCC).
2. It meets for every two years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Conference of Parties (COP) – It is the apex decision-making body of the United Nations Climate Change Framework Convention (UNFCCC).

The COP meets every year, unless the Parties decide otherwise.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) The “Global Goal on Adaptation” is often seen in news related to?

- a) UNFCCC
- b) WEF
- c) World Bank
- d) IMF

ANS: A

Explanation: The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) was established under the Paris Agreement to enhance climate change adaptation by increasing awareness of and funding towards countries' adaptation needs in the context of the 1.5/2°C goal of the Paris Agreement.

- However, unlike the clear 1.5°C target for global mitigation, adaptation is primarily a local activity and as such, a global target has been challenging to establish.
- At COP26, Parties established the 2022-2023 Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh (GlaSS) Work Programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation to define the key elements of the goal, including the methodologies, indicators, metrics, and data sources to support the assessment of overall adaptation progress.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) The “Global Shield Financing Facility” is often seen in news related to?

- a) World Bank
- b) IMF
- c) ADB
- d) AIIB

ANS: A

Explanation: The World Bank Group has announced a Global Shield Financing Facility to help developing countries access more financing for recovery from natural disasters and climate shocks.

This facility will support the Global Shield against Climate Risks, a joint initiative launched today at COP27 by the G7 and V20 to better protect poor and vulnerable people from disasters by pre-arranging more financing before disasters strike.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. India is the third largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world.
2. The concept of Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) was introduced by India at UNFCCC - COP26 Glasgow in 2021.

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: Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) - The concept of Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) was introduced by Indian PM during UNFCCC - COP26 at Glasgow in 2021. India is the third largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding "Mangrove Alliance for Climate":

1. It is an intergovernmental alliance that works on a voluntary basis for planting, conserving and restoring mangroves.
2. It is led by USA, Mexico and other G7 countries.

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: Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC) – It is an intergovernmental alliance that works on a voluntary basis for planting, conserving and restoring mangroves.

- MAC is led by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Indonesia and includes India, Sri Lanka, Australia, Japan, and Spain.
- Its aim is to educate and spread awareness worldwide on the role of mangroves in curbing global warming and its potential as a solution for climate change.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following convention/s is/are outcome of "earth summit"?

1. UNFCCC
2. UNCCD
3. UNCBD

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The UNCBD that came into force in 1993 was an outcome of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, along with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) The “Kunming Declaration” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Biodiversity
- b) Ozone protection
- c) Solar energy
- d) Hydrogen fuels

ANS: A

Explanation: Kunming Declaration - In 2021, the Kunming Declaration was signed by more than 100 countries to ensure the development, adoption, and implementation of an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) The “Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Montreal protocol
- b) Nagoya protocol
- c) Vienna convention
- d) Berne convention

ANS: B

Explanation: The Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House (ABS Clearing-House) is a platform for exchanging information on access and benefit-sharing established by Article 14 of the Protocol, as part of the Clearing-House of the Convention established under Article 18, paragraph 3 of the Convention.

- The ABS Clearing-House is a key tool for facilitating the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, by enhancing legal certainty and transparency on procedures for access and benefit-sharing, and for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources along the value chain, including through the internationally recognized certificate of compliance.
- By hosting relevant information regarding ABS, the ABS Clearing-House will offer opportunities for connecting users and providers of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Which of the following country supported Sweden to host Stockholm+50 conference?

- a) Germany
- b) Norway
- c) Kenya
- d) Ethiopia

ANS: C

Explanation: Stockholm+50 is an international meeting convened by the UN General Assembly. Sweden hosted Stockholm+50, with the support of Kenya.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The “Rajaji Tiger Reserve” is often seen in news located at?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Uttarakhand

ANS: D

Explanation: In 1983 the intent notification of Rajaji National Park was issued after merging the three wildlife sanctuaries of Uttarakhand – Rajaji, Motichur and Chilla.

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- It was named after the famous freedom fighter C.Rajgopalachari popularly known as "Rajaji". Rajaji National Park is spread over an area of 820.42 sq km.
- Subsequently in 2015, 255.63 sq km area of adjacent reserve forest was added to the area of Rajaji National Park as buffer zone and whole area of 1075 sq km was declared as Rajaji Tiger Reserve under the provision of Wild Life Protection Act 1972.
- The tiger reserve provides fresh & clear air and serves as the lungs of the three major cities of Uttarakhand – Capital city Dehradun, Sacred city Haridwar and Yoga City Rishikesh.

Source: FORUMIAS

Environmental Conventions

Q.1) The “Kyoto Protocol” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Green house gas emission targets
- b) Child rights
- c) Human rights
- d) Hybrid vehicles

ANS: A

Explanation: Kyoto Protocol sets binding emission reduction targets for 37 industrialized countries and the European community in its first commitment period.

It only binds developed countries because it recognizes that they are largely responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere, which are the result of more than 150 years of industrial activity.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.2) Which of the following is related to “joint implementation and clean development mechanism”?

- a) Kyoto Protocol
- b) Montreal Protocol
- c) Nagoya Protocol
- d) Cartagena Protocol

ANS: A

Explanation: The Kyoto Flexible Market Protocol mechanisms:

- Joint Implementation (JI)
- The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
- Emission Trading

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “clean development mechanism”:

1. It allows a developed country with an emission-reduction commitment in developing countries.
2. It is the first global, environmental investment and credit scheme of its kind.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) allows a country with an emission-reduction or emission-limitation commitment under the Kyoto Protocol (Annex B Party) to implement an emission-reduction project in developing countries.

It is the first global, environmental investment and credit scheme of its kind, providing standardized emissions offset instrument, CERs.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Rock Python of India”:

1. It is an endangered species.
2. It can raise their body temperature above the ambient level, through muscular contractions.

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: One of the unique features of the Rock pythons of India is that they can raise their body temperature above the ambient level, through muscular contractions.

- Rock python of India is an endangered species.
- The reason for this is that it is killed for its fine skin, meat and even for medicinal purposes.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.5) The “Green Climate Fund” is often seen in news established through which of the following summit?

- a) Cancun
- b) Mexico
- c) Vienna
- d) Stockholm

ANS: A

Explanation: The Cancun Agreements (COP 16) include decisions under both the Convention and Kyoto protocol negotiating tracks.

Three mechanisms that are outcome of CoP 16 are:

- Technology mechanism
- Green climate fund
- Adaptation fund

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.6) Which of the following climate finance mechanism is/are administered by World Bank?

1. Bio-carbon Fund
2. Clean Technology Fund
3. Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The World Bank's Climate Change Fund Management Unit is home to climate finance initiatives that deliver innovative and scalable climate and environmental action. With more than \$5 billion in capital these initiatives:

- The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and the Bio-Carbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (ISFL) focus on sustainable forest and land use. These funds guide readiness and implementation of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), including testing purchase of REDD+ credits and incentivizing the development and implementation of sustainable land use activities.
- The Transformative Carbon Asset Facility (TCAF) works with national policy makers to help shape environmental, energy, and climate change policy to reach meaningful scale and create a lasting, transformative social impact.
- The Carbon Initiative for Development has a portfolio of programs that supporting similar emissions reduction projects, often small-scale at the household level. It has developed the Standardized Crediting Framework—a new approach to crediting emission reductions in the post-Kyoto era.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.7) Which of the following institution/s is/are associated to form "UN-REDD Programme"?

1. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
2. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
3. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Three UN Agencies – United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – have collaborated in the establishment of the UN-REDD programme, a multi-donor trust fund that allows donors to pool resources and provide funding with the aim of significantly reducing global emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) Which of the following organization/convention promoting the “blue deal”?

- a) UNFCCC
- b) UNCTAD
- c) UNEP
- d) UNDP

ANS: B

Explanation: The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is promoting a “blue deal” to enable the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth at the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference.

- In 2021, the UNCTAD proposed a ‘Blue Deal’ for global trade, investment and innovation for the post-COVID19 economy.
- According to the UNCTAD, the ‘Blue Deal’ includes global trade, investment and innovation as a means to create a sustainable and resilient ocean economy.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.9) The “Living Lands Charter” is recently seen in news associated with?

- a) CHOGM
- b) UNEP
- c) World Bank
- d) UNCED

ANS: A

Explanation: At the 2022 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali, all 54 Commonwealth members have officially adopted the Living Lands Charter: A Commonwealth Call to action on Living Lands (CALL).

- All Commonwealth members have agreed to voluntarily dedicate a ‘living land’ in their respective countries to future generations.
- The Charter is in line with the strategy set for United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) The “Betla National Park” is often seen in news located at?

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Uttar Pradesh

ANS: B

Explanation: Betla National Park falls in Latehar district of Jharkhand. It is the only National Park of the State. It spreads in 226.33 sq.km. and was notified in 1986. Betla National Park is part of core area of Palamau Tiger Reserve.

Source: FORUMIAS

National Missions & Organizations on Environment

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)”:

1. It was constituted on February 2009 under the water pollution prevention act, 1974.
2. The NGRBA is a planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating body of the centre and the states.

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: NGRBA was constituted on February 2009 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

- The NGRBA is a planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating body of the centre and the states.
- The objective of the NGRBA is to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a river basin approach for comprehensive planning and management.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.2) Which of the following is/are formed after the conclusion of “Earth Summit”?

1. Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
2. Agenda 21
3. Forest Principles

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The Earth Summit resulted in the following documents:

- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- Agenda 21
- Forest Principles

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.3) Which of the following is/are legally binding instrument/s under the “earth summit”?

1. Convention on Biological Diversity
2. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
3. Nagoya protocol

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: The two important legally binding agreements of earth summit are:

- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.4) The “Montreux Record” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Wetlands
- b) River streams
- c) Ice caps
- d) Fjords

ANS: A

Explanation: The Montreux Record: Adopted by the Conference of the Contracting Parties in Brisbane, 1996, accompanying the Guidelines for Operation of the Montreux Record.

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

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the “TRAFFIC: The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network”:

1. It is a joint conservation programme of WWF and IUCN.
2. It was established in 1976 by the Species Survival Commission of IUCN.

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: TRAFFIC is a joint conservation programme of WWF and IUCN.

It was established in 1976 by the Species Survival Commission of IUCN, principally as a response to the entry into force during the previous year of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.6) The “Bonn convention” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Migratory Species
- b) Intellectual property
- c) Chemical weapons
- d) Biological weapons

ANS: A

Explanation: The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also known as CMS or Bonn Convention) aims to conserve terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.7) Which of the following is/are priority area/s of IUCN?

1. Biodiversity
2. Climate change
3. Human wellbeing

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: IUCN was founded in October 1948 as the International Union for the Protection of Nature (or IUPN) following an international conference in Fontainebleau, France.

Priority Areas of IUCN:

- Biodiversity
- Climate change
- Sustainable energy
- Human well-being
- Green economy

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) The “Basel Convention” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Hazardous waste
- b) Thermal energy
- c) Renewable energy
- d) Natural farming

ANS: A

Explanation: The Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted on 22 March 1989 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Basel, Switzerland, in response to a public outcry following the discovery, in the 1980s, in Africa and other parts of the developing world of deposits of toxic wastes imported from abroad.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.9) Which of the following organization launched the “Green Fins Hub”?

- a) UNEP
- b) WEF
- c) UNDP
- d) GEF

ANS: A

Explanation: The UN Environmental Programme (UNEP), along with the Reef-World Foundation, launched the Green Fins Hub.

- The Green Fins Hub is the first-ever global marine tourism industry platform for diving and snorkeling operators worldwide.
- It was developed by The Reef-World Foundation in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “plant or seed treaty”:

1. It was adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.
2. It is a legally-binding international instrument.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) is known as Plant Treaty or Seed Treaty.

- The Plant Treaty was adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in 2001 and entered into force in 2004.
- The Plant Treaty is a legally-binding international instrument.

Source: Shankar IAS

National Missions & Organizations on Environment

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Rotterdam Convention”:

1. It was adopted in 1998 by a Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Rotterdam.
2. It covers pesticides and industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons.

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: Rotterdam Convention was adopted in 1998 by a Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Rotterdam, the Netherlands and entered into force on 24 February 2004.

- The Convention creates legally binding obligations for the implementation of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure.
- It built on the voluntary PIC procedure, initiated by UNEP and FAO in 1989 and ceased on 24 February 2006.
- The Convention covers pesticides and industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the “United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)”:

1. It is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.
2. It is committed to a bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating desertification and land degradation.

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: UNCCD: Established in 1994, UNCCD is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.

- The UNCCD is particularly committed to a bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating desertification and land degradation.
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is one of the Rio Conventions that focuses on desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.3) The “Vienna Convention” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Prisoners of War
- b) Chlorofluorocarbons
- c) Climate fund
- d) Ocean plastic

ANS: B

Explanation: Vienna convention adopted in the year 1985 and entered into force in 1988.

It acts as a framework for the international efforts to protect the ozone layer however it does not include legally binding reduction goals for the use of CFCs.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Hydro-fluorocarbons (HFCs)”:

1. HFCs were introduced in the 1990s as an alternative to replace chemicals that had been found to erode the ozone layer.
2. HFCs are dealt with under the Paris Agreement.

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: Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer held in Kigali, Rwanda amended the 1987 Montreal Protocol to phase out Hydro-fluorocarbons (HFCs).

- Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) were discontinued under the Montreal Protocol when scientists realized they were destroying the ozone layer.
- HFCs were introduced in the 1990s as an alternative to replace chemicals that had been found to erode the ozone layer, but turned out to be catastrophic for global warming.
- HFCs - though they are greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide - are not dealt with under the Paris Agreement but under the Montreal Protocol.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.5) The “Minamata convention” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Mercury
- b) Nitrate
- c) Cadmium
- d) Uranium

ANS: A

Explanation: The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds. It was adopted in 2013 in Kumamoto, Japan.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.6) The “Knock-Knee syndrome” is related to which of the following?

- a) Cadmium
- b) Fluorine
- c) Arsenic
- d) Lead

ANS: B

Explanation: Fluorine occurs in nature as fluoride, in air, soil and water. Fluorosis is a common problem in several states of the country due to intake of high fluoride content water.

- Fluorides cause dental fluorosis, stiffness of joints (particularly spinal cord) causing humped back.
- Pain in bones and joint and outward bending of legs from the knees is called Knock-Knee syndrome.
- In cattle, fluoride intake causes staining, mottling and abrasion of teeth, lameness and decrease in milk production.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Transfats”:

1. They are formed during the process of addition of hydrogen atoms to oils.
2. The health ministry in 2008 came out with a notification for labeling food including Transfats.

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: Transfats are formed during the process of addition of hydrogen atoms to oils, a process which industry prefers as it keeps the oil from turning rancid and ensures a longer shelf life. (E.g trans-fatty acid in vanaspati).

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- Transfats are associated with a host of serious health problems ranging from diabetes to heart disease to cancer.
- The health ministry in 2008 came out with a notification for labeling food including trans fats.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) The “Emphysema” disease caused due to which of the following?

- Nitrate
- Cigarette smoke
- Cadmium
- Uranium

ANS: B

Explanation: The breaking down of sensitive tissue of lungs due to air pollution and smoke of cigarette is called as Emphysema. Once this disease happens, the lungs cannot expand and contract properly.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.9) Which of the following is associated with “Itai-itai disease”?

- Cadmium
- Arsenic
- Fluorine
- Uranium

ANS: A

Explanation: Itai-itai disease was the documented case of mass cadmium poisoning in Toyama Prefecture, Japan, starting around 1912.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) The “Sri Venkateswara National Park” is recently seen in news related to?

- Tamil Nadu
- Andhra Pradesh
- Karnataka
- Kerala

ANS: B

Explanation: Sri Venkateswara National Park is a national park and biosphere reserve in Tirupati of Andhra Pradesh, India.

The total area of the park is 353 km². The park is known for its many waterfalls, including the Talakona, Gundalakona and Gunjana.

Source: FORUMIAS

Revision

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Ivory Trade in India”:

1. India illegalized trade in ivory from Asian elephants in 1986 by amending the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.
2. The Asian elephant is listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

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: India illegalized trade in ivory from Asian elephants in 1986 by amending the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and including a ‘Chapter VA’.

- The 1992 amendment included ivory imported into India as illegalized trade in ivory.
- The Asian elephant is listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “ethanol blending”:

1. India has achieved the target of blending 10% ethanol was achieved in June 2022.
2. 10% ethanol blending had resulted in savings of about ₹50,000 crores of foreign exchange.

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: India has achieved the target of blending 10% ethanol was achieved in June 2022 ahead of the original schedule of November 2022.

- Ethanol is produced from molasses, a by-product of the sugar industry.
- 10% ethanol blending had resulted in savings of about ₹50,000 crores of foreign exchange.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana”:

1. It aims to provide financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock.
2. It is implemented by Centre for High Technology (CHT).

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: Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana aims to provide financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock.

Implementation agency - Centre for High Technology (CHT), a technical body under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.4) The “Community Forest Resource rights” are provided under which of the following act?

- a) Indian forests act, 1927
- b) Forest conservation act, 1980
- c) Biological diversity act, 2002
- d) Forest rights act, 2006

ANS: D

Explanation: Community Forest Resource rights – They are provided under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act.

It provides for recognition of the right to “protect, regenerate or conserve or manage” the community forest resource.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Green India Mission (GIM)”:

- 1. It was launched in 2014.
- 2. It is one of the eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

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: National Mission for Green India or the commonly called Green India Mission (GIM) was launched in 2014.

It is one of the eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.6) The famous “Hathi Mitras” is often seen in news associated with?

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Assam

ANS: A

Explanation: Hathi Mitras or ‘friends of elephants’ are the village residents of Chhattisgarh who track pachyderm movements to help prevent casualties and crop loss.

The residents of villages affected by human-elephant conflict are engaged by the state forest department.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.7) The “Operation Rakth Chandran” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Elephants
- b) Tigers
- c) Rhinos
- d) Red sanders

ANS: D

Explanation: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 14.63 metric tonnes of red sanders in the international market from a consignment kept in an Inland Container Depot (ICD) in Gujarat. The DRI seized 840 logs of red sandalwood under the Operation Rakth Chandran.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Flue Gas”:

1. It is the gas that emanates from combustion plants.
2. It contains the reaction products of fuel and combustion air and residual substances such as particulate matter (dust), sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxide.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Indian government extended a deadline for coal-fired power plants to install equipment to cut sulfur emissions by two years to 2025.

- Flue Gas - Flue gas (exhaust gas or stack gas) is the gas that emanates from combustion plants.
- It contains the reaction products of fuel and combustion air and residual substances such as particulate matter (dust), sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxide.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.9) The “Miyawaki method” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Renewable energy
- b) Bio-fuels
- c) Urban forests
- d) Fishing technique

ANS: C

Explanation: Miyawaki – It is an afforestation technique to create urban forests in the 1980s. Developed by Japanese botanist and ecologist Dr Akira Miyawaki.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) The “Methane Alert and Response System (MARS)” is set up by which of the following?

- a) UNEP
- b) UNDP
- c) WEF
- d) ISA

ANS: A

Explanation: The United Nations to launch satellite based detection system to track global methane emissions.

- Methane Alert and Response System (MARS) – It is a data-to-action platform set up as part of the UNEP International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) strategy.
- MARS aims to get policy-relevant data into the right hands for emissions mitigation.

Source: Shankar IAS

History – Pre Historic India

Q.1) Which of the following is/are form/s the archaeological source of information?

1. Geological sediments
2. Stone tools
3. Rock paintings

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Archaeological sources form the bedrock of information for us to understand this long span of time in Indian history.

They include archaeological sites, geological sediments, animal bones and fossils, stone tools, bone tools, rock paintings and artifacts.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following is/are considered as floral evidence?

1. Charred seeds
2. Pollens
3. Phytoliths

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The faunal (animal) and floral (plant) sources are important for understanding the relationship of the Stone Age people with their environment.

Floral evidence found in the form of charred seeds, pollens and phytoliths (plant stones) helps us to gain knowledge of farming practiced by Stone Age people.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Which of the following language/s is/are flourished in India?

1. Indo – Aryan
2. Dravidian
3. Austro – Asiatic

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Language is another important source of history.

- Indo-Aryan, Dravidian, Austro-Asiatic and Tibeto-Burman language families have flourished in India.
- These languages developed and evolved during the various phases of migrations in Indian history.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. The period before the development of script is called the pre-historic times.
2. The earliest human ancestor species to migrate out of Africa was the Homo erectus.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The period before the development of script is called the pre-historic times. It is also referred to as the Stone Age.

- Human ancestors are likely to have first evolved in Africa and later migrated to different parts of the world.
- The earliest human ancestor species to migrate out of Africa was the Homo erectus.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) The “animal and plant domestication” took place in which of the following period?

- a) Upper Paleolithic
- b) Mesolithic
- c) Neolithic
- d) Bronze age

ANS: C

Explanation: The period after the Old Stone Age (Paleolithic) is called the Mesolithic Age.

- The period that followed the Mesolithic is called the Neolithic Age.
- This is the age in which animal and plant domestication developed, leading to food production.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) The first Paleolithic tools were identified by Robert Foote at the site of?

- a) Pallavaram
- b) Theni
- c) Hampi
- d) Golconda

ANS: A

Explanation: The first Paleolithic tools were identified at the site of Pallavaram near Chennai by Robert Bruce Foote in 1863.

He found many prehistoric sites when he extensively surveyed different parts of South India.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following tool/s is/are mainly found in Acheulian industry?

1. Hand axes
2. Cleavers
3. Choppers

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: Based on research, two independent cultural traditions of hand axe (Acheulian) and pebble-flake (Sohanian) industries were confirmed in India.

- Acheulian industry mainly had hand axes and cleavers.
- The Sohan industry is considered to have used only chopper and chopping tools.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) In which of the following place/s is/are lower Paleolithic tool/s found?

1. Isampur
2. Bhimbetka
3. Gudiyam

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Lower Paleolithic tools are found in most parts of India, except in a few regions of the Ganges valley, southern Tamil Nadu and in the hilly areas of the Western Ghats.

Athirampakkam, Pallavaram and Gudiyam near Chennai, Hunsgi valley and Isampur in Karnataka, and Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh are some important Paleolithic sites where the Acheulian tools are found.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) The only well-known hominin fossil of India was found at?

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Assam
- d) Rajasthan

ANS: A

Explanation: Unlike Africa, evidence of hominin [immediate ancestor of Homo sapiens] fossil is rare in India.

- There is a report of a fossil fragment discovered by Robert Bruce Foote from Athirampakkam. Its whereabouts are not known now.
- The only well-known hominin fossil of India was found at Hathnora near Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh. The cranium is named Narmada human.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Which of the following is NOT a site of Mesolithic industry?

- a) Paisra
- b) Langhnaj
- c) Chopani Mando
- d) Lothal

ANS: D

Explanation: Mesolithic sites in India are found in Paisra (Bihar), Langhnaj (Gujarat), Baghor II, Chopani Mando, Sarai Nahar Rai, Mahadaha and Damdama (all in Uttar Pradesh), Sankanakallu and Kibbanahalli (Karnataka).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Harappan Civilization – Bronze Age

Q.1) The early evidence of Neolithic culture was/were found in which of the following place/s?

1. Fertile Crescent region of Egypt
2. Mesopotamia
3. The Ganges valley of India

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The Neolithic period marked the beginning of agriculture and animal domestication. It is an important phase in Indian history.

Early evidence of Neolithic culture is found in the Fertile Crescent region of Egypt and Mesopotamia, the Indus region, the Ganges valley of India and also in China.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following is/are Neolithic site/s of India?

1. Mehrgarh
2. Rana Ghundai
3. Sarai Kala

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The Neolithic culture of north-western India is the earliest to have evidence of plant and animal domestication in India.

- Mehrgarh, Rana Ghundai, Sarai Kala and Jalilpur are some of the Neolithic sites.
- These sites are now situated in Pakistan.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. The Indus Civilization represents the first phase of urbanization in India.
2. The Indus valley site of Harappa was first visited by Charles Mason in 1826.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Indus Civilization represents the first phase of urbanization in India.

The Indus valley site of Harappa was first visited by Charles Mason in 1826 and Amri by Alexander Burnes in 1831.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following archaeological site/s is/are located at Gujarat?

1. Lothal
2. Surkotada
3. Banawali

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: Harappa (Punjab, Pakistan), Mohenjo-Daro (Sindh, Pakistan), Dholavira, Lothal, and Surkotada (Gujarat, India), Kalibangan and Banawali (Rajasthan, India), and Rakhigarhi (Haryana, India) are the major cities in the Harappan period.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following is/are the feature/s of Harappan Civilization?

1. Fortification
2. Planned Streets
3. Drainages

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Fortification, well planned streets and lanes and drainages are noticed in the Harappan towns.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding harappan urban planning:

1. The towns had a grid pattern and drainages were systematically built.
2. The houses were built of mud bricks while the drainages were built with burnt bricks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Harappans used baked and unbaked bricks, and stones for construction.

The towns had a grid pattern and drainages were systematically built.

The houses were built of mud bricks while the drainages were built with burnt bricks. Houses had more than one floor.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following crop/s is/are grown in "Harappan area"?

1. Wheat
2. Barley
3. Lentil

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Agriculture was an important source of subsistence for the Harappans.

The Harappans cultivated diverse crops such as wheat, barley, lentil, chickpea, sesame and various millets.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Which of the following craft making is/are found in harappan area?

1. Bead and ornament making
2. Shell bangle making
3. Metalworking

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Craft production was an important part of the Harappan economy. Bead and ornament making, shell bangle making and metalworking were the major crafts.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) The “Lapis Lazuli” material is found in which of the following site?

- a) Shortughai
- b) Lothal
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Balakot

ANS: A

Explanation: Certain Harappan sites specialised in the production of certain craft materials. The following table presents the major centres of craft production.

Material	Site or Source
Shell	Nageshwar and Balakot
Lapis lazuli	Shortughai
Carnelian	Lothal
Steatite	South Rajasthan
Copper	Rajasthan and Oman

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) In which of the following place/s harappan seal/s is/are found?

1. Oman
2. Iran
3. Iraq

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The Harappan seals and materials have been found in the Sumerian sites in Oman, Bahrain, and Iraq and Iran.

The cuneiform inscriptions mention the trade contacts between Mesopotamia and Harappans.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

The Vedic Age

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. The Early Vedic culture is correlated with some of the Chalcolithic cultures of India.
2. The Later Vedic culture is correlated with the Painted Grey Ware Culture of the Iron Age in North India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Early Vedic culture is correlated with some of the Chalcolithic cultures of India, while the Later Vedic culture is correlated with the Painted Grey Ware Culture of the Iron Age in North India.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. The Vedas are one of the earliest known texts to have been composed in India.
2. The language of the Vedas is described as prakrit.

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: The Vedas (Vid = to know, Vidya) are one of the earliest known texts to have been composed in India. The language of the Vedas is described as Vedic Sanskrit.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “vedic literature”:

1. The Vedic texts were memorized and orally transmitted by Brahmins from generation to generation.
2. The earliest known written manuscripts of the Vedas date to the 10-11th century CE.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Vedas are four: Rig is the oldest and the others being Yajur, Sama and Atharva.

- The Vedic texts were memorized and orally transmitted by Brahmins from generation to generation.
- They were written down in the later period, after the introduction of writing.

- The earliest known written manuscripts of the Vedas date to the 10-11th century CE.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Samhitas”:

1. Samhitas are ritualistic texts, and they explain the social and religious importance of rituals.
2. Each samhita has added texts called brahmanas, which have commentaries on the hymns and rituals.

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: Samhitas are ritualistic texts, and they explain the social and religious importance of rituals. Each samhita has added texts called brahmanas, which have commentaries on the hymns and rituals.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following text is deal with the philosophical enquiry?

- a) Brahmana
- b) Samhita
- c) Upanishads
- d) Aranyaka

ANS: C

Explanation: Upanishads deal with philosophical enquiries.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Which of the following Veda has contains the charms and magical spells?

- a) Rig Veda
- b) Yajur Veda
- c) Sama Veda
- d) Atharva Veda

ANS: D

Explanation: The Atharva Veda contains charms and magical spells.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following Veda has considered as the basis of Indian music?

- a) Rig Veda
- b) Yajur Veda
- c) Sama Veda
- d) Atharva Veda

ANS: C

Explanation: The Sama Veda was composed in musical notes which are considered to constitute the basis of Indian music.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) The “Zend Avesta” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Hinduism
- b) Buddhism
- c) Jainism
- d) Zoroastrianism

ANS: D

Explanation: The Zend Avesta is a Persian/Iranian text of Zoroastrianism.

- This book speaks about the lands and gods of the people speaking the Indo-Iranian languages.
- It has references to the regions of northern and north-western parts of India.
- It has terms which show linguistic similarity with the Vedas.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Which of the following animal/s is/are domesticated by Chalcolithic people?

- 1. Buffaloes
- 2. Pigs
- 3. Sheep

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The Chalcolithic people also began to domesticate animals in addition to agriculture.

- They had cattle, sheep, pigs and goats and buffaloes.
- Evidence has been found of turtles and fowls in their settlements.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) The famous megalithic site “Adichanallur” is located at?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Kerala
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Karnataka

ANS: A

Explanation: Adichanallur, 22 km from Tirunelveli, is located in Thoothukudi district. In 1876, a German ethnologist and naturalist, Andrew Jagor conducted an excavation at Adichanallur.

He carried with him samples of backed earthenware, utensils of all sizes and shapes, a considerable number of iron weapons and implements, and great quantities of bones and skulls.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

The Mahajanapadas

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Aryans used domesticated horses and chariots.
2. Aryans practiced agriculture and pastoralism.

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: From the Vedas it is evident that Aryans used domesticated horses and chariots.

- Their chariots had spoked wheels and they used bows and arrows. They practiced agriculture and pastoralism.
- They buried and also cremated the dead. The cult of fire and the use of soma drink were prevalent among the speakers of the Indo Aryan languages.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following metal helped to pave the growth of urbanization and mahajanpadas?

- a) Copper
- b) Tin
- c) Iron
- d) Gold

ANS: C

Explanation: Aryans began migrating eastwards from about 1000 BCE. As they moved eastwards, they encountered thick forests.

- Iron played a significant role in the clearing of the forest. The fertile soil of the Gangetic valley and the use of iron ploughshares improved agricultural productivity.
- Iron also played a big role in improving craft production such as pottery, carpentry and metal working. This in turn paved the way for urbanization.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) The “Arrian texts of literary sources” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Greek
- b) Roman
- c) Persian
- d) Anatolians

ANS: A

Explanation: The epics Mahabharata and Ramayana, the dharmasastras, Buddhist texts such as the Tripitakas and Jatakas, Jaina texts and Greek accounts such as that of Arrian constitute literary sources for the period.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following ancient city/town is a centre for trade and commerce?

- a) Taxila
- b) Vaishali
- c) Kaushambi
- d) Champa

ANS: A

Explanation: Agricultural surplus, the growth of crafts and trade, and the growing population led to the emergence of towns in the Gangetic plains.

This is called the second urbanization in Indian history after the first urbanization evident in the Harappan Civilization.

Different types of towns came into being:

- (i) Political and administrative centers such as Rajgriha, Shravasti, Kaushambi and Champa
- (ii) Centers of trade and commerce such as Ujjain and Taxila
- (iii) Holy centers such as Vaishali.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following element/s was/were found in mahajanapadas?

- 1. People
- 2. Territory
- 3. Sovereignty

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Territory, people, government and sovereignty are important elements of a state.

- All these elements were found in some of the mahajanapadas.
- The mahajanapadas represented the emergence of territorial kingdoms that ruled over people (jana).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Which of the following mahajanpada was gana sanghas or oligarchy?

- a) Vrijji
- b) Matsya
- c) Puru
- d) Avanti

ANS: A

Explanation: The proto-states of the Gangetic region were known as janapadas and comprised chiefdoms, republics and small kingdoms.

- Sixteen mahajanapadas find mention in the early texts. There were also gana sanghas or oligarchies, which were centred on clans.
- The Vrijjis were one of the best known of the gana-sanghas, and Vaishali was their capital in the Mithila region.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. The mahajanapadas on the Gangetic plains were all monarchies.
2. The kingdoms were governed by kings and the administration was decentralized.

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: The mahajanapadas on the Gangetic plains were all monarchies. Vedic orthodoxy was an established practice in these kingdoms.

- The priestly class enjoyed a preeminent status in the mahajanapadas unlike in the gana-sanghas.
- The kingdoms were governed by kings and the administration was centralized.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Who among the following was/were considered “homeless wanderers” of longstanding (chira-pabbajito), founders of sects (tithakaro) and leaders of their orders (ganachariyo)?

1. Purana Kassapa
2. Makkhali Gosala
3. Pakudha Kachchayana

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: A Buddhist text, Samannaphala Sutta, while making a reference to Ajatashatru of Magadha meeting Gautama Buddha, mentions that before his meeting, the former had a philosophical discourse with the leaders of the various sects such as Purana Kassapa, Makkhali Gosala, Ajita Kesakambalin, Pakudha Kachchayana, Sanjaya Belatthiputta and Nigantha Nataputta (Mahavira).

They are described as “homeless wanderers” of longstanding (chira-pabbajito), founders of sects (tithakaro) and leaders of their orders (ganachariyo).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Who among the following was/were associated with “Ajivika sect”?

1. Nanda Vaccha
2. Kisa Samkicca
3. Makkhali Gosala

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The Ajivikas are believed to have evolved from one of the many ascetic groups of the times.

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- According to Buddhist records, Nanda Vaccha was considered the founder of the Ajivika sect.
- He was succeeded by Kisa Samkicca, followed by Makkhali Gosala, who was the third and the greatest of the Ajivikas.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Which of the following has/have the reference/s of Ajivika doctrine?

1. Manimekalai
2. Nilakesi
3. Sivagnanasiddhiyar

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Manimekalai, Nilakesi and Sivagnanasiddhiyar have references to Ajivika doctrine.

- Nilakesi's quest for truth takes her to Buddha and Puranan.
- Puranan was the leader of the Ajivika sect.
- The Cholas are known to have levied a tax on the Ajivikas.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

The Mahajanapadas & Indo – Gangetic Plain

Q.1) Which of the following mahajanapada is a gana sangha?

- a) Magadha
- b) Kosala
- c) Avanti
- d) Malla

ANS: D

Explanation: It should be noted that the most powerful states in the 6th century were Magadha, Kosala, Vatsa, and Avanti and two of the Mahajanapads, the Vajji and Malla were Gana-Sanghas.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding "gana sanghas":

1. The chief office was not hereditary and was known as Ganapati or Ganaraja.
2. The power was vested in an aristocratic council comprising heads of leading Kshatriya families.

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: Gana Sanghas: The chief office was not hereditary and was known as Ganapati or Ganaraja.

The power was vested in an aristocratic council comprising heads of leading Kshatriya families and the authority structure of ganas had greater elements of tribal organisation.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) The famous “Bimbisara” was belongs to which of the following dynasty?

- a) Haryanka dynasty
- b) Shishunaga dynasty
- c) Nanda dynasty
- d) Maurya dynasty

ANS: A

Explanation: The political conflict among the Mahajanapadas ultimately led to the emergence of Magadha as the most powerful state and the centre of a vast empire.

Magadha’s rise to political supremacy began with Bimbisara, who belonged to the Haryanka dynasty, and ruled for 52 years, from 544 to 492 BCE.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) Who among the following used the two innovative military weapons Mahashilakantaka and Rathamusala?

- a) Bimbisara
- b) Prasenjit
- c) Ajatashatru
- d) Udayabhadra

ANS: C

Explanation: Ajatashatru used two innovative military weapons: War engine, which was used to those stones like catapults (Mahashilakantaka) and Chariot with mace for mass-killing (Rathamusala).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Who among the following arranged the first Buddhist council?

- a) Bimbisara
- b) Prasenjit
- c) Ajatashatru
- d) Udayabhadra

ANS: C

Explanation: Ajatashatru arranged the first Buddhist council.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Kalasoka”:

1. He belongs to Nanda dynasty.
2. He held second Buddhist council.

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: Kalasoka was the son and successor of Shishunaga and belongs to Shishunaga Dynasty.

- Also he was known as Kakarvarna (according to the Puranas).
- Second Buddhist Council held at Vaishali by Kalasoka.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) Who among the following was also known as “Ugrasena”?

- a) Bimbisara
- b) Prasenjit
- c) Ajatashatru
- d) Mahapadma Nanda

ANS: D

Explanation: Mahapadma Nanda also called Ugrasena in Pali texts, because of his large army.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) Who among the following was credited with the invention of Nandopakramani?

- a) Bimbisara
- b) Prasenjit
- c) Dhanananda
- d) Mahapadma Nanda

ANS: C

Explanation: Dhanananda was credited with the invention of Nandopakramani (a particular measuring standard).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) Which of the following is/are major item/s of import to mahajanapadas?

1. Jade
2. Silver
3. Gold

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The internal trade routes joined the external trade routes, and there are evidences of flourishing trade of the subcontinent along both eastern (Bengal with Myanmar) and western (Taxila with Afghanistan, Iran and Mesopotamia) regions.

The major items of import included precious stones such as gold, lapis lazuli, jade, silver, etc., while finished crafts, textile goods, sandalwood, and pearls were major items of export.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) The term “kammikas” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Slaves
- b) Iron smiths
- c) Custom officials
- d) Farmers

ANS: C

Explanation: Pali texts also mention sea travel and trade. Custom officials (Kammikas) and Toll officials (Shaulkika/Shulkadhyaksha) levied taxes on merchandise, and special royal officials called Rajabhatas were deputed to safeguard the lives and property of travellers.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.10) The terms “Nishka and Satamana” were associated with which of the following?

- a) Custom officials
- b) Iron smiths
- c) Currency denominations
- d) Village heads

ANS: C

Explanation: Trade was facilitated by use of money termed Nishka and Satamana.

The earliest coins are punch-marked (called so as pieces of metals were punched with certain marks such as hill, tree, bull, fish, crescent, elephant, etc.) and made of silver, though a few copper coins are also found.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Buddhism & Jainism

Q.1) Who among the following was/were renounced the world and wandered across the Gangetic plains?

- 1. Gosala
- 2. Mahavira
- 3. Ajita Kesakambalin

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: In the sixth and fifth centuries before the Common Era, north India underwent a remarkable intellectual awakening that profoundly impacted India and influenced its culture in subsequent millennia as well. The impact also swept across South Asia.

This awakening was the outcome of questioning the existing philosophy by a host of heterodox thinkers. Gosala, Gautama Buddha, Mahavira, Ajita Kesakambalin and other thinkers renounced the world and

wandered across the Gangetic plains, contemplating and reflecting on the social and cultural scenario of their times.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following is/are cause/s of intellectual awakening in 6th century BC?

1. State formation and the rigidity of the Vedic religion constrained the liberty of thought and action.
2. The emergence of territorial identities accelerated the process of socio political and economic changes.
3. The Vedic religion was not fully organized.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Sixth century BCE was a period of intense intellectual ferment. There are several reasons for the emergence of this ferment.

- State formation and the rigidity of the Vedic religion constrained the liberty of thought and action. A revolt against religious practice of following dogmas found its articulation in heterodox sects.
- The emergence of territorial identities accelerated the process of sociopolitical and economic changes.
- The elite class, disillusioned with the system in place, began to move in protest towards the heterodox religions blossoming in Magadha or middle Ganges plains.
- As the Vedic religion was not fully organized, its reach did not permeate into the society and hence people did not find it difficult to follow the newly emerging religious sects.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) The text, "Samannaphala Sutta" was related to which of the following?

- a) Buddhism
- b) Jainism
- c) Ajivika
- d) Brahmanism

ANS: A

Explanation: A Buddhist text, Samannaphala Sutta, while making a reference to Ajatashatru of Magadha meeting Gautama Buddha, mentions that before his meeting, the former had a philosophical discourse with the leaders of the various sects such as Purana Kassapa, Makkhali Gosala, Ajita Kesakambalin, Pakudha Kachchayana, Sanjaya Belatthiputta and Nigantha Nataputta (Mahavira).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Who among the following was known as "Nigantha Nataputta"?

- a) Mahavira
- b) Pakudha Kachchayana
- c) Purana Kassapa
- d) Sanjaya Belatthiputta

ANS: A

Explanation: A Buddhist text, Samannaphala Sutta, while making a reference to Ajatashatru of Magadha meeting Gautama Buddha, mentions that before his meeting, the former had a philosophical discourse with

the leaders of the various sects such as Purana Kassapa, Makkhali Gosala, Ajita Kesakambalin, Pakudha Kachchayana, Sanjaya Belatthiputta and Nigantha Nataputta (Mahavira).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Who among the following was founder of the Ajivika sect?

- a) Kisa Samkicca
- b) Nanda Vaccha
- c) Makkhali Gosala
- d) Pakudha Kachchayana

ANS: B

Explanation: The Ajivikas are believed to have evolved from one of the many ascetic groups of the times. According to Buddhist records, Nanda Vaccha was considered the founder of the Ajivika sect.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding "Ajivika sect":

1. The Ajivikas were naked ascetics.
2. The basic principle of the Ajivikas was niyati or fate.

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: Gosala met Mahavira for the first time in Nalanda and their friendship lasted for six years.

- They separated due to doctrinal differences. Gosala then went to Sravasti, where he was patronised by a rich potter woman called Halahala.
- He believed in the doctrine of reanimation, and criticised and ridiculed the severe austerities of the Vedic ascetics.
- Being rival sects, both the Buddhist and Jaina accounts portray Gosala as a person of vicious character.
- Sravasti was the headquarters of the Ajivika sect. The Ajivikas were naked ascetics.
- The basic principle of the Ajivikas was niyati or fate: they believed that nothing in this world could be changed as everything was predetermined.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following was/were follower/s of materialist thought school?

1. Carvaka
2. Ajita Kesakambalin
3. Gautam Buddha

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: The term “lokayata” signifies materialist thought. Indian materialism has also been named Carvaka after one of the two founders of the school.

Carvaka and Ajita Kesakambalin are said to have established Indian materialism as a formal philosophical system.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) The famous text, “Bhagavatisutra” is related to which of the following?

- a) Buddhism
- b) Jainism
- c) Ajivikas
- d) Brahmanism

ANS: B

Explanation: There was intense rivalry among the various heterodox sects. This is evident from the various religious accounts of the period.

- Buddhist and Jaina texts not only mention other heterodox sects but also belittle them.
- For example, Bhagavatisutra, a Jaina text, provides a poor account of Makkhali Gosala.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) The term “Nirgranthas” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Buddhism
- b) Jainism
- c) Ajivikas
- d) Brahmanism

ANS: B

Explanation: Among the various sects, the sect led by Vardhamana Mahavira (referred to as Nigantha Nataputta by Buddhist texts) bloomed into a religion called Jainism. It was earlier known as Nirgranthas (free from bonds).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Who among the following is NOT associated with Jainism?

- a) Risabha
- b) Ajitanatha
- c) Aristanemi
- d) Nilakesi

ANS: D

Explanation: According to Jaina tradition, Risabha was the founder of the sect.

- He is considered the first Tirthankara.
- Yajur Veda mentions three of the Tirthankaras, viz., Risabha, Ajitanatha and Aristanemi.
- Mahavira organized his members into monastic and lay followers.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Revision

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding "Vardhamana Mahavira":

1. He was born in Magadha.
2. He was a member of the ruling family of a gana-sangha.

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: Vardhamana was born around 540 BCE in Kundagrama, a suburb of Vaishali.

He was a member of the ruling family of a gana-sangha and his father Siddhartha was the chief of the Jnatrika clan.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following is/are Jain text/s?

1. Acharrangasutra
2. Sutrakritanga
3. Kalpasutra

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Acharrangasutra, Sutrakritanga, and Kalpasutra are the earliest Jaina texts.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) The most of the early Jaina texts were written in which language?

- Pali
- Prakrit
- Sanskrit
- Ardha-Magadhi

ANS: D

Explanation: Most of the early Jaina texts were written in Ardha-Magadhi, the language of the common people.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- Bhadrabahu was the leader of Svetambaras.
- Sthulabhadra was the leader of Digambaras.
- On the death of Shulabhadra, Bhadrabahu held a Great Council at Pataliputra, which compiled the Jaina canon.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- None

ANS: D

Explanation: Magadha was affected by severe famine and some of the Jaina monks under Bhadrabahu went south to maintain their strict discipline.

- They remained without garments and were known as Digambaras (space-clad or naked).
- Others stayed back under the leadership of Sthulabhadra and adopted a white garment and were known as Svetambaras (white-clad).
- On the death of Bhadrabahu, Shulabhadra held a Great Council at Pataliputra, which compiled the Jaina canon.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding "Gautama Buddha":

- He delivered his first sermon in a deer park in Sarnath near Varanasi.
- Parinirvana event was considered as Buddha's death.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: After 49 days of meditation, Buddha attained enlightenment, at the age of 35. Thereafter, he came to be called Buddha or the Enlightened.

- He then delivered his first sermon in a deer park in Sarnath near Varanasi.
- This event is described as Dharmachakra-parivartana or 'wheel of the great law'.

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- Buddha and his followers travelled for eight months of the year and stayed at a place for four months of the rainy season.
- At the age of 80, he passed away in Kusinagara. This is known as Parinirvana.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Buddhist councils”:

1. The First Buddhist Council was held at Rajgriha after Buddha’s death.
2. The Second Buddhist Council met at Vaishali a century after Buddha’s death.

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: After the death of Buddha, the tenets and other aspects of Buddhism were decided upon in the councils of Buddhist monks.

- Over a period of time, four Buddhist councils were held. The First Buddhist Council was held at Rajgriha after Buddha’s death.
- The Second Buddhist Council met at Vaishali a century after Buddha’s death.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following is/are sect/s of Buddhism?

1. Sthaviravadins
2. Mahasanghikas
3. Sarvastivadins

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: In course of time, Sthaviravadins, Mahasanghikas and Sarvastivadins emerged as major sects of Buddhism.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. Nalanda University was an important centre of Buddhist learning and was patronised by the Palas.
2. The Vikramasila University in Bihar was an important centre of Vajrayana Buddhism.

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: Mahayana or the Great Vehicle became popular and influential in India.

Prelims Marathon Compilation for the Month of December, 2023

- Nalanda University was an important centre of Buddhist learning and was patronised by the Palas. It spread to China and Japan.
- The Vikramasila University in Bihar was an important centre of Vajrayana Buddhism.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. The Buddhist texts were compiled in Pali.
2. The Pali canons are called as the Tripitakas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Buddhist texts were compiled in Pali. The Pali canons are called as the Tripitakas (Three Baskets).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. Vinaya Pitaka deals with monastic rules and moral disciplines.
2. Sutta Pitaka dwells upon discourses and teachings of Buddha.

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: Vinaya Pitaka deals with monastic rules and moral disciplines. Sutta Pitaka dwells upon discourses and teachings of Buddha. Abhidhamma Pitaka expounds Buddhist philosophy.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

The Mauryan Empire

Q.1) Which of the following is/are sect/s of Buddhism?

1. Tantrayana
2. Sahajayana
3. Vajrayana

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Buddhism faced divisions from time to time. Division into various splinter groups like 'Hinayana', 'Mahayana', 'Vajrayana', 'Tantrayana' and 'Sahajayana' led Buddhism to lose its originality.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Who among the following is NOT part of the Mauryan Empire?

- a) Bimbisara
- b) Chandragupta
- c) Bindusara
- d) Ashoka

ANS: A

Explanation: Bimbisara, who was a contemporary of Buddha, started the process of empire building. It was strengthened by his son Ajatashatru and then by the Nandas.

- The empire reached its glory and peaked with the advent of the Mauryan Empire founded by Chandragupta Maurya.
- The first three Mauryan emperors, Chandragupta, Bindusara and Ashoka, were the best known. After Ashoka, the Mauryan Empire went into decline.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) The “Brahmi script” was deciphered by which of the following?

- a) Alexander Cunningham
- b) James Prinsep
- c) Bruce Foote
- d) Max Muller

ANS: B

Explanation: In fact, the reconstruction of the Mauryan period to a great extent became possible only after the Brahmi script of the inscriptions at Sanchi was deciphered by James Prinsep in 1837.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) The terms “devanampiya and piyadassi” were associated with?

- a) Bimbisara
- b) Bindusara
- c) Padma Nanda
- d) Ashoka

ANS: D

Explanation: Puranic and Buddhist texts referred to a chakravartin named Ashoka.

As more edicts were deciphered, the decisive identification that devanampiya piyadassi was Ashoka was made in 1915.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) The play “Mudrarakshasa” was written by which of the following?

- a) Rudradaman
- b) Pushyagupta
- c) Visakhadatta
- d) Nagarjuna

ANS: C

Explanation: The play Mudrarakshasa by Visakhadatta was written during the Gupta period, sometime after the 4th century CE.

It narrates Chandragupta's accession to the throne of the Magadha Empire and the exploits of his chief advisor Chanakya or Kautilya by listing the strategies he used to counter an invasion against Chandragupta.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) The term "Sandrakottus" was associated with which of the following?

- a) Mahapadma Nanda
- b) Chandra Gupta Maurya
- c) Bindusara
- d) Ashoka

ANS: B

Explanation: Contemporary accounts by Greek historians show that Chandragupta was a youth living in Taxila when Alexander invaded India.

Greek historians have recorded his name as "Sandrakottus" or "Sandrakoptus", which are evidently modified forms of Chandragupta.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) The Junagadh rock inscription was associated with which of the following?

- a) Mahapadma Nanda
- b) Chandra Gupta Maurya
- c) Bindusara
- d) Bimbisara

ANS: B

Explanation: We know from the Junagadh rock inscription (referred to earlier) that Chandragupta had expanded his empire westward as far as Gujarat.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Who among the following king has spent his last years as an ascetic in Chandragiri, near Sravanabelagola, in Karnataka?

- a) Chandra Gupta Maurya
- b) Bindusara
- c) Bimbisara
- d) Ashoka

ANS: A

Explanation: Chandragupta's son Bindusara succeeded him as emperor in 297 BCE in a peaceful and natural transition.

- We do not know what happened to Chandragupta. He probably renounced the world.
- According to the Jain tradition, Chandragupta spent his last years as an ascetic in Chandragiri, near Sravanabelagola, in Karnataka.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Which of the following language/s, the Ashokan edicts and inscriptions written?

1. Prakrit
2. Magadhi
3. Greek

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The edicts were written mostly in the Brahmi script and in Magadhi and Prakrit. The Kandahar inscriptions are in Greek and Aramaic, while the two inscriptions in north-west Pakistan are in Kharosthi script.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Which of the following inscription mentions lands beyond his borders: “the Chodas (Cholas), the Pandyas, the Satiyaputa, the Keralaputa (Chera), even Tamraparni, the Yona king Antiyoka (Antiochus), and the kings who are the neighbours of this Antioka”?

- a) First inscription
- b) Second inscription
- c) Sixth inscription
- d) Ninth inscription

ANS: B

Explanation: The geographical spread of the edicts essentially defines the extent of the vast empire over which Ashoka ruled.

The second inscription mentions lands beyond his borders: “the Chodas (Cholas), the Pandyas, the Satiyaputa, the Keralaputa (Chera), even Tamraparni, the Yona king Antiyoka (Antiochus), and the kings who are the neighbours of this Antioka”.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Political & Cultural Developments in 200 BCE to 200 AD

Q.1) Which of the following clan/s was/were attacked/invaded the India after Ashokas death?

1. Indo – Greeks
2. Sakas
3. Kushanas

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: In the four centuries following the death of Emperor Asoka and the resulting decline of the Mauryan Empire, parts of India were subject to the invasion of the IndoGreeks, Sakas and Kushanas from West and Central Asia.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. Around 305 BCE, Chandragupta waged a war against Seleucus and defeated him.
2. Megasthenes was sent to the Mauryan capital Pataliputra as the Greek ambassador.

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: Seleucus Nicator, one of Alexander's most capable generals, succeeded in making himself the master of a vast territory from Phrygia (Turkey) to the river Indus after 311BCE.

- Within a few years, probably around 305 BCE, Chandragupta waged a war against Seleucus and defeated him.
- Megasthenes was sent to the Mauryan capital Pataliputra as the Greek ambassador.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) The term "Yavana" was associated with which of the following?

- a) Arabs
- b) Greeks
- c) Persians
- d) Turkish

ANS: B

Explanation: The term yavana (or yona) for Greeks, which was used throughout India.

- The word was derived from the Persian word yauna, which referred to Greeks.
- In India the term yavana was used to denote all persons of Greek origin, including those of mixed race and even the Phoenicians.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Who among the following was the teacher to Menander regarding Buddhism?

- a) Nagarjuna
- b) Nagasena
- c) Vishakadatta
- d) Kalidasa

ANS: B

Explanation: Menander is mainly remembered as the eponymous hero of the Buddhist text, Milinda-pinha (questions of Milinda), in which he is engaged in a question-and-answer discussion on Buddhism with the teacher Nagasena. He is believed to have become a Buddhist and promoted Buddhism.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following nomadic tribe/s was/were usurped the power from Indo - Greeks in North West India?

1. Mongolians
2. Pahlavis
3. yueh-chi

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: The Indo-Greek kingdoms in north-western India were ousted by various nomadic tribes from Central Asia, known as the Sakas (Scythians), Parthians (Pahlavis) and Kushanas (yueh-chi or yuezhi tribes in Chinese).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) The famous kshatrpa "Rudradaman" was associated with which of the following?

- a) Sakas
- b) Parthians
- c) Kushans
- d) Indo - Greeks

ANS: A

Explanation: In India, the Sakas became assimilated into Hindu society. They began to adopt Hindu names and religious beliefs, so much so that their coins had representations of Hindu gods on one side.

- The Sakas appointed kshatrapas or satraps as provincial governors to administer their territories.
- Many of the kshatrapas titled themselves mahakshatrapas and were virtually independent rulers.
- One of the most famous of the Saka kshatrapas was Rudradaman (130–150 CE).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) The famous king "Kanishka" was associated with which of the following?

- a) Sakas
- b) Parthians
- c) Kushans
- d) Indo - Greeks

ANS: C

Explanation: The best known of the Kushana kings was Kanishka, who is thought to have ruled from 78 CE till 101 or 102 CE. Ironically, 78 CE is held to be the beginning of the "Saka era" in the Indian calendar.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Kanishka”:

1. He conducted the fourth Buddhist council.
2. He supported the hinayana Buddhism.

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: Kanishka was an ardent follower of Buddhism and hosted the fourth Buddhist mahasangha or council (the third council had been held in Pataliputra during Asoka’s reign).

By now Mahayana Buddhism had become the dominant sect, and Kanishka supported the missions sent to China to preach Buddhism.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Kanishka was the patron of Buddhist philosophers such as?

1. Asvaghosha
2. Parsva
3. Vasumitra

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Kanishka was the patron of Buddhist philosophers such as Asvaghosha, Parsva and Vasumitra, as well as the great Buddhist teacher Nagarjuna.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) The famous “Buddhacharita” was associated with which of the following?

- a) Asvaghosha
- b) Nagarjuna
- c) Parsva
- d) Vasumitra

ANS: A

Explanation: Asvaghosha is known for his Buddhacharita and is celebrated as the author of the first Sanskrit play, Sariputraprakarana, in nine acts.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Early Historic Period of South India

Q.1) The “Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas” were related to which of the following region?

- a) South India
- b) Northwest India
- c) Central India
- d) Northeast India

ANS: A

Explanation: In the Deccan region, encompassing major parts of present day Andhra, Karnataka and Maharashtra, the Satavahanas established a powerful kingdom in the first century BCE.

In the south, the three family ruling houses, the Cholas, the Cheras and the Pandyas were their contemporaries, ruling the fertile parts of Tamizhagam.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Which of the following place/s is/are located in Tamil Nadu?

- 1. Arikamedu
- 2. Kodumanal
- 3. Alagankulam

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Excavated materials from ancient sites of Tamil Nadu are Arikamedu, Kodumanal, Alagankulam, and Uraiyur.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) The Buddhist site Nagarjunakonda is located at which of the following state?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Telangana
- c) Kerala
- d) Karnataka

ANS: B

Explanation: Buddhist sites with stupas and chaityas located in Telangana (Nagarjunakonda) and Karnataka regions.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Gatha Saptasati, composed by the Satavahana king Hala in which of the following language?

- Pali
- Prakrit
- Sanskrit
- Ardha Magadhi

ANS: B

Explanation: Gatha Saptasati, a Prakrit text composed by the Satavahana king Hala.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

- The Classical Sangam corpus consists of Tholkappiyam, Ettuththokai and Paththuppattu.
- Tholkappiyamis the earliest extant Tamil grammatical text dealing with poetry only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Classical Sangam corpus consists of Tholkappiyam, the eight anthologies (Ettuththokai), Paththuppattu.

Tholkappiyam, attributed to Tholkappiyar, is the earliest extant Tamil grammatical text dealing not only with poetry but also the society and culture of the times.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) The famous "Peutingirian Table" was associated with which of the following?

- Map
- Geographical text
- History
- Poetry

ANS: A

Explanation: The following Greek and Latin sources inform us about the long distance cultural and commercial connections.

- The Periplus of Erythrean Sea, an ancient Greek text of the first century CE.
- A Roman Map called Peutingirian Table.
- Vienna Papyrus G 40822, a Greek document datable to the second century CE.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following rock edict of Ashoka mentions about southern kingdoms?

- Rock edict I
- Rock edict II
- Rock edict VI
- Rock edict IX

ANS: B

Explanation: The Asokan edicts (c. 270-30 BCE) present for the first time a picture of the political condition in south India.

Rock Edict II lists the Tamil ruling houses Cholas, Pandyas, Keralaputras and Satiyaputra as neighbour rulers, lying beyond his domain, where he is said to have made provision for two types of medical treatment: medical treatment for both humans and animals.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) The famous “Gautamiputra Satakarni” was associated with?

- a) Kushans
- b) Sakas
- c) Parthians
- d) Satavahanas

ANS: D

Explanation: Gautamiputra Satakarni was the greatest of the Satavahana kings.

He defeated the Shaka ruler Nahapana and reissued the coins of Nahapana with his own royal insignia.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. Offering land grants was an important development of the Satavahana times.
2. The beneficiaries of these grants were mostly Buddhists and Brahmins.
3. The Naneghat inscription refers to tax exemptions given to the lands granted to Buddhist monks.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Offering land grants was an important development of the Satavahana times.

- The beneficiaries of these grants were mostly Buddhists and Brahmins.
- The Naneghat inscription refers to tax exemptions given to the lands granted to Buddhist monks.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Which of the following is NOT part of “muvendar”?

- a) Cholas
- b) Cheras
- c) Pandayas
- d) Satavahanas

ANS: D

Explanation: Though the three Tamil ruling families were known to Asoka in the third century BCE itself, some individual names are known only from the Sangam poems of the first century and later.

Known as muvendar, ‘the three crowned kings’, the Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas controlled major agrarian territories, trade routes and towns.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

The Guptas

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Gupta economic system:

1. Feudalism as an institution began to take root during this period.
2. It has effective guild and overseas trade system.

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: Gupta's economy featured a strong central government, bringing many kingdoms under its hegemony.

- Feudalism as an institution began to take root during this period.
- With an effective guild system and overseas trade, the Gupta economy boomed.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) The "Nitisara, a work on polity addressed to the king" written by?

- a) Vishakadutta
- b) Kalidasa
- c) Kamandaka
- d) Nagarjuna

ANS: C

Explanation: Kamandaka's Nitisara, a work on polity addressed to the king (400 CE).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) The "Allahabad inscription" was associated with?

- a) Chandra Gupta I
- b) Samudra Gupta
- c) Chandra Gupta II
- d) Vishaka Gupta

ANS: B

Explanation: Allahabad Pillar inscription – describing Samudragupta's personality and achievements in 33 lines composed by Harisena and engraved in Sanskrit in Nagari script.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. The first ruler of the Gupta Empire was Sri Gupta.
2. The Chandra Gupta I was the son of Sri Gupta.

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: The first ruler of the Gupta Empire was Sri Gupta (240–280 CE) who was succeeded by his son Ghatotkacha (280–319 CE).

- Both Sri Gupta and Ghatotkacha are mentioned as Maharajas in inscriptions.
- Chandragupta I, the son of Ghatotkacha, ruled from 319 to 335 CE and is considered to be the first great king of the Gupta Empire.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Samudragupta rule”:

1. The kings of the south and the east were forced to pay homage to Samudragupta.
2. Lanka ruler Meghavarman sent presents and requested permission from Samudragupta to build a Buddhist monastery at Gaya.

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: Four northern kings were conquered mainly in the area around Delhi and western Uttar Pradesh.

- The kings of the south and the east were forced to pay homage, and from the places mentioned, it appears that Samudragupta campaigned down the eastern coast as far as Kanchipuram.
- The relationship with Kushanas is not certain, but with regard to Lanka, its ruler Meghavarman sent presents and requested permission from Samudragupta to build a Buddhist monastery at Gaya.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Who among the following patronized scholars and poets like Harisena and thus promoted Sanskrit literature?

- a) Sri Gupta
- b) Chandra Gupta I
- c) Samudra Gupta
- d) Chandra Gupta II

ANS: C

Explanation: Samudragupta patronised scholars and poets like Harisena and thus promoted Sanskrit literature.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Who among the following was called as “Kaviraja”?

- a) Sri Gupta
- b) Chandra Gupta I
- c) Samudra Gupta
- d) Chandra Gupta II

ANS: C

Explanation: Samudragupta patronised scholars and poets like Harisena and thus promoted Sanskrit literature.

- Though an ardent follower of Vaishnavism, he also patronised the great Buddhist scholar Vasubandhu.
- As a lover of poetry and music, he was given the title “Kaviraja”. His coins bear the insignia of him playing the vina (lute).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Who among the following was also known as “Vikramaditya”?

- a) Sri Gupta
- b) Chandra Gupta I
- c) Samudra Gupta
- d) Chandra Gupta II

ANS: D

Explanation: Named after his grandfather, Chandragupta II was a capable ruler, who ruled for 40 years from c. 375 to 415 CE.

He came to power after a succession struggle with his brother Rama Gupta. He is also known as Vikramaditya.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Whose court had nine jewels or navaratnas, that is, nine eminent people in various fields of art, literature and science?

- a) Sri Gupta
- b) Chandra Gupta I
- c) Samudra Gupta
- d) Chandra Gupta II

ANS: D

Explanation: After establishing himself in eastern and western India, Chandragupta II defeated northern rulers like the Huns, Kambojas and Kiratas.

- He was a great conqueror and an able administrator as well.
- His other names (as mentioned in coins) include Vikrama, Devagupta, Devaraja, Simhavikrama, Vikramaditya and Sakari.
- His court had nine jewels or navaratnas, that is, nine eminent people in various fields of art, literature and science.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Who among the following was a lexicographer?

- a) Harisena
- b) Amarasimha
- c) Dhanvantari
- d) Kalidasa

ANS: B

Explanation: Chandra Gupta II court had nine jewels or navaratnas, that is, nine eminent people in various fields of art, literature and science.

This included the great Sanskrit poet Kalidasa, the Sanskrit scholar Harisena, the lexicographer Amarasimha, and the physician Dhanvantari.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Buddhism

Q.1) Which of the following is/are common trait/s of Buddhism & Jainism?

1. Charity
2. Frugality
3. Non - violence

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: India witnessed the growth of two great alternative religions: Buddhism and Jainism.

These religions emphasized that true happiness does not lie in material prosperity or performance of rituals, but in non-violence, charity, frugality, and good social conduct.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. Buddhist literature is generally divided into canonical and non-canonical texts.
2. Canonical texts are those texts that are directly linked to Gautama Buddha.

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: Our understanding of Gautama Buddha and various other facets of Buddhism is derived mostly from early Buddhist literature.

- Early Buddhist literature is generally divided into canonical and non-canonical texts.
- Canonical texts are those texts that are directly linked to Gautama Buddha in one way or another.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Milindapanho”:

1. It was written in Prakrit.
2. It consists of a dialogue on various philosophical issues between the Indo-Greek king Milinda/Menander and the monk Nagasena.

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: Some important non-canonical texts are Milindapanho (written in Pali, it consists of a dialogue on various philosophical issues between the Indo-Greek king Milinda/Menander and the monk Nagasena).

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.4) The text “Visuddhimagga” was written by which of the following?

- a) Buddhaghosa
- b) Kalidasa
- c) Nagasena
- d) Nagarjuna

ANS: A

Explanation: Visuddhimagga - The Path to Purity, written by Buddhaghosa, deals with development from purity of discipline to nibanna/enlightenment.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.5) Which of the following Pitaka known as “Buddhavacana”?

- a) Sutta Pitaka
- b) Vinaya Pitaka
- c) Abhidhamma Pitaka
- d) All of the above

ANS: A

Explanation: The Sutta Pitaka (Sutra/Basket of Discourses): This contains the Buddha’s discourses on various doctrinal issues in dialogue form.

These texts are also known as ‘Buddhavacana’ or ‘the word of the Buddha’, as it refers to texts that are supposed to contain what the Buddha himself said.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.6) The “Alara Kalama and Uddaka Ramaputta” were associated with which of the following?

- a) Gautam Buddha
- b) Mahavira
- c) Gosala
- d) Nagarjuna

ANS: A

Explanation: Gautam Buddha meditated with established teachers of that era – firstly with Alara Kalama and then with Uddaka Ramaputta – but was not convinced with their instructions that man could obtain liberation from sorrow by mental discipline and knowledge only.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.7) Which of the following was/were the wandering ascetic/s?

1. Kondanna
2. Bhaddiya
3. Mahanama

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Later on, Buddha accompanied by five wandering ascetics – Kondanna, Bhaddiya, Vappa, Mahanama, and Assaji – he practiced severe austerities until his body was almost emaciated.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.8) Who among the following was the founder of the Madhyamaka school of Mahayana Buddhism?

- a) Nagasena
- b) Nagarjuna
- c) Kanishka
- d) Asvaghosha

ANS: B

Explanation: Nagarjuna: He is considered to be the founder of the Madhyamaka school of Mahayana Buddhism. He was a friend and contemporary of Satvahana King Gautamiputra of Andhra.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.9) Which of the following school known as “Diamond Vehicle”?

- a) Hinayana
- b) Mahayana
- c) Vajrayana
- d) Mahasanghika

ANS: C

Explanation: Vajrayana: Literally means ‘Vehicle of Thunderbolt’. The Vajrayana or ‘Diamond Vehicle’ is also referred to as Mantrayana, Tantrayana, Tantric, or esoteric Buddhism.

The period of Indian Vajrayana Buddhism has been classified as the final period of Buddhism in India.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

Q.10) Who among the following was the founder of the “Buddhist logic”?

- a) Buddhaghosa
- b) Asanga
- c) Vasubandhu
- d) Dinnaga

ANS: D

Explanation: Dinnaga: The last mighty intellectual of the fifth century, also well known as the founder of the Buddhist logic.

Source: Poonam Dahiya

The Age of Regional Configurations

Q.1) "A land grant in favour of a Brahmin as well as gifts to merchants for the repair and worship of temples" – describes?

- a) Secular grants
- b) Devagrahara grants
- c) Agrahara grants
- d) All the above

ANS: B

Explanation: Devagrahara grants: A land grant in favour of a Brahmin as well as gifts to merchants for the repair and worship of temples.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) The Maithriyas had organised a powerful state in which of the following place?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Kerala
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Assam

ANS: A

Explanation: Maithriyas had organised a powerful state in Sourashtra (Gujarat), with Valabhi as their capital.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. The founder of the Vardhana dynasty was Pushyabhuti who ruled from Thaneswar.
2. Pushyabhuti served as a military general under the imperial Guptas and rose to power after the fall of the Guptas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The founder of the Vardhana dynasty was Pushyabhuti who ruled from Thaneswar.

- He served as a military general under the imperial Guptas and rose to power after the fall of the Guptas.
- With the accession of Prabhakara Vardhana (580–605 CE), the Pushyabhuti family became strong and powerful.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) The “king Pulikesin II” was associated with which of the following kingdom?

- a) Maithriyas
- b) Palas
- c) Chalukyas
- d) Cholas

ANS: C

Explanation: Harsha sought to extend his authority southward into the Deccan. However the Chalukya king Pulikesin II, who controlled the region, humbled Harsha.

- In commemoration of his victory over Harsha, Pulikesin assumed the title of “Parameswara”.
- Inscriptions in Pulikesin’s capital Badami attest to this victory.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) The king Harsha has hostility towards the king Sasanka belongs to?

- a) Saurashtra
- b) Bengal
- c) Assam
- d) Tamil Nadu

ANS: B

Explanation: Harsha ruled for 41 years. His feudatories included those of Jalandhar (in the Punjab), Kashmir, Nepal and Valabhi. Sasanka of Bengal remained hostile to him.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) The famous rulers “the Palas” were associated with?

- a) Bengal
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Deccan
- d) Cheras

ANS: A

Explanation: The Palas ruled eastern India from Pataliputra between the ninth and the early twelfth centuries.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. Sanskrit, Prakrit and Pali languages were used in Pala kingdom.
2. Palas followed Mahayana Buddhism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Palas ruled eastern India from Pataliputra between the ninth and the early twelfth centuries.

- Sanskrit, Prakrit and Pali were the languages in use in their kingdom.
- Palas followed Mahayana Buddhism.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) The famous philosopher “Haribhadra” was associated with?

- a) Buddhism
- b) Jainism
- c) Ajivika
- d) Carvaka

ANS: A

Explanation: The Palas were great patrons of Mahayana Buddhism. The Buddhist philosopher Haribhadra was the spiritual preceptor of Dharmapala, the founder of the Pala kingdom.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Who among the following is/are Buddhist scholar/s of Vikramashila and Nalanda universities?

1. Atisha
2. Saraha
3. Tilopa

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The prominent Buddhist scholars of Vikramashila and Nalanda universities were Atisha, Saraha, Tilopa, Dansheel, Dansree, Jinamitra, Muktimitra, Padmanava, Virachan and Silabhadra.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) The famous ruler “Dandidurga” was related to which of the following?

- a) Maithriyas
- b) Western Chalukyas
- c) Rashtrakutas
- d) Palas

ANS: C

Explanation: The Rashtrakutas were originally known to be the feudatories of the Western Chalukyas of Vatapi. Though Rashtrakutas were early rulers, the greatest ruler of the dynasty was Dandidurga.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Revision

Q.1) Which of the following is the southernmost mahajanapada?

- a) Avanti
- b) Assaka
- c) Cedi
- d) Vatsa

ANS: B

Explanation:



Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding land system in mahajanapadas:

1. The richer landowners were called grihapatis.
2. These landowners employed labourers called dasas or karmakaras.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The richer landowners were called grihapatis. These landowners employed labourers called dasas or karmakaras. The smaller landowners were known as kassakas or krishakas.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding society of mahajanapadas:

1. The society was stratified on the basis of varna.
2. A new social category that emerged during this period was placed below the shudras in the social hierarchy and considered untouchables.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The society was stratified on the basis of varna. It emerged as a marker of status.

- Cultivators and artisans were identified as the shudras.
- A new social category that emerged during this period was placed below the shudras in the social hierarchy and considered untouchables.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following is NOT a Jain text?

- a) Acharrangasutra
- b) Sutrakritanga
- c) Kalpasutra
- d) Samannaphala Sutta

ANS: D

Explanation: The Jaina monks not only wrote religious treatises but also promoted secular literature.

- Acharrangasutra, Sutrakritanga, and Kalpasutra are the earliest Jaina texts.
- Most of the early Jaina texts were written in Ardha-Magadhi, the language of the common people.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following is/are disciples of Buddha?

1. Sariputta
2. Maha moggallana
3. Mahakaccayana

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The prominent disciples of Buddha were Sariputta, Maha moggallana, Mahakaccayana and Ananda. Buddha had a huge following among both the royalty and lay persons.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Buddhist Council:

1. The First Buddhist Council was held at Rajgriha after Buddha's death.
2. First Buddhist council was headed by Ananda.

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: After the death of Buddha, the tenets and other aspects of Buddhism were decided upon in the councils of Buddhist monks.

- Over a period of time, four Buddhist councils were held.
- The First Buddhist Council was held at Rajgriha after Buddha's death. It was headed by Upali.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following is/are Buddhist literature?

1. Nikayas
2. Jatakas
3. Tripitakas

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The Buddhist texts were compiled in Pali. The Pali canons are called as the Tripitakas (Three Baskets). They are Vinaya Pitaka, Sutta Pitaka and Abhidhamma Pitaka. Vinaya Pitaka deals with monastic rules and moral disciplines.

- The Sutta Pitaka, which contains the teachings of Buddha, is divided into five groups or Nikayas.
- They contain popular works such as Theragatha and Therigatha (Hymns of the Elder Monks and Nuns) and Jataka tales (Buddha's deeds in previous births as Bodhisattva).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Which of the following university was an important centre of Vajrayana Buddhism?

- a) Taxila
- b) Nagarjuna Konda
- c) Vikramasila
- d) Avanti

ANS: C

Explanation: By the end of the Gupta period, Vajrayana or the Vehicle of the Thunderbolt emerged.

- It was popular in Bengal and Bihar. It was influenced by primitive local cults and spread to Tibet in the 11th century CE.
- The Vikramasila University in Bihar was an important centre of Vajrayana Buddhism.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) Which of the following is/are different sect/s of Buddhism?

1. Hinayana
2. Mahayana
3. Sahajayana

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Buddhism faced divisions from time to time. Division into various splinter groups like 'Hinayana', 'Mahayana', 'Vajrayana', 'Tantrayana' and 'Sahajayana' led Buddhism to lose its originality.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) From which Buddhist council, Sanskrit language was adopted?

- a) First
- b) Second
- c) Third
- d) Fourth

ANS: D

Explanation: Pali and Prakrit were the spoken languages of people of north India and it was through these languages the message of Buddhism was spread.

But ever since the times of Fourth Buddhist Council held during the reign of Kanishka, Sanskrit had come to be adopted.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT