

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

2nd week April, 2026

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

FORUMIAS



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Political Parties

1. Consider the following statements regarding the tenure of the Lok Sabha:

1. While the normal term of the Lok Sabha is five years, the President has the authority to dissolve the House earlier if no alternative government can command its confidence.
2. Upon the expiration of the five-year term, the Lok Sabha stands dissolved automatically without any formal order from the President.

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Under Article 83, the Lok Sabha has a term of five years from the date of its first meeting, after which it dissolves automatically. However, under Article 85, the President can dissolve it earlier on the advice of the Council of Ministers, or at their discretion if the government loses confidence and no alternative is viable.

2. With reference to the schedule and formal process of elections in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution mandates that the interval between the last session of a dissolved Lok Sabha and the recalling of the new House must not exceed six months.
2. The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is legally triggered only after the formal Notification is issued by the President or Governor.
3. Once the election notification is issued, candidates are typically provided a window of one week to file their nominations.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** Under Article 85(1) of the Indian Constitution, the maximum permitted interval between the last sitting of a session of the dissolved Lok Sabha and the first sitting of the new House must not exceed six months. This ensures regular parliamentary meetings and democratic accountability, requiring at least two sessions per year.
2. **Statement 2 is incorrect:** the MCC comes into effect immediately upon the announcement of the election schedule by the Election Commission in a press conference, which happens before the formal notification.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** RPA 1951

3. Consider the following statements regarding the mandatory oath for election candidates:

1. A candidate must subscribe to an oath or affirmation before the Returning Officer (RO) or an Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) of the constituency.
2. To be valid, this oath must be taken by the candidate in person after filing the nomination, but no later than the day of the scrutiny of nominations.

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.** To manage the workload across a large constituency, all Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) subordinate to the Returning Officer are also authorised to administer this oath.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The oath must be made after filing nomination but no later than the day previous to the date of scrutiny. Taking the oath on the day of scrutiny itself is too late and can lead to rejection of the nomination.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the transition between Houses:

1. The six-month rule between the dissolution of the old House and the first meeting of the new House is a statutory provision under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
2. The Election Commission is the sole authority responsible for announcing the election schedule, which precedes the formal Presidential notification.

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The six-month rule is a Constitutional mandate under Article 85, not a statutory one.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The EC announces the dates, while the President/Governor issues the formal notification based on those dates.

5. Under the Model Code of Conduct for the guidance of political parties and candidates, which of the following is/are prescribed?

1. A total prohibition on the distribution or service of liquor on the polling day and during the 48 hours preceding the conclusion of the poll.
2. An obligation for political parties to provide their authorized workers with suitable identity cards or badges.

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Both are standard requirements under the MCC. Note that the dry period is generally 48 hours preceding the conclusion of the poll (often referred to as the period of election silence).

6. The authority to hear and decide an Election Petition challenging the election of a Member of Parliament or a State Legislature is vested in the:

- (a) Supreme Court of India
- (b) Election Commission of India
- (c) High Court of the concerned State
- (d) Special Election Tribunal

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Under Article 329(b) and the RPA 1951, the High Court has the original jurisdiction to hear election petitions. Earlier, Election Tribunals performed this task, but they were abolished in 1966.

7. With reference to election petitions in India, consider the following statements:

1. An election petition must be filed within 45 days from the date of the declaration of the election result.
2. The High Court is required to conclude the trial of an election petition, as far as practicable, within six months of its filing.

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** (RPA 1951 specifies 45 days).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Although many cases take longer, the Act specifies a desirable timeline of six months for disposal.

8. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: A person who is in lawful police custody or confined in a prison cannot file a nomination to contest an election.

Statement II: Under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, no person shall vote at any election if he is confined in a prison or is in the lawful custody of the police.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.
- (c) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.
- (d) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement II is correct:** (Section 62(5) of RPA 1951).
- **Statement I is incorrect:** In the Jan Chaudhari case, the SC initially said those who can't vote can't contest, but Parliament amended the law to clarify that as long as a person's name is on the roll, they can contest even if their right to vote is suspended while in prison.

9. Consider the following statements regarding the NOTA option:

1. If NOTA receives the highest number of votes, the candidate with the second-highest votes is declared the winner.
2. NOTA votes are treated as invalid votes and are not counted for the purpose of calculating the one-sixth vote threshold required to save a candidate's security deposit.
3. The NOTA option is provided in the elections to both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** (NOTA is currently a symbolic rejecter in India; the highest human candidate wins).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** (ECI guidelines).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Supreme Court in 2018 abolished NOTA in Rajya Sabha elections, stating it is only meant for direct universal suffrage.

10. With reference to Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), consider the following statements:

1. The legal sanction for the use of EVMs was provided by inserting Section 61A into the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
2. EVMs used in India are standalone machines that are not connected to any wired or wireless network, including a centralized server.

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Inserted in 1989).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Indian EVMs are standalone and cannot be monitored through a centralized storage server (as suggested in the user's draft), which is a key security feature to prevent hacking.

Political Parties

1. Arrange the following electoral milestones in the correct chronological order:

1. Introduction of the NOTA (None of the Above) option in General Elections.
2. Extension of voting rights to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).
3. Mandatory disclosure of criminal antecedents by candidates along with nomination papers.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **2002/03:** Following the Supreme Court judgment in the ADR case (2002), disclosure of criminal, financial, and educational records became compulsory.
 - **2011:** The Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2010, gave voting rights to NRIs, effective from 2011.
 - **2013:** The Supreme Court directed the ECI to introduce NOTA in the PUCL vs. Union of India case in 2013.

2. Arrange the following committees/commissions related to electoral reforms in chronological order of their establishment:

1. Indrajit Gupta Committee
2. Dinesh Goswami Committee
3. Tarkunde Committee
4. Vohra Committee

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Tarkunde Committee (1974):** Appointed by JP Narayan to suggest reforms during the Total Revolution.
 - **Dinesh Goswami Committee (1990):** Focused on state funding and checking muscle power.
 - **Vohra Committee (1993):** Examined the nexus between politicians and criminals.
 - **Indrajit Gupta Committee (1998):** Specifically focused on state funding of elections.

3. Consider the following commissions/reports. Which is the correct chronological sequence?

1. 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) Report on Ethics in Governance.
2. J.S. Verma Committee Report on Amendments to Criminal Law.
3. National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC).
4. Tankha Committee on Election Laws.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **NCRWC (2000–2002):** Headed by M.N. Venkatachaliah.
 - **2nd ARC (2007):** Headed by Veerappa Moily (Report on Ethics in Governance).
 - **Tankha Committee (2010):** Core committee to look into election laws.
 - **J.S. Verma Committee (2013):** Formed after the 2012 Delhi gang rape case; suggested electoral reforms regarding candidates with criminal charges.

4. Which of the following are the primary functions of the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)?

1. Acting as a think tank for governance and policy reforms across administrative and social spheres.
2. Functioning as a national repository of information on best practices and methodologies in governance.
3. Promoting the sharing and replication of innovative ideas and successful governance models.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The NCGG is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. It works as a policy think tank, maintains a repository of best practices, and conducts capacity-building programs for civil servants to replicate successful governance models.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Sevottam framework:

1. It is a service delivery excellence model developed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
2. The framework consists of three components: Citizen's Charter, Public Grievance Redressal Mechanism, and Service Delivery Capability.
3. It was first implemented as a pilot project by the Ministry of Railways.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

• **Statement 1 is correct:** Sevottam is an assessment - improvement model that has been developed with the objective of improving the quality of public service delivery in the country. The model was conceived by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions in 2006.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** These are the three pillars of Sevottam.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The model was initially launched by the DARPG; individual departments implemented it later. There is no historical record of Kerala being the "first state" in the context of the DARPG Sevottam launch (it is a central government model).

6. Which of the following committees/commissions are specifically associated with police reforms in India?

1. Dharma Vira Commission
2. Padmanabhaiah Committee
3. Ribeiro Committee
4. Malimath Committee

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Dharma Vira (National Police Commission, 1977-81).**
 - **Ribeiro Committee (1998).**
 - **Padmanabhaiah Committee (2000).**
 - **Malimath Committee (2003):** Although focused on the Criminal Justice System, it included significant police reforms.

7. Which Constitutional Amendment Act reduced the voting age from 21 years to 18 years for Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly elections?

- (a) 52nd Amendment
- (b) 61st Amendment
- (c) 69th Amendment
- (d) 73rd Amendment

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The 61st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1988 (enforced in 1989) amended Article 326 of the Constitution to reduce the voting age. This was done to provide the unrepresented youth an opportunity to participate in the political process.

8. In the context of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which of the following actions constitute "booth capturing"?

1. Forcibly seizing a polling station and compelling authorities to surrender voting machines.
2. Threatening electors to prevent them from reaching the polling station.
3. Seizing a place used for the counting of votes to interfere with the result.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Section 135A of the RPA 1951 defines booth capturing broadly. It includes seizure of the polling booth, preventing voters from voting, and seizing the counting center. It is a cognizable offence.

9. With reference to Supreme Court decisions on electoral reforms, consider the following statements:

1. In the ADR Case (2002), the court ruled that voters have a fundamental right to know about a candidate's assets, liabilities, and criminal history.
2. In the Lily Thomas Case (2013), the court struck down Section 8(4) of the RPA 1951, leading to the immediate disqualification of convicted legislators sentenced to 2+ years.
3. The Supreme Court ruled that the Election Commission has no power to monitor or regulate election expenditures.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

• **Statement 1 & 2 are correct:** These landmark Supreme Court rulings significantly enhanced electoral transparency and accountability in India. The ADR Case (2002) established that voters have a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a) to know a candidate's criminal antecedents, assets, and liabilities. The Lily Thomas Case (2013) struck down Section 8(4) of the RPA 1951, resulting in the immediate disqualification of MPs/MLAs upon conviction for offenses sentenced to two or more years, removing their previous immunity from immediate disqualification.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Supreme Court and the RPA 1951 empower the ECI to monitor expenditures. Candidates must submit accounts, and exceeding limits can lead to disqualification for 3 years (Common Cause vs. Union of India).

10. Regarding recent proposals by the Election Commission of India (ECI), consider the following statements:

1. The ECI has recommended lowering the threshold for reporting anonymous donations from ₹20,000 to ₹2,000.
2. The ECI has proposed that a candidate should be legally barred from contesting from more than one constituency in a single general election.
3. It has suggested making the filing of false affidavits a "corrupt practice" under the RPA 1951.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation: All statements represent active ECI recommendations.

- **Donations:** To increase transparency in party funding.
- **One Seat:** Currently, Section 33(7) allows contesting from two seats; ECI wants this restricted.
- **False Affidavits:** To ensure candidates do not mislead the public regarding their background.

Subjects of Union, State and Concurrent Lists

1. Consider the following statements regarding the distribution of legislative powers:

1. The Parliament possesses exclusive jurisdiction to legislate on any matter enumerated in the Union List.
2. In the event of a conflict between a Central law and a State law regarding a subject in the Concurrent List, the Central law prevails, provided it has received Presidential assent.

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Article 246 grants Parliament exclusive power over List I.
 - **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Generally, Central law prevails (Federal Supremacy). However, there is an exception: if a State law on a Concurrent subject is inconsistent with a Central law but has been reserved for and received the assent of the President, the State law prevails in that particular State.

2. Which of the following Parliamentary laws enacted on a subject mentioned in the State List will continue to be in force indefinitely until specifically repealed by the appropriate legislature?

1. A law enacted to implement an international treaty or convention (Article 253).
2. A law enacted during the operation of a National Emergency (Article 250).
3. A law enacted while a State is under President's Rule (Article 357).
4. A law enacted following a resolution by the Rajya Sabha in the national interest (Article 249).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **International Agreements (Art 253):** These laws do not have a constitutional expiry date and remain in force until repealed.
 - **President's Rule (Art 357):** Laws made by Parliament do not become inoperative on the expiry of the proclamation. They continue until altered or repealed by the State Legislature.
 - **National Emergency (Art 250) & Rajya Sabha Resolution (Art 249):** These laws cease to have effect on the expiration of six months after the proclamation/resolution has ceased to operate.

3. Which one of the following statements is not correct regarding the Constitutional status of Cooperative Societies?

- (a) Cooperative Societies is a subject specifically enumerated in the State List of the Seventh Schedule.
- (b) The right to form cooperative societies is a Fundamental Right guaranteed under Article 19.
- (c) The Constitution provides a Fundamental Right to every citizen to become a member of any cooperative society of their choice.
- (d) Parliament has the power to legislate for multi-state cooperative societies.

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **(a) & (b) are correct:** Added by the 97th Amendment Act, 2011.
 - **(d) is correct:** Multi-state cooperatives fall under the Union List.
 - **(c) is incorrect:** While there is a right to *form* a society, there is no fundamental right to *membership* in a specific society, as societies have their own autonomous bye-laws and entry criteria.

4. Regarding Parliamentary legislation on subjects in the State List following a Rajya Sabha resolution, consider the following statements:

1. The resolution must be passed by the Rajya Sabha with a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting.

2. Once such a law is enacted, the State Legislature is prohibited from making any law on that specific subject.
3. Such a law remains in force for a maximum period of one year, though the resolution can be renewed indefinitely.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 & 3 are correct:** Article 249 allows this for National Interest. The resolution lasts 1 year but can be renewed.
 - **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The State legislature does not lose its power to make a law on the same subject. However, in case of inconsistency, the Parliamentary law prevails.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the taxation powers in India:

1. The power to impose a tax not mentioned in any of the three lists (Residuary Taxation) is vested exclusively in the Parliament.
2. State Legislatures have the authority to levy "Professional Tax," even if it exceeds the limits of their enumerated powers in List II.

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under Article 248, residuary powers (including taxation) belong to the Union. (e.g., Gift tax, Wealth tax).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While States can levy Professional Tax (Art 276), there is a **Constitutional cap** (currently ₹2,500 per annum). They cannot exceed this limit.

6. Which of the following matters are covered under List-I (Union List) of the Seventh Schedule?

1. Atomic Energy and Mineral Resources necessary for its production.
2. Foreign Loans and External Borrowings.
3. Post Office Savings Bank.
4. Public Health and Sanitation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- 1, 2, and 3 are Union subjects.

- Public Health and Sanitation is a State Subject (Entry 6, List II).

7. Which one of the following subjects is not a part of the State List (List II) in the Seventh Schedule?

- (a) Prisons and Reformatories.
- (b) Taxes on lands and buildings.
- (c) Stock Exchanges and Futures Markets.
- (d) Relief of the disabled and unemployable.

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Stock Exchanges and Futures Markets fall under the Union List (Entry 48).
- Prisons, Land Tax, and Relief for the disabled are all core State subjects.

8. Consider the following pairs of Subjects and Lists:

1. **Preventive Detention:** Both Union and Concurrent List.
2. **Trade Unions:** Concurrent List.
3. **Public Order:** State List.
4. **Education:** Concurrent List.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) Only three pairs
- (d) All four pairs

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correct:** Preventive detention for reasons connected with Defense/Foreign Affairs is Union List; for reasons connected with security of State/Public Order, it is Concurrent.
- **Pair 2 is correct:** Trade unions and industrial/labor disputes are Concurrent.
- **Pair 3 is correct:** Public Order (but not including the use of any naval, military or air force) is State.
- **Pair 4 is correct:** Moved from State to Concurrent by the 42nd Amendment, 1976.

9. Which of the following items fall under the Concurrent List of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) Inter-State Rivers and River Valleys.
- (b) Adulteration of Foodstuffs.
- (c) Citizenship, Naturalization and Aliens.
- (d) Local Government.

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Inter-state rivers and Citizenship are Union List.
- Local Government is State List.
- Adulteration of foodstuffs is a Concurrent subject (Entry 18), allowing both Centre and States to regulate food safety.

10. Which one of the following issues comes under the Concurrent List?

- (a) Corporation Tax.
- (b) Capitation Taxes.

- (c) Marriage and Divorce.
- (d) Taxes on Professions, Trades, and Callings.

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Corporation Tax:** Union List.
 - **Capitation Taxes:** State List.
 - **Marriage and Divorce:** Concurrent List.
 - **Professional Tax:** State List.

Prelims Marathon 14 April 2026

Table of Precedence, Oath by the Constitutional and Other Authorities

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Table of Precedence in India:

1. It is a protocol list that establishes the relative rank and order of high-ranking officials of the Union and State Governments.
2. The order is strictly intended for state and ceremonial occasions and has no legal application in the day-to-day business of the Government.

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Table of Precedence is issued by the President's Secretariat and maintained by the Ministry of Home Affairs. It ensures order during formal state functions. It does not dictate the functional hierarchy or the administrative powers used in daily government operations.

2. What is the correct sequence of the following functionaries in the Indian Order of Precedence, descending from highest to lowest rank?

1. Governors of States (within their respective states)
2. Former Prime Ministers
3. Judges of the Supreme Court
4. Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

According to the warrant:

- **Rank 4:** Governors within their states.
- **Rank 7:** Former Prime Ministers (shared with Leaders of Opposition).
- **Rank 9:** Judges of the Supreme Court.
- **Rank 9A:** CAG of India (along with the Chief Election Commissioner).

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Warrant of Precedence:

1. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha holds a higher rank than the Chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
2. The present notification governing the Order of Precedence was officially issued in 1979.
3. The Attorney-General for India ranks below the Judges of the High Courts within their respective jurisdictions.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Leader of Opposition is Rank 7; UPSC Chairperson is Rank 11.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The current order was notified on July 26, 1979.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Attorney-General is Rank 11, while High Court Judges (within their jurisdiction) are Rank 14.

4. Regarding the assignment of ranks to dignitaries, consider the following statements:

1. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has the authority to assign appropriate ranks to foreign dignitaries and Indian Ambassadors during their visits to India.
2. In the MEA, all Secretaries take precedence after the Foreign Secretary, with their mutual seniority determined by their grade in the Indian Foreign Service.

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Protocol regarding foreign diplomats is managed by the MEA. The Foreign Secretary is the administrative head of the ministry and therefore ranks above other Secretaries in the same department regardless of IFS seniority.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the administration of oaths:

1. Every member of Parliament must make and subscribe an oath before the Speaker of their respective House before taking their seat.
2. The Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) of India must subscribe an oath before the President of India before entering office.

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Under Article 99, MP-elects subscribe their oath before the **President** or some person appointed by him for that purpose (usually the Pro-tem Speaker), not necessarily the Speaker.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under Article 148, the CAG takes the oath before the President.

6. In the event of the absence of the Chief Justice of a State High Court, who is constitutionally empowered to administer the oath of office to the Governor of that State?

- (a) The Chief Justice of India
- (b) The Pro-tem Speaker of the State Assembly
- (c) The seniormost Judge of the State High Court available
- (d) The President of India

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Article 159 states that the Governor's oath is administered by the Chief Justice of the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to the State, or, in his absence, the seniormost Judge of that Court available.

7. Which of the following is not a specific provision included in the form of oath or affirmation for a Judge of a High Court?

- (a) To bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India.
- (b) To uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India.
- (c) To devote oneself to the service and well-being of the people of the state.
- (d) To perform duties without fear or favour, affection or ill-will.

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Devoting oneself to the service and well-being of the people is a part of the oath taken by the President and the Governor. Judges swear to uphold the Constitution and the laws and to perform their duties impartially (fear or favour).

8. With reference to a Judge of a High Court in India, consider the following statements:

1. Unlike the Supreme Court, a "distinguished jurist" cannot be appointed as a Judge of a High Court.
2. High Court Judges subscribe to their oath or affirmation before the Governor of the State.
3. To ensure judicial independence, the Constitution has fixed the tenure of High Court Judges until they attain the age of 65 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The provision for "distinguished jurist" exists only for the Supreme Court (Art 124), not High Courts (Art 217).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Art 219 mandates the oath before the Governor.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The retirement age for High Court judges is 62 years, not 65 (65 is for the Supreme Court).

9. What are the constitutional consequences if a person elected to a House of Parliament fails to subscribe to the prescribed oath?

1. They can participate in the proceedings of the House or vote on any issue.
2. They are ineligible to claim the protection of Parliamentary privileges and immunities.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Statement 1 incorrect: They can participate in the proceedings of the House or vote on any issue. Until a member takes the oath, they are not considered a member for functional purposes.

Statement 2 correct: Under Article 104, if they sit or vote without an oath, they are liable to a penalty of ₹500 per day. Furthermore, they cannot access privileges meant for active members.

10. Consider the following functionaries:

1. Vice-President of India
2. Governor of a State
3. Judges of the Supreme Court
4. Candidates for election to Parliament
5. Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)

How many of the above have their specific forms of oath or affirmation provided under the Third Schedule of the Constitution?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All five

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Included in 3rd Schedule:** Judges of SC (3), Candidates for Parliament (4), and CAG (5).
- **Excluded from 3rd Schedule:** The Oaths for the President (Art 60), Vice-President (Art 69), and Governor (Art 159) are provided within their respective Articles in the main body of the Constitution, not in the Third Schedule.

Important Amendments

1. In the context of the evolution of the Indian Constitution, the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) have been amended/supplemented by which of the following?

- (a) Once
- (b) Twice
- (c) Thrice

(d) Four times

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation: The DPSP (Part IV) have been amended four times:

1. **42nd Amendment (1976):** Added four new principles (Art 39, 39A, 43A, 48A).
2. **44th Amendment (1978):** Added one more (Art 38, cl 2).
3. **86th Amendment (2002):** Changed the subject matter of Art 45.
4. **97th Amendment (2011):** Added Art 43B (Co-operative societies).

2. Which of the following statements regarding the Preamble of the Indian Constitution is/are correct?

1. The term "Integrity" was inserted into the Preamble by the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act.
2. In the Berubari Union case, the Supreme Court observed that the Preamble serves as a key to open the minds of the makers of the Constitution.
3. The Preamble is considered a legal source of power for the Union Legislature.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Socialist, Secular, and Integrity were added by the 42nd Amendment (1976), not the 44th.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** This specific observation was made in the Berubari Union case (1960).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Preamble is neither a source of power to the legislature nor a prohibition upon its powers.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the alteration of Indian territory:

1. The 100th Constitutional Amendment Act was enacted to give effect to the acquiring of certain territories by India and the transfer of certain other territories to Bangladesh.
2. The settlement of a boundary dispute between India and another country requires a Constitutional amendment under Article 368.

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It gave effect to the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** As per the Supreme Court (1969), the settlement of a boundary dispute does not involve cession of territory and can be done by executive action. Only cession of Indian territory to a foreign state requires an amendment under Article 368.

4. With reference to the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002, consider the following statements:

1. It substituted the subject matter of Article 45 to provide for early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.
2. It added a new Fundamental Duty under Article 51A, making it the duty of a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child/ward between the age of six and fourteen 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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Both statements are correct. The 86th Amendment made education a Fundamental Right (Art 21A), changed the DPSP (Art 45), and added the 11th Fundamental Duty.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the procedure for amending the Constitution under Article 368:

1. A bill for the amendment of the Constitution can be introduced by a Minister or a private member and does not require prior permission of the President.
2. There is no provision for holding a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament if there is a deadlock over the passage of a Constitutional Amendment Bill.

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Both statements are correct. Unlike Ordinary Bills, Constitutional Amendment Bills must be passed by each House separately by a special majority; Article 108 (Joint Sitting) does not apply to them.

6. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Preamble was amended for the first and only time in 1976 to include the words 'Socialist', 'Secular', and 'Integrity'.

Statement-II: The Preamble is a part of the Constitution and can be amended under Article 368, provided it does not alter the 'Basic Structure'.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Both are true facts established by the Kesavananda Bharati case and the 42nd Amendment. However, the fact that it can be amended (St-II) is not the specific reason why those specific words were added (St-I).

7. A Constitutional Amendment Bill under Article 368 is introduced in the Lok Sabha (Total Strength: 543). If 360 members are present and voting, what is the minimum number of 'Yes' votes required to pass the bill?

- (a) 240
- (b) 272
- (c) 273
- (d) 301

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

A Special Majority requires:

1. **Majority of total membership:** $543 / 2 = 271.5$, so 272.
2. **2/3rd of members present and voting:** $2/3$ times 360 = 240.

The bill must satisfy both. Since 272 is the higher requirement here, and the question asks for support in a house of 543, the absolute majority of 273 (more than 50%) is the effective floor.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Parliament's power to amend the Constitution:

1. The power to amend the Constitution is a constituent power and is not limited by any provision outside of Part XX.
2. The 'Doctrine of Basic Structure' serves as a judicial limitation on the otherwise plenary amending power of the Parliament.

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While Part XX (Art 368) is the primary source, the amending power is not absolute and is limited by the judicial interpretation of the whole Constitution.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Basic Structure doctrine (1973) is the definitive limitation.

9. Which of the following changes were introduced by the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act (1978) regarding National Emergency?

1. Substitution of "internal disturbance" with "armed rebellion."
2. Requirement of a written recommendation from the Cabinet to the President for the proclamation.
3. Enabling the proclamation of emergency for only a specific part of India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **1 & 2 are correct:** These were safeguards added by the 44th Amendment after the 1975 emergency.

- **3 is incorrect:** The provision to apply emergency to a part of India was added by the 42nd Amendment (1976).

10. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Following the Minerva Mills case, it is settled that Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles are complementary to each other and neither is intrinsically superior.

Statement II: The Parliament's power to amend the Constitution under Article 368 is itself a part of the Basic Structure and cannot be used to destroy other basic features.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is not correct, but Statement II is correct

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Both statements are correct legal positions from the Minerva Mills (1980) judgment. Statement II (about amending power) is a separate legal fact from the harmony and balance between FR and DPSP described in Statement I.

Pathogens and Human Diseases

1. What is the primary biological agent responsible for the Root Wilt Disease (RWD) in coconut palms, characterized by the flaccidity of leaflets?

- (a) Viruses
- (b) Nematodes
- (c) Fungi
- (d) Phytoplasmas

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Root Wilt Disease of coconut is caused by Phytoplasmas (wall-less prokaryotes). They are specialized bacteria that live in the plant phloem tissue and are transmitted by insect vectors like lace wings and plant mourners. It is a major non-lethal but debilitating disease in South India.

2. Consider the following statements regarding microorganisms:

1. All bacteria are pathogenic in nature and detrimental to human health.
2. Pathogens include a diverse group of organisms such as viruses, bacteria, fungi, and protozoa.
3. Archaea are a major class of microorganisms frequently associated with human infectious diseases.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

• **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Most bacteria are harmless or beneficial (e.g., gut microbiota); only a small fraction are pathogenic.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** These are the primary categories of disease-causing agents.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Interestingly, while Archaea are found in the human body, there are currently no known clear examples of human bacterial pathogens belonging to the Archaea domain.

3. Consider the following human diseases:

1. Tuberculosis
2. Malaria
3. Plague
4. Cholera

How many of the above diseases are caused by bacteria?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Tuberculosis:** Caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Bacteria).
- **Plague:** Caused by *Yersinia pestis* (Bacteria).
- **Cholera:** Caused by *Vibrio cholerae* (Bacteria).
- **Malaria:** Caused by *Plasmodium* parasites, which are Protozoa, not bacteria.

4. Consider the following pairs:

Disease : Causal Agent

1. Filariasis : Helminth Worms
2. Dengue : Virus
3. Chickenpox : Virus
4. Malaria : Protozoa

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

All pairs are correct. Filariasis is caused by thread-like filarial worms (nematodes). Dengue is caused by the Dengue virus. Chickenpox is caused by the Varicella-zoster virus. Malaria is caused by protozoan parasites of the genus *Plasmodium*.

5. With reference to human clinical conditions, consider the following:

1. Haemophilia
2. Thalassemia
3. Sickle Cell Anaemia
4. Rheumatoid Arthritis

How many of the diseases given above are categorized as genetic (hereditary) diseases?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Haemophilia, Thalassemia, and Sickle Cell Anaemia** are all hereditary genetic disorders passed from parents to children through genes.
 - **Rheumatoid Arthritis** is an **autoimmune disease** where the immune system attacks the joints; while there may be a genetic predisposition, it is not classified as a "genetic disease" in the same sense as the others.

6. Consider the following diseases:

- I. Kala-Azar
- II. Smallpox
- III. Polio
- IV. Lymphatic Filariasis

How many of the above have been officially declared as Eradicated or Eliminated in India?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Smallpox:** Eradicated globally (and in India) since 1980.
 - **Polio:** India was declared Polio-free by the WHO in 2014.
 - **Kala-Azar and Lymphatic Filariasis:** India has set targets for elimination, but they have **not** been eradicated yet. India recently achieved the target of less than 1 case per 10,000 population in all blocks for Kala-Azar, but official eradication is a different milestone.

7. The Filoviridae family consists of several related viruses that cause severe hemorrhagic fevers. Which of the following belong to this family?

- I. Ebola virus
- II. Marburg virus
- III. Cueva virus
- IV. Zika virus

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) I and II only
- (b) I, II and III only
- (c) I, II and IV only
- (d) I, II, III and IV

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The family Filoviridae includes the genera Ebolavirus, Marburgvirus, and Cuevavirus. Zika virus belongs to the Flaviviridae family (along with Dengue and Yellow Fever).

8. With reference to communicable diseases, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Tuberculosis is caused by a bacterium that strictly and exclusively affects the pulmonary system (lungs).
- (b) Malaria is a viral infection transmitted to humans via the bite of an infected female Anopheles mosquito.
- (c) Polio is a viral disease that can invade the central nervous system, potentially resulting in total paralysis.
- (d) Dengue fever is transmitted to humans solely through the bite of the female Anopheles mosquito.

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- is incorrect: TB can affect other parts of the body (Extrapulmonary TB) like kidneys, spine, and brain.
 - (b) is incorrect: Malaria is protozoan, not viral.
 - (d) is incorrect: Dengue is transmitted by Aedes aegypti mosquitoes.
 - (c) is correct: The Polio virus attacks the nerve cells of the spinal cord.

9. Which of the following diseases is/are transmitted primarily through a "Vector"?

1. Zika Virus
2. Tuberculosis
3. Japanese Encephalitis
4. Hepatitis B

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Zika and Japanese Encephalitis** are vector-borne (Mosquitoes).
 - **Tuberculosis** is airborne (droplets).
 - **Hepatitis B** is transmitted through infected blood or body fluids (not a vector).

10. Consider the following statements regarding the bacterium Yersinia pestis:

1. It is the causative agent of the Bubonic Plague.
2. It is typically transmitted to humans through the bite of infected rat fleas.
3. It can be treated effectively with modern antibiotics if diagnosed early.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Yersinia pestis is the bacteria responsible for plague (1). It is a zoonotic bacteria usually found in small mammals and their fleas (2). Unlike viral diseases, bacterial infections like plague respond well to antibiotics (3).