

ForumIAS

F

Prelims Marathon

1st week August, 2026

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

INDEX

Miscellaneous.....	2
Miscellaneous-II.....	6
Miscellaneous-III	11
Miscellaneous-IV	15
Miscellaneous-V.....	19
Miscellaneous-VI	23

Miscellaneous

1. Consider the following countries:

1. Bolivia
2. Brazil
3. Colombia
4. Ecuador
5. Paraguay
6. Venezuela

The Andes mountain system passes through how many of the above countries?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The Andes mountain range extends along the western coast of South America and passes through seven countries: Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina.

2. Consider the following pairs:

Region	Country
1. Mallorca	Italy
2. Normandy	Spain
3. Sardinia	France

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is incorrectly matched:** Mallorca is the largest island of the Balearic Islands autonomous community, belonging to Spain.
- **Row 2 is incorrectly matched:** Normandy is a historical region situated in northwestern France.
- **Row 3 is incorrectly matched:** Sardinia is a large island located in the Mediterranean Sea belonging to Italy (Corsica belongs to France).

3. Consider the following water bodies:

1. Lake Tanganyika
2. Lake Tonlé Sap
3. Patos Lagoon

Through how many of them does the Equator (0° latitude) pass?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Lake Tanganyika:** Located in East Africa (between Tanzania, DRC, Zambia, and Burundi), situated entirely in the Southern Hemisphere between 3°S and 9°S latitude. (The Equator passes through Lake Victoria to its north).
- **Lake Tonlé Sap:** Located in Cambodia (Southeast Asia) in the Northern Hemisphere ($\sim 12^\circ\text{N}$ latitude).
- **Patos Lagoon (Lagoa dos Patos):** Located in southern Brazil (South America) at approximately 30°S latitude.

4. Consider the following information:

Waterfall	Geographic Region	River
1. Dhuandhar	Malwa Plateau	Narmada
2. Hundru	Chota Nagpur Plateau	Subarnarekha
3. Gersoppa (Jog)	Western Ghats	Netravati

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is incorrectly matched:** While Dhuandhar Falls is created by the Narmada River, it is located in the Mahadeo Hills/Jabalpur region (Vindhyan margin of Madhya Pradesh).
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** Hundru Falls is formed by the Subarnarekha River dropping over the edge of the Chota Nagpur Plateau near Ranchi.
- **Row 3 is incorrectly matched:** Gersoppa (Jog) Falls is located in the Western Ghats of Karnataka, but it is formed by the Sharavathi River.

5. Consider the following countries:

1. Finland
2. Germany
3. Norway
4. Russia

How many of the above countries share a coastline with the North Sea?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The North Sea is a marginal sea of the Atlantic Ocean bounded by Great Britain, Norway, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France.

6. Consider the following information:

Region	Mountain Range	Geomorphological Type
1. Central Asia	Vosges	Fold Mountain
2. Europe	Alps	Block Mountain
3. North America	Appalachians	Fold Mountain
4. South America	Andes	Fold Mountain

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is incorrectly matched:** The Vosges range is located in Western Europe (France) and represents a Block Mountain (Rift system along the Rhine Graben).
- **Row 2 is incorrectly matched:** The Alps are situated in Europe, but they are Young Fold Mountains formed during the Alpine Orogeny.
- **Row 3 is correctly matched:** The Appalachians in North America are Old Fold Mountains formed during the Paleozoic era.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** The Andes in South America are Young Fold Mountains formed by the subduction of the Nazca Plate under the South American Plate.

7. Consider the following pairs:

Country	Context / News Reason
1. Argentina	Severe macroeconomic crisis and hyperinflation
2. Sudan	Conflict between the regular armed forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF)
3. Turkey	Formal withdrawal from NATO military alliance

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) All three pairs
- (d) None of the pairs

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Argentina has been facing severe economic turbulence, soaring inflation rates, and currency devaluation.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Sudan has experienced intense conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) led by Gen. Burhan and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) led by Gen. Dagalo.
- **Pair 3 is incorrectly matched:** Turkey has not rescinded its membership of NATO; it remains a key member state maintaining NATO's second-largest standing army.

8. Which one of the following countries falls within the geographical extent of the Congo River Basin?

- (a) Cameroon
- (b) Nigeria
- (c) South Sudan
- (d) Uganda

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The Congo Basin is the second-largest river basin in the world. It spans across six central African nations: Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon.
- Cameroon's southeastern portion drains directly into the Sangha River system, a major tributary of the Congo River.
- Nigeria, South Sudan, and Uganda fall under the Niger, Nile, and East African rift drainage basins respectively.

9. Consider the following countries:

1. Azerbaijan
2. Kyrgyzstan
3. Tajikistan
4. Turkmenistan
5. Uzbekistan

Which of the above share a direct land border with Afghanistan?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Afghanistan is a landlocked nation sharing international land borders with 6 countries:
 1. **Pakistan** (East and South)
 2. **Iran** (West)

3. **Turkmenistan** (Northwest)
4. **Uzbekistan** (North)
5. **Tajikistan** (Northeast)
6. **China** (East via Wakhan Corridor)

10. Consider the following pairs:

Region in News	Country
1. Anatolia	Turkey
2. Amhara	Ethiopia
3. Cabo Delgado	Spain
4. Catalonia	Italy

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Anatolia (Asia Minor) constitutes the westernmost protrusion of Asia, making up the majority of modern-day Turkey.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Amhara is a regional state in northern Ethiopia, frequently in news due to regional security conflicts.
- **Pair 3 is incorrectly matched:** Cabo Delgado is a northern province of Mozambique (in news due to insurgencies).
- **Pair 4 is incorrectly matched:** Catalonia is an autonomous community located in northeastern Spain.

Miscellaneous-II

1. With reference to the Indus River system, three of the following four rivers flow into one major tributary which itself joins the Indus River directly.?

- (a) Chenab
- (b) Jhelum
- (c) Ravi
- (d) Sutlej

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- The Jhelum joins the Chenab at Trimmu.
- The Ravi joins the Chenab near Ahmadpur Sial.
- The Chenab then meets the Sutlej at Uch Sharif to form the Panjnad River.

- The Sutlej receives the combined waters of the Jhelum, Ravi, and Chenab before directly flowing into the Indus River at Mithankot (Pakistan).

2. Consider the following rivers:

1. Brahmani
2. Nagavali
3. Subarnarekha
4. Vamsadhara

Which of the above rivers originate from the Eastern Ghats?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Nagavali River (2): Originates in the Eastern Ghats (Eastern slopes of Eastern Ghats in Kalahandi district, Odisha).
- Vamsadhara River (4): Originates in the Eastern Ghats (Kalahandi district, Odisha).
- Brahmani River (1): Formed by the confluence of the Sankh and South Koel rivers, originating on the Chota Nagpur Plateau (not the Eastern Ghats).
- Subarnarekha River (3): Originates on the Chota Nagpur Plateau near Ranchi, Jharkhand (not the Eastern Ghats).

3. Consider the following statements:

1. The Jhelum River flows through and feeds Wular Lake in Jammu and Kashmir.
2. The Krishna River directly feeds Kolleru Lake with its main channel flow.
3. The meandering of the Gandak River formed Kanwar Lake, an oxbow lake in Bihar.

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:** The Jhelum River flows into and out of Wular Lake in Jammu and Kashmir, serving as its primary freshwater source.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Kolleru Lake is located between the Krishna and Godavari deltas, fed by seasonal streams like Budameru and Tammileru. Neither the main Krishna River nor the Godavari River directly feeds the lake.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Kanwar Lake (Kabartal Ramsar site) in Bihar is Asia's largest freshwater oxbow lake, formed by a abandoned meander loop of the Gandak River.

4. Consider the following pairs:

Pair	Wetland / Lake	Location
------	----------------	----------

1.	Hokera Wetland	Punjab
2.	Renuka Wetland	Himachal Pradesh
3.	Rudrasagar Lake	Tripura
4.	Sasthamkotta Lake	Tamil Nadu

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is incorrectly matched:** Hokera Wetland is a Ramsar site located in Jammu and Kashmir (near Srinagar).
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Renuka Wetland is the smallest Ramsar site in India, located in the Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Rudrasagar Lake is a Ramsar site located in Melaghar, Tripura.
- **Pair 4 is incorrectly matched:** Sasthamkotta Lake (the largest freshwater lake in the state) is located in Kerala (Kollam district).

5. Consider the following pairs:

Pair	Peak	Regional Himalayan Division
1.	Namcha Barwa	Garhwal Himalaya
2.	Nanda Devi	Kumaon Himalaya
3.	Nokrek	Sikkim Himalaya

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

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is incorrectly matched:** Namcha Barwa is located in the Trans-Himalayas / Assam-Arunachal Himalaya zone in Tibet/Arunachal border region.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Nanda Devi is the highest peak situated entirely within India, located in the Kumaon/Uttarakhand Himalayas.
- **Pair 3 is incorrectly matched:** Nokrek is the highest peak of the Garo Hills in the Shillong Plateau (Meghalaya).

6. The Siachen Glacier is geographically situated to the:

- (a) West of Nubra Valley
- (b) East of Nubra Valley
- (c) South of Nubra Valley
- (d) North of the Nubra Valley

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- The Siachen Glacier lies in the East Karakoram range in the Himalayas.
- The meltwater from the Siachen Glacier feeds the Nubra River, which flows southwards into the Shyok River (a tributary of the Indus).
- Siachen Glacier is located directly North of the Nubra Valley and West of Aksai Chin.

7. Consider the following pairs:

Pair	River	Body of Water into which it Discharges
1.	Mekong	Andaman Sea
2.	Thames	Irish Sea
3.	Volga	Caspian Sea
4.	Zambezi	Indian Ocean

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is incorrectly matched:** The Mekong River originates in the Tibetan Plateau and discharges into the South China Sea via the Mekong Delta in Vietnam.
- **Pair 2 is incorrectly matched:** The River Thames flows through London and discharges into the North Sea via the Thames Estuary.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** The Volga River (Europe's longest river) drains into the landlocked Caspian Sea.
- **Pair 4 is correctly matched:** The Zambezi River in southern Africa flows eastward and drains into the Indian Ocean (via Mozambique Channel).

8. Which of the following islands/archipelagos is geographically closest to Kavaratti in Lakshadweep?

- (a) Maliku (Minicoy Island)
- (b) Male (Maldives)
- (c) Coco Islands (Myanmar)
- (d) Great Nicobar

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Kavaratti is the capital city of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

- Minicoy Island (Maliku) is the southern-most atoll of the Lakshadweep archipelago, separated from Kavaratti by the 9 Degree Channel.
- Male (Maldives) lies further south across the 8 Degree Channel.
- Great Nicobar and Coco Islands are located thousands of kilometers away in the Bay of Bengal/Andaman Sea.

9. Which of the following rivers is/are tributaries of the Brahmaputra River?

1. Dibang
2. Kameng
3. Lohit

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Dibang (1):** A major left-bank tributary of the Brahmaputra River flowing through Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.
- **Kameng (2):** A major right-bank tributary originating in the Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh and joining the Brahmaputra at Tezpur, Assam.
- **Lohit (3):** A key left-bank tributary originating in Tibet and entering India through Arunachal Pradesh before joining the Brahmaputra in Assam.

10. Consider the following statements regarding the extreme geographical limits of major river basins in India:

1. The Indus river basin extends furthest to the west in Indian territory.
2. The Brahmaputra river basin marks the easternmost major river basin of the country.
3. The Ganga river basin represents the absolute northernmost river basin of India.
4. The Kodayar river basin system represents the southernmost river basin in mainland India.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While the Indus system touches the westernmost parts of the Indus-plains/Ladakh region, the westernmost river basin entirely or predominantly located in peninsular/mainland India's western arid boundary is the Luni or Sabarmati/Mahi river basin flowing into the Arabian Sea, not the Indus basin proper which is centered in the northwest/J&K/Ladakh region rather than the absolute western geographic extreme defined by Kutch river regimes.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Brahmaputra and its eastern sub-basins (like the Lohit basin) stretch into the extreme eastern boundaries of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, constituting India's easternmost major river basin system.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Indus basin (via its northernmost tributaries like the Shyok, Gilgit, or Hunza/Zaskar) extends much further north into the trans-Himalayan and Karakoram ranges than the Ganga basin, which lies entirely south of the major Himalayan crest line.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Small coastal and southern drainage basins in the Kanyakumari district, such as the Pazhayar river basin, mark the true southernmost river basins of mainland India.

Miscellaneous-III

1. Consider the following pairs:

Row	Sea	Bordering Country
1.	Adriatic Sea	Albania
2.	Black Sea	Croatia
3.	Caspian Sea	Kazakhstan
4.	Mediterranean Sea	Morocco
5.	Red Sea	Syria

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer:(b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** The Adriatic Sea is bordered by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro, and Slovenia.
- **Pair 2 is incorrectly matched:** Croatia borders the Adriatic Sea. The Black Sea is bordered by Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** The Caspian Sea is bordered by Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Azerbaijan, and Russia.
- **Pair 4 is correctly matched:** Morocco borders both the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea (along the Strait of Gibraltar).
- **Pair 5 is incorrectly matched:** Syria borders the Mediterranean Sea (west coast).

2. The Mediterranean Sea forms a coastline for which of the following West Asian countries?

- 1. Jordan
- 2. Iraq
- 3. Lebanon
- 4. Syria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

Correct Answer:(c)

Explanation:

- **Lebanon (3)** and **Syria (4)** have direct coastlines along the eastern margin of the Mediterranean Sea (Levantine Basin).
- **Jordan (1)** is virtually landlocked, possessing only a narrow outlet to the Red Sea via the Gulf of Aqaba (at the Port of Aqaba).
- **Iraq (2)** is landlocked with respect to the Mediterranean Sea; its sole coastline lies on the Persian Gulf via the Shatt al-Arab waterway.

3. Nisyros, a prominent volcanic island designated as a UNESCO Global Geopark, is situated in which one among the following countries?

- (a) Italy
(b) Greece
(c) Spain
(d) Iceland

Correct Answer:(b)

Explanation:

- Nisyros is an active volcanic island located in the southeastern Aegean Sea (Dodecanese group), belonging to Greece.
- It features one of the best-preserved hydrothermal calderas in the Mediterranean (including the famous Stefanos crater) and was officially added to the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

4. Consider the following water bodies:

1. Lake Tanganyika
2. Lake Tonle Sap
3. Patos Lagoon
4. Lake George

Through how many of the above water bodies does the Equator pass?

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

Correct Answer:(a)

Explanation:

- **Lake George (Uganda):** Located in the East African Rift System of western Uganda, Lake George is directly bisected by the 0° Equator line.
- **Lake Tanganyika:** Located south of the Equator.
- **Lake Tonle Sap:** Located in Cambodia, well north of the Equator.
- **Patos Lagoon:** Located in southern Brazil at approximately 30°S latitude.

5. Which one of the following major rivers is famous for crossing the Tropic of Capricorn twice during its course?

- (a) Congo River
- (b) Limpopo River
- (c) Mahi River
- (d) Zambezi River

Correct Answer:(b)

Explanation:

- The Limpopo River in Southern Africa flows in a large arc, crossing the Tropic of Capricorn twice (first flowing northward/eastward, then turning south towards the Indian Ocean).
- Mahi River (India) crosses the Tropic of Cancer twice.
- Congo River (Central Africa) crosses the Equator twice.
- Zambezi River flows eastwards into the Indian Ocean without traversing the Tropic of Capricorn twice.

6. With reference to the Tropic of Cancer, consider the following statements:

1. The Mahi River in India is the only river in the world that crosses the Tropic of Cancer twice.
2. Ranchi is the only state capital in India through which the Tropic of Cancer directly passes.
3. The Sun is directly overhead at the Tropic of Cancer annually on March 23.

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:** The Mahi River originates in Madhya Pradesh, flows north into Rajasthan, and then turns south-west into Gujarat, crossing the Tropic of Cancer twice.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Among all state capitals in India (8 states lie on the Tropic of Cancer), Ranchi is the only state capital located directly on the line of the Tropic of Cancer.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Sun is directly overhead at the Tropic of Cancer on the Summer Solstice (June 21). On March 21/23 (Vernal Equinox), the Sun is directly overhead at the Equator.

7. Consider the following statements regarding the International Date Line (IDL):

1. Anadyr and Nome are separated by a narrow distance across the Bering Strait, but operate on different calendar days.
2. When it is Monday in Anadyr, it is Tuesday in Nome.

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:** Anadyr lies west of the International Date Line (Asia side, UTC+12), while Nome lies east of the IDL (North America side, UTC-9). Crossing the IDL changes the calendar date despite physical proximity.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Travelling from West to East across the IDL means going back one calendar day. Therefore, when it is Monday in Anadyr (West of IDL), it is Sunday in Nome (East of IDL).

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Sahel region:

1. It serves as a semi-arid transition belt between the Sahara Desert to the north and the Sudanian Savanna to the south.
2. It stretches continuously across the African continent from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea.
3. All member states of the G5 Sahel security framework share a coastline along the Atlantic Ocean.

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:** The Sahel is an ecoclimatic and biogeographic realm of transition between the hyper-arid Sahara in the north and the tropical savanna to the south.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Geographically, the Sahel spans **5,400 km** across 10 countries from the Atlantic coast (Mauritania/Senegal) eastwards to the Red Sea (Sudan/Eritrea).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The G5 Sahel countries are Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad. Out of these, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad are landlocked; only Mauritania borders the Atlantic Ocean.

9. Which of the following pairs of countries shares the longest continuous international land border in the world?

- (a) Canada and the United States of America
- (b) Chile and Argentina
- (c) China and India
- (d) Kazakhstan and Russian Federation

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Canada – United States border:** Extends over **8,891 km** (including the Alaska border), making it the longest international land border between two countries globally.
- **Kazakhstan – Russia border:** **7,644 km** (2nd longest).
- **Argentina – Chile border:** **5,308 km** (3rd longest).
- **China – India border (LAC):** **~ 3,488 km**.

10. Consider the following countries/territories:

1. Cyprus
2. Lebanon
3. Jordan
4. Georgia
5. Syria

Which of the above are geographically and geopolitically classified as part of the Levant region?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The Levant refers to the historical region of the Eastern Mediterranean, encompassing Lebanon (2), Syria (5), Jordan (3), Israel, Palestine, and the island nation of Cyprus (1).
- Georgia (4) is located in the South Caucasus region between the Black Sea and Caspian Sea, and is not part of the Levant.

Miscellaneous-IV

1. Which of the following statements regarding Greenland are correct?

1. Greenland is an autonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark with Nuuk as its administrative capital.
2. Roughly 80% of Greenland's surface area is covered by ice sheets and glaciers.
3. Greenland shares maritime boundaries with Canada, Iceland, and Norway.
4. Pituffik Space Base in Greenland serves as the northernmost military installation of the French Armed Forces.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Greenland is a self-governing constituent territory under the Kingdom of Denmark; Nuuk is its capital city.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Approximately 80% of Greenland is covered by the Greenland Ice Sheet.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Greenland shares maritime borders with Canada (across Nares Strait/Baffin Bay), Iceland (across Denmark Strait), and Norway (Jan Mayen island region).
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Pituffik Space Base (formerly Thule Air Base) is the northernmost installation of the United States Space Force, not the French Armed Forces.

2. Which of the following statements regarding the Durand Line are correct?

1. It forms the international border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, spanning approximately 2,640 km.
2. It was delineated in 1893 through an agreement signed between Sir Mortimer Durand and Afghan Emir Abdur Rahman Khan.
3. Torkham and Chaman serve as primary transit points along this border corridor.
4. The Durand Line was established as a permanent bilateral treaty boundary between British India and the Russian Empire to partition Central Asia.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Durand Line stretches over **2,640 km** along the border of modern Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Established in 1893 during the Great Game era between Sir Mortimer Durand (British India) and Emir Abdur Rahman Khan.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Torkham (Khyber Pass region) and Chaman (Balochistan region) are the two main commercial border crossings.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** It was signed between British India and the Emirate of Afghanistan, not the Russian Empire.

3. Which of the following statements regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) are correct?

1. The GERD is built across the main trunk of the White Nile River in the Oromia Region of Ethiopia.
2. Upon full completion, the GERD will become the largest hydroelectric power plant in Africa.
3. Egypt's opposition to the GERD relies primarily on historic water allocations guaranteed under the 1929 and 1959 Nile Waters Agreements.
4. GERD project is executed under the administrative authority of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI).

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The dam is built on the Blue Nile River in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region of Ethiopia (near the Sudan border).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** With a planned capacity of over **5,000 MW**, it will be Africa's largest hydroelectric installation.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Egypt claims historical rights based on the colonial-era 1929 Anglo-Egyptian treaty and the 1959 bilateral treaty with Sudan.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** GERD is a sovereign national project of the Government of Ethiopia (Ethiopian Electric Power).

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the Kingdom of Eswatini is/are correct?

1. Eswatini is a landlocked nation in Southern Africa surrounded by South Africa and Mozambique.
2. Eswatini is governed as an absolute monarchy headed by the King.
3. Eswatini is a federal republic headed by an elected President.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) is landlocked, bordered by Mozambique to its east and South Africa on its other sides.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is Africa's last remaining absolute monarchy, where King Mswati III rules with supreme executive authority.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It is an absolute monarchy.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Nord Stream subsea natural gas pipeline system is/are correct?

1. Nord Stream 2 runs across the seabed of the Baltic Sea, traversing the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, and Germany.
2. The Nord Stream pipeline network originates in the Caspian Sea basin and discharges gas into southern Italy.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Nord Stream 2 crosses the Baltic Sea seabed through five national EEZs (Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It originates in Russia (Ust-Luga / Vyborg) and connects directly to Germany (Greifswald / Lubmin) across the Baltic Sea, not the Caspian Sea or Italy (the Trans Adriatic Pipeline serves Italy).

6. Which of the following statements with regard to Point Nemo is/are correct?

1. Point Nemo represents the Oceanic Pole of Inaccessibility, situated in the South Pacific Ocean.
2. The surrounding ocean waters around Point Nemo lie within the South Pacific Gyre, resulting in an extremely low biological productivity zone.
3. Due to its extreme distance from land, the region around Point Nemo is utilized by space agencies as an orbital spacecraft cemetery for controlled deorbiting.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Point Nemo is the place in the ocean farthest from land).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Located inside the South Pacific Gyre, ocean currents block nutrient-rich water, rendering it an ecological "oceanic desert."

- **Statement 3 is correct:** Its isolation makes it the preferred site for safely deorbiting decommissioned satellites, space stations, and cargo craft.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the region of Kurdistan is/are correct?

1. The cultural region of Kurdistan spans contiguous parts of Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria.
2. Erbil serves as the capital city of the autonomous Kurdistan Region within northern Iraq.
3. The region is drained by major river systems including the Tigris and Greater Zab, and is underlain by the Andes mountain system.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kurdistan refers to a socio-cultural region across southeastern Turkey, northern Iraq, northwestern Iran, and northern Syria.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Erbil (Hawler) is the official capital of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in Iraq.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The region is dominated by the Zagros and Taurus mountain ranges.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to Mount Taranaki is/are correct?

1. Mount Taranaki is an active stratovolcano located on the North Island of New Zealand along the Pacific Ring of Fire.
2. It has been granted legal personality/personhood status under New Zealand law, recognizing its cultural significance to local Māori tribes.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Mount Taranaki (formerly Mount Egmont) is an Andean-type stratovolcano on New Zealand's North Island, created by subduction dynamics along the Pacific-Australian plate boundary.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under landmark New Zealand legislation, Mount Taranaki was granted legal personhood (similar to the Whanganui River), granting it rights as a living entity in line with Indigenous Māori worldview.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the Darién Gap is/are correct?

1. The Darién Gap is a dense, roadless marshland and rainforest break along the border between Colombia and Panama.
2. It represents a fully paved, multi-lane highway section connecting Central America with North America under the Pan-American Highway system.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Darién Gap is a dangerous 106km stretch of undeveloped jungle and swampland straddling Panama and Colombia.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is the only missing link in the Pan-American Highway; no road exists across it due to extreme environmental obstacles, disease risks, and border protection concerns.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the Netzarim Corridor is/are correct?

1. The Netzarim Corridor is a military transit axis established across the Gaza Strip connecting the eastern border with the Mediterranean coastline.
2. The corridor divides the northern Gaza district from the central and southern sectors of the territory.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Netzarim Corridor was constructed by Israeli forces as a fortified East-West military route extending from the Israeli border straight to the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Geographically, it cuts across the Gaza Strip south of Gaza City, effectively isolating Northern Gaza from the central and southern administrative regions.

Miscellaneous-V

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Netzarim Corridor:

1. It is a militarized strip constructed inside the Gaza Strip connecting the eastern border with Israel directly to the Mediterranean coastline.
2. The corridor geographically bisects the Gaza Strip into a northern district and a southern sector.
3. The axis falls under the direct peacekeeping administration of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO).

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Netzarim Corridor is a militarized route established across the Gaza Strip running from the Israeli border near Be'eri straight to the Mediterranean shore.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Geographically, the corridor cuts east-west across Gaza south of Gaza City, effectively separating Northern Gaza from central and southern regions.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The corridor was created and is controlled by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) during operations, not UNTSO.

2. The Gulf of Eilat forms a coastline for how many of the following sovereign nations?

1. Egypt
2. Israel
3. Jordan
4. Saudi Arabia

Select the correct answer using the options below:

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

The Gulf of Aqaba (Gulf of Eilat) is a narrow, deep northeastern arm of the Red Sea. It is shared by **four countries**:

1. **Egypt** (Sinai Peninsula on the west)
2. **Israel** (Port city of Eilat at the northern tip)
3. **Jordan** (Port city of Aqaba at the northern tip)
4. **Saudi Arabia** (Eastern coast along the Arabian Peninsula)

3. Consider the following statements regarding White Island:

1. It is an active stratovolcano situated in the Bay of Plenty off the coast of New Zealand's North Island.
2. It forms part of the Taupo Volcanic Zone along the Pacific Ring of Fire.
3. The volcano emits high concentrations of sulfur gases and fumarolic steam vents.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Whakaari / White Island is New Zealand's most active cone volcano, located roughly **48 km** offshore in the Bay of Plenty.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It marks the northern offshore limit of the active Taupō Volcanic Zone on the Pacific Ring of Fire.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It is famous for intense hydrothermal activity, emitting sulfur dioxide and steam through active fumaroles. (The 2019 eruption led to major workplace safety legal cases under New Zealand authorities).

4. With reference to the Kursk Oblast Region, consider the following statements:

1. It is an administrative region of western Russia that shares a direct international border with Ukraine.

2. It contains the Kursk Magnetic Anomaly (KMA), one of the largest iron ore deposits in the world.
3. It is a major agricultural region in Russia known for wheat and sunflower seed production.

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kursk Oblast lies in western Russia, sharing a direct land border with Ukraine's Sumy Oblast.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It houses the Kursk Magnetic Anomaly, containing vast reserves of rich iron ore.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Located in the fertile Black Earth (Chernozem) region, it is a primary agricultural hub for wheat, barley, and sunflower production.

5. The Strait of Otranto serves as a critical maritime chokepoint connecting which two bodies of water?

- (a) Tyrrhenian Sea and Ligurian Sea
- (b) Adriatic Sea and Ionian Sea
- (c) Aegean Sea and Black Sea
- (d) Sea of Azov and Black Sea

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- The Strait of Otranto is an **82-km** wide maritime passage lying between Apulia (southeastern Italy) and Albania.
- It directly connects the Adriatic Sea in the north with the Ionian Sea (Mediterranean) in the south, serving as a strategic NATO naval entry route into Eastern Europe.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the city of Sana'a:

1. It is the capital city of Yemen, located in the Yemeni Highlands at an elevation exceeding 2,100 metres above sea level.
2. The Old City of Sana'a is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, distinguished by its multi-storey rammed-earth and burnt-brick architecture.
3. It is located along the coastal shores of the Bab-el-Mandeb strait.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Sana'a sits in a high-altitude inland plateau within the Yemeni Highlands at approximately **2,250 metres** above sea level.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The historic inner city was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1986 for its distinctive multi-storey tower houses made of rammed earth and baked brick.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Sana'a is an inland city, located over **150 km** away from the Red Sea coast and Bab-el-Mandeb.

7. Consider the following statements regarding Bamako:

1. It is the capital city of Mali, situated along the banks of the Niger River.
2. The city lies near the Manding Mountains in a semi-arid Sahelian transition zone.
3. Mali, with its capital at Bamako, is one of the leading industrial gold-producing nations in Africa.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bamako is the administrative capital and largest city of Mali, located on the upper reaches of the Niger River.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is positioned near the Manding Mountains in the southwestern, semi-arid Sahel region.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Mali is Africa's 3rd largest gold producer (after Ghana and South Africa), with gold mining forming a major portion of national export revenue.

8. Consider the following statements regarding Mount Makalu:

1. Mount Makalu is the fourth-highest mountain in the world, located in the Mahalangur Himalayas.
2. It is situated on the border between India, Nepal and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, near Mount Everest.
3. The peak was formed due to the tectonic convergence of the Indian Plate and the Eurasian Plate.

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Makalu stands at **8,463 metres**, making it the world's 5th highest mountain peak, situated in the Mahalangur range.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It lies **19 km** southeast of Mount Everest along the Nepal-China (Tibet) border.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Like the rest of the Great Himalayas, it was formed by the continent-continent collision of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates. (In India, Indo-Tibetan Border Police teams have conducted high-altitude mountaineering expeditions to Makalu).

9. With reference to foreign military installations in West Asia, Al Udeid Air Base is situated in which country?

- (a) Bahrain
- (b) Qatar
- (c) United Arab Emirates
- (d) Kuwait

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- Al Udeid Air Base is a major military base located southwest of Doha in Qatar.
- It serves as the largest US military base in the Middle East and hosts the forward headquarters of United States Central Command (US CENTCOM) and United States Air Forces Central (AFCENT).

10. Consider the following statements regarding the Kananaskis region:

1. It is a park system located in the Canadian Rockies in the province of Alberta, adjacent to Banff National Park.
2. Its current physical landscape was predominantly carved out by glacial erosion processes during the last Ice Age.
3. Kananaskis will host the 53rd G7 Summit meeting in 2027 to discuss global economic issues.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kananaskis Country is a multi-use park system situated west of Calgary in Alberta, Canada, bordering Banff National Park.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The valleys and alpine landforms (U-shaped valleys, cirques, and tarns) were formed by glacial processes during the Pleistocene epoch.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The 53rd G7 Summit will be hosted by the United States in 2027, following the conclusion of the 2026 summit in Evian-les-Bains, France.

Miscellaneous-VI

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Port of Haifa:

1. It is a deep-water artificial harbour situated along the northern Mediterranean coastline of Israel.
2. It serves as a major western terminal point for the proposed India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).
3. The port terminal operation was acquired through a major joint venture led by India's Adani Group.

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: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Port of Haifa is Israel's largest deep-water natural harbour, located along Haifa Bay on the northern Mediterranean shore.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under the IMEC framework, goods from India reaching Arabian Gulf ports by sea and moving across the Middle East via rail are routed to terminate at the Port of Haifa for sea transport across the Mediterranean to Europe.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** In 2023, India's Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), in partnership with Israel's Gadot Group, officially acquired and privatized the Port of Haifa.

2. With reference to Qom region, consider the following statements:

1. Qom is located along the western fringe of the Dasht-e-Kavir (Great Salt Desert), north of Saudi Arabia.
2. The Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant, a major underground nuclear facility, is situated northeast of Qom city.
3. The city serves as one of the primary holy pilgrimage sites for Shia Muslims, housing the shrine of Fatima Masumeh.

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 incorrect:** Qom is situated south of Tehran on the edge of the arid Dasht-e-Kavir desert.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant (FFEP) is a fortified underground uranium enrichment site built near a former military base northeast of Qom.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Qom is considered the religious center of Shia Islam in Iran, home to prominent seminaries (Hawza) and the holy Shrine of Fatima Masumeh.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Ghana is/are correct?

1. Ghana is located along the Gulf of Guinea coast in West Africa, with Accra as its capital.
2. It is a major economic hub in West Africa and a leading global exporter of both cocoa and gold.
3. Recently it became the member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

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: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ghana is situated in West Africa along the Atlantic Ocean (Gulf of Guinea), bordering Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and Togo.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ghana is Africa's largest gold producer and the world's second-largest supplier of cocoa beans (after Côte d'Ivoire).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Ghana was one of the original signatories that created ECOWAS in 1975 to foster economic integration in West Africa.

4. Consider the following statements regarding As-Suwayda Governorate:

1. As-Suwayda is situated in southern Lebanon, bordering Jordan to the south.
2. The region is dominated geographically by the volcanic plateau of Jabal al-Druze.
3. The majority of the population in As-Suwayda belongs to the Druze ethnoreligious minority group.

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: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** As-Suwayda (Sweida) is a governorate located in the far south of Syria, abutting the northern border of Jordan.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Its landscape is defined by the high elevated volcanic field and plateau known historically as Jabal al-Druze.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Unlike the Sunni-majority regions of Syria, As-Suwayda is home to the country's highest concentration of the Druze community.

5. Consider the following pairs:

Row	Protected Area	Country	Biome / Significance
1.	Gola-Tiwai Complex	Sierra Leone	Upper Guinean Tropical Rainforest
2.	Tuvalu Atolls	Tuvalu	Vulnerable Coral Atolls / Low Elevation

Which of the statements given below is/are correct regarding the Gola-Tiwai Complex?

1. It includes the Gola Rainforest National Park and Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary.
2. It was inscribed as Sierra Leone's first natural UNESCO World Heritage Site.
3. It serves as a vital habitat for endangered species such as the Pygmy Hippopotamus and Western Chimpanzee.

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:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Gola-Tiwai Complex is a serial conservation property comprising the Gola Rainforest National Park and Tiwai Island Sanctuary on the Moa River.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It was officially declared as Sierra Leone's first-ever UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It forms a key part of the Upper Guinean Forest ecosystem, protecting critical populations of the Pygmy Hippo, Diana monkey, and Western Chimpanzee.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Krashennnikov Volcano:

1. It is a dual-coned active stratovolcano situated on the Kola Peninsula in eastern Russia.
2. It is formed along the subduction zone of the Pacific Ring of Fire where the Pacific Plate subducts beneath the Okhotsk/Eurasian Plate.
3. It recently erupted following centuries of dormancy after a powerful regional earthquake.

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 incorrect:** Krasheninnikov is a complex stratovolcano comprising two merging eruptive cones inside a large caldera in Eastern Kamchatka.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Kamchatka volcanic arc sits directly along the subduction boundary of the Pacific Plate, part of the Pacific Ring of Fire.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The volcano erupted recently for the first time in approximately **500–600 years**, triggered by a high-magnitude regional earthquake off the Kamchatka coast.

7. The Luzon Strait is a critical maritime passage that directly connects which two bodies of water?

- (a) The South China Sea and the Philippine Sea
- (b) The East China Sea and the Sea of Japan
- (c) The Java Sea and the Indian Ocean
- (d) The Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The Luzon Strait is a 250 ^{km} wide strait lying between the island of Taiwan (north) and Luzon Island of the Philippines (south).
- It connects the South China Sea to the west with the open Philippine Sea / Pacific Ocean to the east, containing key island groups like Batanes and Babuyan.
- It is a vital international shipping lane and a major corridor for undersea transoceanic fiber-optic communications cables.

8. Consider the following statements regarding Scarborough Shoal:

1. It is a triangular, mostly submerged atoll/coral reef feature located in the South China Sea.
2. It lies within the 200-nautical-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Philippines.
3. It has been a central flashpoint of maritime territorial disputes associated with China's Nine-Dash Line claims.

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:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Scarborough Shoal is a high-tide feature consisting of a triangular chain of reefs and rocks surrounding a central lagoon.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is located on the west coast of Luzon, placing it well within the 200-nautical-mile EEZ of the Philippines.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** China seized effective control of the shoal in 2012, making it a major legal and naval tension point under international law (UNCLOS).

9. With reference to the Darfur region of Sudan, consider the following statements:

1. It is situated in western Sudan, bordering Chad, the Central African Republic, and South Sudan.
2. The Marrah Mountains (Jebel Marra), a volcanic range, form the central highland core of the region.
3. The region is predominantly characterized by a humid equatorial rainforest climate.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Darfur comprises five administrative states in westernmost Sudan, bordering Chad, Libya, CAR, and South Sudan.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Jebel Marra range, an elevated volcanic plateau, dominates central Darfur and provides cooler temperatures and higher rainfall than the surrounding plains.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Darfur lies in a semi-arid Sahelian to savanna transition zone, not a tropical rainforest climate.

10. Consider the following pairs:

Row	Strategic Asset	Country	Geographic Location / Body of Water
1.	Port of Pasni	Pakistan	Makran Coast / Arabian Sea
2.	Bagram Air Base	Afghanistan	Parwan Province / Near Kabul

Which of the statements given below is/are correct regarding these assets?

1. The Port of Pasni is a coastal town and deep-water fishing harbour located east of Gwadar along the Arabian Sea.
2. Bagram Air Base served as the largest military airfield for US and NATO military forces during their presence in Afghanistan.

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: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Pasni is a coastal town on the Makran coast in Balochistan, Pakistan, facing the Arabian Sea near Gwadar.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Bagram Air Base, located in Parwan Province north of Kabul, was the primary hub for US and NATO coalition forces in Afghanistan prior to their withdrawal.

