

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

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HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Middle East and Central Asia

1. Which of the following statements regarding the geopolitical features of Central Asia are correct?

1. Uzbekistan is a doubly landlocked country, bordered exclusively by landlocked nations.
2. Uzbekistan shares direct land borders with all four other Central Asian Republics.
3. Kazakhstan possesses direct maritime access to the Indian Ocean via the Gulf of Oman.
4. Tajikistan is the only Central Asian nation that shares no international border with Afghanistan.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Uzbekistan is one of only two doubly landlocked countries in the world (the other being Liechtenstein), meaning it is surrounded entirely by landlocked nations.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Uzbekistan is centrally located and is the only Central Asian country that shares direct land borders with all four other post-Soviet Central Asian states (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan), as well as Afghanistan to the south.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Kazakhstan is entirely landlocked. Its western coast touches the **Caspian Sea** (an inland endorheic basin), and it has no direct maritime access to the Indian Ocean.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Tajikistan shares a long southern border with northern Afghanistan along the Panj and Amu Darya rivers.

2. Which of the following statements regarding the hydrography of Central Asia are correct?

1. The Aral Sea basin is an endorheic depression shared between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.
2. Lake Balkhash is an endorheic lake located in southeastern Kazakhstan, ranking among Asia's largest lakes.
3. The Amu Darya originates in the Pamir Mountains and is formed by the confluence of the Vakhsh and Panj rivers.
4. The Syr Darya originates in the Tian Shan mountain system, flowing through Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Aral Sea lies between southern Kazakhstan and northern Uzbekistan.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Lake Balkhash is a major endorheic basin situated in southeastern Kazakhstan.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Amu Darya rises in the Pamirs north of the Hindu Kush and forms at the junction of the Vakhsh and Panj rivers.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The Syr Darya rises in the Tian Shan range in Kyrgyzstan and flows through Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the river networks and mountain systems of Central Asia is/are correct?

1. The Amu Darya is formed by the confluence of the Vakhsh and Panj rivers north of the Hindu Kush.
2. The Syr Darya originates within the Tian Shan mountain range system in Kyrgyzstan.
3. The Pamir Knot major mountain ranges including the Himalayas, Hindu Kush, Karakoram, and Kunlun Shan radiate.

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:** The Amu Darya river system forms at the confluence of the Panj and Vakhsh rivers along the border zone of Tajikistan and Afghanistan.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Syr Darya originates in the glaciated peaks of the Tian Shan range in Kyrgyzstan before descending into the Fergana Valley.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Known as the "Roof of the World," the Pamir Knot represents the tectonic convergence zone from which the Himalayas, Karakoram, Hindu Kush, Sulaiman, and Kunlun Shan mountain chains radiate.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the Gulf of Aden is/are correct?

1. The Gulf of Aden connects to the Red Sea at its northwestern end through the Bab-el-Mandeb strait.
2. The Gulf of Aden is bounded to the north by Somalia and to the south by the Saudi Arabian peninsula.

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 Gulf of Aden connects the Arabian Sea to the Red Sea via the Bab-el-Mandeb strait, forming a crucial global trade bottleneck.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Gulf of Aden is bounded by Yemen to the north (Arabian Peninsula) and Somalia/Somaliland to the south (Horn of Africa).

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Middle Eastern water bodies is/are correct?

1. The coastline of the Gulf of Aqaba is shared among four sovereign states: Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.
2. The Dead Sea is an endorheic salt lake located in the Jordan Rift Valley, receiving its primary inflow from the Jordan River.

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 Gulf of Aqaba forms the northeastern arm of the Red Sea. Its short coastal stretches are split between Egypt (Sinai), Israel (Eilat), Jordan (Aqaba), and Saudi Arabia.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Dead Sea sits over 430 meters below sea level in the Jordan Rift Valley, bounded by Jordan, Israel, and the West Bank, with the Jordan River serving as its primary freshwater source.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to Western Asian gulfs is/are correct?

1. The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf directly with the Gulf of Oman and the broader Arabian Sea.
2. The Gulf of Oman forms an entirely inland saltwater lake bordered solely by Iran and Afghanistan.

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 Strait of Hormuz is the narrow sea channel connecting the petroleum-rich Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the open Arabian Sea.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Gulf of Oman is an open sea channel, not an inland lake. It borders Iran and Pakistan to the north, Oman to the south, and the UAE to the west. Afghanistan is landlocked and has no coast.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the Tigris and Euphrates river systems is/are correct?

1. Both the Tigris and Euphrates rivers originate in the highlands of southeastern Turkey.
2. The Tigris and Euphrates rivers merge in southern Iraq to form the Shatt al-Arab waterway before discharging into the Persian Gulf.
3. The Euphrates River flows directly through central Iran before terminating in the Caspian Sea.

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:** Both major rivers rise in the Armenian Highlands of southeastern Anatolia (Turkey).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The two rivers meet at Al-Qurnah in southern Iraq to form the Shatt al-Arab river, which empties into the Persian Gulf.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Euphrates flows south through Syria and Iraq, not Iran, and drains into the Persian Gulf via the Shatt al-Arab, not the Caspian Sea.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to mountain ranges of the Middle East is/are correct?

1. Mount Damavand, located in the Alborz mountain range of Iran, is the highest peak in Iran and the highest volcano in Asia.
2. The Zagros Mountains run along the western fold of the Iranian Plateau, formed by the collision of the Arabian and Eurasian plates.
3. The Taurus Mountains form a major physical barrier separating the southern Anatolian plateau from the Mediterranean coast in Turkey.

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:** Mount Damavand (5,610 m) in the Alborz range is a potentially active stratovolcano and the highest summit in Iran and Asia's highest volcanic peak.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Zagros range was uplifted during the Cenozoic era due to the ongoing tectonic collision between the northward-moving Arabian Plate and the Eurasian Plate.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Taurus Mountains form a rugged east-west chain along southern Turkey, separating the Central Anatolian plateau from the Mediterranean coastal plain.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the deserts of the Arabian Peninsula is/are correct?

1. The Rub' al Khali (Empty Quarter) is the world's largest continuous sand desert basin, occupying parts of Saudi Arabia, Oman, the UAE, and Yemen.
2. The An-Nafud desert is characterized by large red sand dunes and is situated in the northern portion of the Arabian Peninsula.
3. The hyper-arid interior of the Arabian Desert receives an average annual rainfall that typically remains well below 100 mm per year.

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:** Covering approximately 650,000 km^2 , the Rub' al Khali spans southern Saudi Arabia, eastern Yemen, western Oman, and southern UAE.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The An-Nafud is a major erg (sand sea) in northern Saudi Arabia, connected to the Rub' al Khali by the Ad-Dahna sand corridor.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The region is hyper-arid, with most areas receiving under 50–100 mm of annual rainfall, subject to extreme summer temperatures.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the interior deserts of Iran is/are correct?

1. Dasht-e Kavir is a large salt desert located in the north-central Iranian Plateau, known for its extensive salt crusts and playa lakes.

2. Dasht-e Lut is located in southeastern Iran and has recorded some of the highest land surface skin temperatures on Earth.
3. Both Dasht-e Kavir and Dasht-e Lut possess perennial, deep navigable rivers that connect their central playas to the Persian Gulf.

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:** Dasht-e Kavir (Great Salt Desert) is an endorheic salt waste lying in central Iran, characterized by mud-flats and high-salinity playas.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Dasht-e Lut is a hyper-arid desert featuring massive yardangs and dark volcanic sand, where satellite thermal sensors (MODIS) have recorded surface skin temperatures reaching over **70.7°C**.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Both deserts are endorheic basins (internal drainage) surrounded by mountain barriers. They lack deep navigable rivers and do not drain into the Persian Gulf. Water evaporates in seasonal, shallow salt marshes (kavirs).

East Asia

1. Which of the following statements regarding the geographical boundaries and territorial features of East Asian states are correct?

1. Both Hong Kong and Macau function as Special Administrative Regions under China's sovereign administration.
2. North Korea shares land borders with three nations: China, Russia, and South Korea.
3. Prior to the Korean War, the boundary across the Korean Peninsula was demarcated along the 38th Parallel.
4. Ulaanbaatar, Beijing, Pyongyang, Seoul, and Tokyo represent the national capitals of East Asian states ordered sequentially from East to West.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Hong Kong and Macau operate as Special Administrative Regions (SARs) under China's "One Country, Two Systems" framework.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** North Korea is bordered by China along the Yalu/Tumen rivers, shares a short **17-km** border with Russia along the lower Tumen River, and borders South Korea along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

- **Statement 3 is correct:** Post-WWII division was set at the 38th Parallel North. Following the 1953 armistice, the border was re-demarcated along the Military Demarcation Line surrounded by the DMZ.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Ordering these capitals from West to East gives: Ulaanbaatar, Beijing, Pyongyang, Seoul, and Tokyo.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the Pacific Ring of Fire is/are correct?

1. Pacific Ring of Fire is a horseshoe-shaped circum-Pacific zone characterized by active volcanism and frequent seismic events along convergent plate margins.
2. The subduction of the Nazca and Cocos plates beneath the South American and North American plates forms its eastern boundary.
3. Ring of Fire terminates at the equator and does not extend into the high southern latitudes of New Zealand or Antarctica.

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:** Spanning nearly 40,000 km, the Ring of Fire marks subduction zones and convergent boundaries host to over 75% of the world's active volcanoes.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Oceanic subduction of the Nazca Plate under the South American Plate forms the Andes, while the Cocos Plate subducts under the Caribbean/North American plates.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The belt extends far into the Southern Hemisphere through the Kermadec-Tonga trench system, across New Zealand, and down into Mount Erebus on the Antarctic Plate.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to major oceanic trench systems is/are correct?

1. The Mariana Trench contains the deepest known point on Earth, located at the convergent boundary between the Philippine Sea Plate and the Pacific Plate.
2. The Sunda Trench is formed by the subduction of the Pacific Plate directly beneath the North American continental plate.

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 Mariana Trench (containing Challenger Deep at $\sim 10,984 \text{ m}$) forms where the older, denser Pacific Plate subducts beneath the smaller Philippine Sea Plate.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Sunda (Java) Trench in the Indian Ocean is formed by the subduction of the Indo-Australian Plate beneath the Sunda/Eurasian Plate, not the Pacific beneath the North American Plate.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the East China Sea is/are correct?

1. The East China Sea is bounded by mainland China to the west, Taiwan to the south, and Japan's Ryukyu Islands to the east.
2. It connects to the South China Sea via the Taiwan Strait and receives its major freshwater and sediment influx from the Yangtze River.

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 East China Sea is an arm of the Pacific Ocean bounded by China to the west, the Ryukyu arc to the east, and Taiwan to the south.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The narrow Taiwan Strait links the East and South China Seas. The Yangtze River (Chang Jiang) empties its massive freshwater discharge into the East China Sea near Shanghai.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Yellow Sea is/are correct?

1. The Yellow Sea represents a northern shallow inlet of the East China Sea, situated between mainland China and the Korean Peninsula.
2. Its distinctive yellow turbidity is caused by massive deposits of fine loess silt discharged by the Huang He (Yellow River).

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 Yellow Sea is a marginal sea enclosed by the Shandong and Liaodong peninsulas of China to the north/west and the Korean Peninsula to the east.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Huang He carries immense loads of yellow loess sediment eroded from the Loess Plateau, giving the shallow basin its characteristic coloration and name.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the Sea of Japan is/are correct?

1. The Sea of Japan is an enclosed marginal sea bounded by Japan, Russia, North Korea, and South Korea.
2. The Korea Strait connects the Sea of Japan to the East China Sea, while the Tsugaru Strait connects it to the open Pacific Ocean.
3. Due to vast oceanic openings and deep trench channels, the Sea of Japan exhibits the highest tidal amplitudes in the Pacific Basin.

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:** It is enclosed by the Asian mainland (Russia and Korea) to the west and the Japanese archipelago to the east.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Korea Strait lies to the southwest, connecting it to the East China Sea; the Tsugaru Strait sits between Honshu and Hokkaido, connecting it to the Pacific.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Because it is almost completely landlocked with narrow, shallow straits connecting it to outside waters, tidal force exchange is heavily restricted, resulting in nearly non-existent/minimal tidal variations.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the Yarlung Tsangpo / Brahmaputra river system is/are correct?

1. The Yarlung Tsangpo originates from the Angsi/Chemayungdung glacier complex in the Kailash Range near Lake Mansarovar.
2. It executes a sharp U-turn (Great Bend) around the Namcha Barwa peak to carve the Yarlung Tsangpo Grand Canyon before entering India.
3. Upon entering Arunachal Pradesh as the Siang/Dihang, it merges with the Dibang and Lohit rivers near Sadiya to form the Brahmaputra.

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:** Rises in the southwestern Tibetan Plateau near the sacred source region of Mansarovar.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The river flows eastward across southern Tibet before cutting around Namcha Barwa in a dramatic syntaxial bend to enter India.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** In the Assam Valley near Sadiya, the Siang/Dihang receives the Dibang and Lohit rivers to officially take the name Brahmaputra.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Yellow River is/are correct?

1. The Yellow River originates in the Bayan Har Mountains on the Tibetan Plateau, loops through the Ordos Region, and drains into the Bohai Sea.
2. The Huang He is Asia's longest river, flowing uninterrupted through southern China into the South China Sea near Guangzhou.

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:** Rises in Qinghai province, forms the north-looping Ordos Bend across northern China, traverses the North China Plain, and empties into the Bohai Gulf.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Huang He is the second-longest river in Asia (~ 5,464 km) and drains into the Bohai Sea (northern China). Asia's longest river is the Yangtze River (~ 6,300 km), which drains into the East China Sea.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the Yangtze River (Chang Jiang) is/are correct?

1. Originating in the Tanggula Mountains on the Tibetan Plateau, the Yangtze is the longest river in Asia and the third-longest globally.
2. It flows through the Three Gorges region in central China before discharging into the East China Sea near Shanghai.

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 Yangtze (Chang Jiang) originates in the high-altitude Tanggula range in Qinghai. At roughly 6,300 km, it is the longest river in Asia and ranks third worldwide behind the Nile and Amazon.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It cuts through the central provinces via the scenic Three Gorges (site of the Three Gorges Dam) and forms a massive commercial river basin terminating at Shanghai in the East China Sea.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to Mongolia and the Gobi Desert is/are correct?

1. Mongolia is a landlocked nation bordered exclusively by two sovereign states: Russia to its north and China to its south.
2. The Gobi Desert is a tropical sand-dune erg located entirely within western India and southern Pakistan.

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:** Mongolia is squeezed entirely between the Russian Federation to the north and the People's Republic of China to the south, making it a classic buffer state.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Gobi is a cold rain-shadow desert spanning northern/northeastern China and southern Mongolia, not a tropical desert in India or Pakistan (which describes the Thar Desert).

South-East Asia

1. Which of the following statements with regard to Southeast Asian international borders is/are correct?

1. Myanmar shares direct land borders with both India and Bangladesh.
2. Laos is the only landlocked country in Southeast Asia that shares a land border with China.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Myanmar shares an international land border with Bangladesh to its west (~ 271 km) and India to its northwest (~ 1,643 km , touching Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Laos is the sole landlocked nation in Southeast Asia. It shares a northern border with China (Yunnan province), alongside borders with Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to Southeast Asian river systems is/are correct?

1. The Salween River flows through China, Myanmar, and Thailand before draining into the Andaman Sea.
2. The Mekong River forms international borders between Myanmar and Laos, as well as between Laos and Thailand.
3. The Irrawaddy River is a transboundary river that originates in Vietnam and drains directly into the Gulf of Tonkin.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Salween (Nu River in China) flows through China, Myanmar, and along the Thailand-Myanmar border before emptying into the Andaman Sea (Gulf of Martaban).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Mekong serves as a natural boundary demarcating sections between Myanmar-Laos and Laos-Thailand before entering Cambodia and Vietnam.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Irrawaddy River flows entirely within Myanmar (originating in Kachin State) and drains through the Andaman Sea into the Bay of Bengal.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to mountain ranges and peaks in Southeast Asia is/are correct?

1. The Arakan Yoma forms a north-south arc in western Myanmar, separating the Rakhine coastal strip from the central Irrawaddy basin.
2. The Annamite Range runs parallel to the coastline, forming a natural boundary largely between Laos and Vietnam.
3. Mount Hkakabo Razi, the highest summit in Southeast Asia, is situated on the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

Select the 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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Arakan Yoma (Rakhine Mountains) forms an ancient folded belt running north-south in western Myanmar, serving as an orographic barrier.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Annamite Range (Chaîne Annamitique) extends roughly northwest-southeast, defining much of the border between Laos and Vietnam.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Mount Hkakabo Razi is located in northern Myanmar (Kachin State) near the tri-junction with India and China.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to drainage systems in Southeast Asia is/are correct?

1. The Mekong River flows through six sovereign states: China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam.
2. The Irrawaddy River is the primary drainage artery of Myanmar and forms a massive delta opening into the Andaman Sea.
3. The Chao Phraya River is the principal river of Cambodia and empties into the South China Sea near Phnom Penh.

Select the 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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Mekong is a major transboundary system passing through all six Upper and Lower Mekong basin countries.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Irrawaddy is Myanmar's longest national river, driving domestic inland transport and forming an extensive agricultural delta at the Andaman Sea.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Chao Phraya is the principal river basin of Thailand (flowing through Bangkok into the Gulf of Thailand).

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Southeast Asian maritime geography is/are correct?

1. The Strait of Malacca connects the Andaman Sea (Indian Ocean) with the South China Sea.
2. Singapore is located at the narrow southern entrance of the Strait of Malacca.
3. The Gulf of Thailand forms a western arm of the Indian Ocean, situated between India and Myanmar.

Select the 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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Strait of Malacca runs between the Malay Peninsula and the Indonesian island of Sumatra, serving as the main shipping channel between the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Singapore sits strategically at the southern terminus of the Strait of Malacca where it converges into the Singapore Strait.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Gulf of Thailand is a shallow inlet of the South China Sea (Pacific Ocean), bounded by Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to Southeast Asian islands is/are correct?

1. Borneo is the largest island located entirely within Southeast Asia and is politically divided among Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei.
2. Sumatra is an island province situated in the northern territorial waters of the Philippines.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Borneo is shared by three sovereign nations: Indonesia (Kalimantan), Malaysia (Sabah and Sarawak), and the sovereign sultanate of Brunei.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Sumatra is a major western island of Indonesia, lying west of the Malay Peninsula.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to lakes in Southeast Asia is/are correct?

1. Tonle Sap is the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia and is located in central Cambodia.
2. The Tonle Sap Lake experiences seasonal hydrological reversal, filling with backflow from the Mekong River during the monsoon season.
3. Lake Toba, the site of a massive supervolcanic eruption, is located in northern Vietnam.

Select the 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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Tonle Sap in Cambodia is the largest freshwater lake in the Southeast Asian region.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** During the monsoon, the flooded Mekong River forces the Tonle Sap River to reverse its flow, expanding the lake's area up to fivefold.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Lake Toba is a massive volcanic caldera lake located on the island of Sumatra, Indonesia.

8. Which of the following statements regarding urban centers and river systems in Southeast Asia are correct?

1. Yangon functions as a major commercial port city situated in the Irrawaddy Delta region of Myanmar.
2. Bangkok is located on the lower stretches of the Chao Phraya River near the Gulf of Thailand.

3. Ho Chi Minh City lies in southern Vietnam in close geographic proximity to the Mekong River Delta.
4. Manila, the capital city of the Philippines, is situated on the island of Luzon.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Yangon is Myanmar's largest economic center and port, situated along the Yangon River (an eastern distributary branch of the Irrawaddy Delta system).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Bangkok lies on the alluvial plain of the Chao Phraya River, approximately 25 km north of the Gulf of Thailand.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) lies directly northeast of the multi-channeled Mekong Delta in southern Vietnam.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Manila is located on the eastern shore of Manila Bay on Luzon, the largest and most populous island in the Philippines.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the geomorphology of Maritime Southeast Asia is/are correct?

1. Most of Maritime Southeast Asia lies along the Pacific Ring of Fire, subject to active subduction zone earthquakes and volcanism.
2. The island of Java in Indonesia possesses one of the highest concentrations of active volcanoes in the world.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Indonesian and Philippine archipelagos sit at the complex intersection of the Indo-Australian, Eurasian, Pacific, and Philippine Sea plates, making it a highly active part of the Ring of Fire.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Java lies directly above the subduction zone of the Indo-Australian Plate, hosting over 40 active volcanoes (including Mount Merapi and Mount Semeru).

10. Which of the following statements regarding the regional framework of Southeast Asia are correct?

1. Mainland Southeast Asia comprises Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.
2. Indonesia represents the largest country in Maritime Southeast Asia by both total surface area and population size.
3. The mainland Malay Peninsula is politically shared among Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore.
4. Timor-Leste occupies the eastern portion of the island of Timor in Maritime Southeast Asia.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Geographically, Mainland Southeast Asia (formerly Indochina peninsula region) consists of the five sovereign nations listed.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Indonesia spans over 1.9 million km^2 and has over 275 million inhabitants, making it the largest nation in Southeast Asia by area and demographic weight.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Malay Peninsula is a physical landmass shared by southern Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia, and Myanmar (Tenasserim strip). Singapore is an offshore island nation connected via a causeway at the southern tip.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Timor-Leste (East Timor) occupies the eastern half of Timor island (the western half belongs to Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara province).

Africa

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the geographical location and strategic maritime chokepoints of Africa is/are correct?

1. Africa is separated from Europe by the Mediterranean Sea and from Asia by the Red Sea and the Isthmus of Suez.
2. The Strait of Gibraltar serves as the strategic gateway between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, bounded by Morocco and Spain.
3. Djibouti is situated at the Bab-el-Mandeb strait along the western coast of the Atlantic Ocean.

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:** Africa is bounded by the Mediterranean Sea to the north (separating it from Europe) and the Red Sea and Sinai/Isthmus of Suez to the northeast (separating it from Asia).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Strait of Gibraltar separates Morocco in North Africa from Spain in Southwestern Europe, linking the North Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Djibouti lies at the Bab-el-Mandeb strait on the Horn of Africa (East Africa), connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden / Indian Ocean.

2. Which of the following statements regarding the key lines of latitude and longitude traversing Africa are correct?

1. Africa is the only continent on Earth traversed by the Tropic of Cancer, the Equator, and the Tropic of Capricorn.
2. Equator passes through Gabon, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Kenya, and Somalia.
3. Prime Meridian passes through the western part of Africa, intersecting the Equator in the Gulf of Guinea.
4. Tropic of Capricorn passes through Egypt, Sudan, and Libya in North Africa.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Africa is uniquely bisected by all three major circles of latitude: Tropic of Cancer (23.5° N), Equator (0°), and Tropic of Capricorn (23.5° S).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Equator passes through six mainland African nations: Gabon, Congo, DRC, Uganda, Kenya, and Somalia (as well as the island state of São Tomé and Príncipe).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Prime Meridian (0° longitude) cuts through Algeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Togo, intersecting the Equator at $0^{\circ}, 0^{\circ}$ in the Gulf of Guinea.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Tropic of Cancer passes through Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Mali, Mauritania, and Western Sahara in North Africa. The Tropic of Capricorn runs through Southern Africa (Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Mozambique, Madagascar).

3. Which of the following statements regarding the plateau regions of Africa are correct?

1. Katanga Plateau in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is rich in copper, uranium, and cobalt deposits.
2. The Ethiopian Highlands represent a vast volcanic uplift, featuring Ras Dashan as its highest peak.
3. The East African Plateau is an elevated landform shared primarily among Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania.
4. The Bie Plateau forms a central high region in Angola and serves as the source area for major rivers including the Cunene and Kwanza.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Katanga Plateau is a mineral-rich plateau in southern DRC, constituting a major portion of the Central African Copperbelt.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Often called the roof of Africa, the Ethiopian Highlands were formed by extensive flood basalt volcanism, with Ras Dashan ($4,550$ m) as the highest point.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The East African Plateau is a high uplifted plateau spanning Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania, bisected by branches of the East African Rift.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The Bie (Central) Plateau covers much of central Angola, forming a principal hydrological watershed from which the Cunene, Kwanza, and tributaries of the Zambezi/Okavango flow.

4. Which of the following statements regarding mountain systems in Africa are correct?

1. Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest peak in Africa and is politically shared between Kenya and Tanzania.
2. Mount Cameroon is an active volcano situated along the Gulf of Guinea in Central-West Africa.

3. The Atlas Mountains are a young fold mountain system located in Northwest Africa across Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia.
4. Mount Kenya is the highest active volcanic peak on the continent, located directly along the Atlantic coast of Namibia.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While Mount Kilimanjaro is Africa's highest summit, it is located entirely within Tanzania near the border, not shared politically between Kenya and Tanzania.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Mount Cameroon is a volcanic mountain along the Cameroon Volcanic Line and remains an active volcano near the Gulf of Guinea.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Atlas Mountains are folded mountain chains formed by the collision of the Eurasian and African plates, stretching across Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia (with Jbel Toubkal as the highest peak).
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Mount Kenya is an extinct stratovolcano located in central Kenya (East Africa), not on the Atlantic coast of Namibia.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Adamawa Plateau is/are correct?

1. Adamawa Plateau stretches across west-central Africa from southeastern Nigeria through north-central Cameroon to the Central African Republic.
2. Nigerian extension of the Adamawa Plateau is known as the Drakensberg Escarpment.

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 Adamawa Plateau is an elevated region in west-central Africa spanning southeastern Nigeria, northern Cameroon, and the western CAR.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The extension of the Adamawa Plateau in eastern Nigeria is known as the Gotele Mountains (and Shebshi Mountains). The Drakensberg Escarpment is located in South Africa and Lesotho.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the East African Rift System is/are correct?

1. East African Rift System represents an active continental rift zone extending from the Middle East southwards into Mozambique.
2. Lake Victoria is a shallow depression lake situated between the eastern and western rift branches, and is not a structural rift valley lake.

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 East African Rift System (EARS) is an active divergent tectonic boundary stretching roughly **6,000 km** from the Jordan Rift Valley/Red Sea south through East Africa to Mozambique.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Unlike deep tectonic graben lakes (e.g., Lake Tanganyika, Lake Nyasa), Lake Victoria lies in a broad, shallow sag basin between the Eastern and Western Rifts and is not part of the structural rift valley itself.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the River Nile system is/are correct?

1. The Nile is the longest river in Africa and discharges into the Mediterranean Sea through a extensive delta in Egypt.
2. The White Nile originates from the Lake Victoria basin at Jinja, Uganda, and flows northward through South Sudan and Sudan.
3. The Blue Nile rises at Lake Tana in the Ethiopian Highlands and joins the White Nile at Khartoum, Sudan.

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:** The Nile stretches approximately **6,650 km** northward across northeastern Africa, forming a famous arcuate delta before emptying into the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The White Nile exits Lake Victoria at Jinja, Uganda (as the Victoria Nile), flowing through Lake Albert and the Sudd swamps into Sudan.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Blue Nile flows out of Lake Tana in the Ethiopian Highlands, supplying the majority of the Nile's water and silt load, and converges with the White Nile at Khartoum.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Congo River is/are correct?

1. The Congo River is the deepest recorded river in the world and crosses the Equator twice along its curved mainstem.
2. The Congo River is the longest river in the world, carrying a greater water discharge than the Amazon River.

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 Congo River reaches depths exceeding ^{220 m} in its lower stretches and forms a vast counterclockwise arc that crosses the Equator twice (once flowing north, once flowing south).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Congo is the second-longest river in Africa (after the Nile) and ranks second in global discharge volume (behind the Amazon River, which is the world's largest by discharge).

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the Zambezi River is/are correct?

1. The Zambezi River features Victoria Falls along the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe.
2. The Zambezi River flows westward across the continent and drains directly into the Atlantic Ocean near Luanda, Angola.

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:** Victoria Falls (Mosi-oa-Tunya), one of the world's largest waterfalls, is formed where the Zambezi plummets across the basalt border between Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Zambezi flows eastward across south-central Africa and is the largest African river discharging into the Indian Ocean (via Mozambique), not the Atlantic.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to rivers in Southern and Western Africa is/are correct?

1. The Limpopo River rises in South Africa and flows in an arc through Mozambique to empty into the Indian Ocean.
2. The Limpopo River crosses the Tropic of Capricorn twice during its course.
3. The River Niger originates in the high Ethiopian Highlands of East Africa and drains into the Red Sea near Eritrea.

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:** The Limpopo River rises in the Witwatersrand region of South Africa, forms international borders with Botswana and Zimbabwe, and cuts through Mozambique to enter the Indian Ocean.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Limpopo flows in a large northward arc, crossing the Tropic of Capricorn into southern Zimbabwe/Botswana and crossing back south through Mozambique.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The River Niger originates in the Guinea Highlands (West Africa near the Sierra Leone border) and flows in a crescent through Mali, Niger, and Nigeria before emptying into the Gulf of Guinea / Atlantic Ocean via the Niger Delta.

Africa-II

1. Which of the following represents the correct sequence of the West African export coasts when arranged from North to South?

- (a) Grain Coast — Ivory Coast — Gold Coast — Slave Coast
- (b) Gold Coast — Grain Coast — Slave Coast — Ivory Coast
- (c) Ivory Coast — Grain Coast — Slave Coast — Gold Coast
- (d) Slave Coast — Gold Coast — Ivory Coast — Grain Coast

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The correct north-to-south (and west-to-east along the coastal curve) order is **Grain Coast** → **Ivory Coast** → **Gold Coast** → **Slave Coast**. During the colonial era, the West African coastline along the Gulf of Guinea was categorized by European traders according to the primary commodities exported from each region:

- **Grain Coast (Most Northerly):** Coincides with modern Sierra Leone and Liberia (named after Malagueta pepper grains).
- **Ivory Coast:** Coincides with modern Côte d'Ivoire.
- **Gold Coast:** Coincides with modern Ghana.
- **Slave Coast (Most Southerly/Easterly):** Coincides with modern Togo, Benin, and western Nigeria (Bight of Benin).

2. Which of the following represents the correct geographical sequence of when arranged from North to South?

- (a) Seychelles — Mayotte — Mauritius — Réunion
- (b) Seychelles — Mauritius — Mayotte — Réunion
- (c) Mayotte — Seychelles — Réunion — Mauritius
- (d) Réunion — Mauritius — Mayotte — Seychelles

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- The correct north-to-south arrangement is **Seychelles** → **Mayotte** → **Mauritius** → **Réunion**.
- **Seychelles:** Equatorial island nation located furthest north.
- **Mayotte:** Overseas department of France in the northern Mozambique Channel.
- **Mauritius:** Island nation located east of Madagascar.
- **Réunion:** Overseas department of France located southwest of Mauritius.

3. Which of the following statements regarding islands and island nations along the East African coast are correct?

1. Mayotte is an overseas department and single territorial collectivity of France located in the Mozambique Channel.
2. Comoros is an island nation in the Indian Ocean and the only member state of the Arab League situated entirely in the Southern Hemisphere.
3. Zanzibar is an insular autonomous region operating within the sovereign jurisdiction of Tanzania.
4. Lamu Island functions as a strategic port city operating as an independent sovereign city-state in the Atlantic Ocean.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Mayotte is an insular department of France located at the northern end of the Mozambique Channel between Madagascar and mainland Africa.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Comoros joined the Arab League in 1993 and is uniquely the only Arab League member state located entirely in the Southern Hemisphere.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Zanzibar consists of the Zanzibar Archipelago (Unguja and Pemba) and joined Tanganyika in 1964 to form the United Republic of Tanzania, maintaining autonomous regional governance.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** This is a location and political status trap. Lamu Island is a historic Swahili settlement and port located off the northern coast of Kenya in the Indian Ocean, not an independent sovereign city-state in the Atlantic Ocean.

4. Which of the following statements regarding the groups of the African continent are correct?

1. The Canary Islands constitute a Spanish autonomous community situated on the African Tectonic Plate in the North Atlantic Ocean.
2. The Azores Archipelago is an autonomous region of Portugal consisting of nine volcanic islands in the North Atlantic Ocean.
3. Cape Verde is an independent sovereign island nation in the central Atlantic Ocean comprising ten volcanic islands.
4. The Madeira Islands form an autonomous region of Spain located directly inside the Mediterranean Sea.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Canary Islands are a Spanish archipelago lying just **100 km** west of Morocco/Western Sahara on the African Plate.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Azores are one of two autonomous regions of Portugal, situated along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) gained independence from Portugal in 1975 and is an island nation located **~ 570 km** off the coast of Senegal.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Madeira is an autonomous region of Portugal (not Spain) and is located in the North Atlantic Ocean (Macaronesia region), not inside the Mediterranean Sea.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Lake Victoria, Lake Tana, and Lake Tanganyika is/are correct?

1. Lake Victoria is Africa's largest lake by surface area and the world's second-largest freshwater lake, shared among Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania.

2. Lake Tana is the largest lake in Ethiopia, situated in the Amhara Region, and serves as the primary source of the Blue Nile.
3. Lake Tanganyika is the world's longest freshwater lake, shared among Tanzania, DRC, Burundi, and Zambia, and drains into the Congo River 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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Spanning $\sim 59,940 \text{ km}^2$, Lake Victoria is the largest lake in Africa, the world's largest tropical lake, and second only to Lake Superior among freshwater lakes by surface area. It is bordered by Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Lake Tana sits at an elevation of $\sim 1,788 \text{ m}$ in the Ethiopian Highlands and forms the primary hydrological source of the Blue Nile (Abbay River).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Lake Tanganyika is the world's longest freshwater lake ($\sim 673 \text{ km}$), second deepest (after Lake Baikal), shared by four countries, and empties west into the Lukuga River (tributary of the Congo River).

6. Which of the following statements regarding inland lakes of Central and East Africa are correct?

1. Lake Nayasa is the southernmost major lake of the East African Rift system, bounded by Malawi, Mozambique, and Tanzania.
2. Lake Albert lies along the Albertine Rift on the international border between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
3. Lake Chad is an endorheic lake located in Central Africa whose basin touches Nigeria, Niger, Chad, and Cameroon.
4. Lake Turkana, the world's largest permanent desert lake, is located entirely within the high mountainous terrain of central Algeria.

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:** Lake Malawi (Lake Niassa) occupies the southern terminus of the Western Rift Valley, surrounded by Malawi, Mozambique, and Tanzania.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Lake Albert (formerly Lake Mobutu Sese Seko) sits in the Albertine Rift on the Uganda-DRC border, fed by the Victoria Nile and draining into the White Nile.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Lake Chad sits in a vast internal drainage (endorheic) basin surrounded by four nations: Nigeria, Niger, Chad, and Cameroon.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Lake Turkana (Lake Rudolf) is located in the Kenyan Rift Valley in northern Kenya (with its northern tip extending into Ethiopia), not in Algeria.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the Sahara Desert is/are correct?

1. The Sahara is the largest hot desert in the world, spanning North Africa from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea.
2. Sub-regions and prominent massifs within the Sahara include the Ahaggar Mountains, Tibesti Mountains, and the Air Mountains.
3. The Sahara Desert is the largest desert on Earth, exceeding the total surface areas of the Antarctic and Arctic deserts combined.

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:** The Sahara covers approximately **9.2 million km²** across 11 North African nations, stretching from the Atlantic to the Red Sea.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Prominent volcanic and crystalline mountain massifs rise within the Sahara, including the Ahaggar (Algeria), Tibesti (Chad/Libya), and Air Mountains (Niger).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Sahara is the largest hot desert, but the third-largest desert overall on Earth, smaller than both the Antarctic Desert (**~ 14.2 million km²**) and the Arctic Desert (**~ 13.9 million km²**).

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Kalahari Basin and Okavango Delta is/are correct?

1. The Kalahari is a large semi-arid sandy basin in Southern Africa covering most of Botswana, as well as parts of Namibia and South Africa.
2. The Okavango Delta is an endorheic inland delta that drains into marshlands within the Kalahari Desert without discharging into any sea or ocean.

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 Kalahari Basin is a vast semi-arid savanna/sand plain covering **~ 900,000 km²**, centered primarily in eastern Botswana and reaching into Namibia and South Africa.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Okavango (Kavango) River flows southeast from Angola into northern Botswana, spreading out over the Kalahari sands to form the world's largest endorheic (inland) delta system, terminating in the desert.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the Namib and Nubian Deserts is/are correct?

1. The Namib Desert is an ancient coastal fog desert situated along the Atlantic coast of Southwestern Africa across Angola, Namibia, and South Africa.
2. The Nubian Desert is a hot eastern region of the Sahara Desert, located between the Nile River and the Red Sea

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 Namib is an extremely hyper-arid coastal desert extending over **2,000 km** along the Atlantic margin of Angola, Namibia, and South Africa, influenced by the cold Benguela Current.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Nubian Desert is a hot eastern region of the Sahara Desert, located between the Nile River and the Red Sea in northeastern Sudan and southern Egypt, not in Scandinavia.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the Suez Canal and the Velds of Southern Africa is/are correct?

1. The Suez Canal is an artificial sea-level waterway cutting across the Isthmus of Suez in Egypt to connect the Mediterranean Sea directly to the Red Sea.
2. The Velds represent open temperate and subtropical grassland landscapes distributed across Southern African nations including South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini, and Botswana.

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:** Constructed in 1869 across the Isthmus of Suez, the canal enables lock-free maritime navigation between the North Atlantic/Mediterranean and the Red Sea/Indian Ocean, physically dividing the African continent from the Sinai Peninsula (Asia).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The term Veld refers to the broad, open grassland plateaus of Southern Africa (categorized into Highveld, Middleveld, and Lowveld based on elevation and climate) across South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, and Botswana.

Europe

1. Which of the following statements regarding the political and geographic groupings of Northern Europe are correct?

1. The Scandinavian countries strictly comprise Denmark, Norway, and Sweden based on linguistic and historical ties.
2. The Baltic States consist of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania along the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea.

3. Great Britain is a geographical term comprising England, Scotland, and Wales.
4. The United Kingdom is a political entity comprising Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Culturally and linguistically, Scandinavia strictly comprises Norway, Sweden, and Denmark (Nordic countries broader definition includes Finland and Iceland).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Baltic States form a distinct geopolitical group comprising Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Great Britain is the main island comprising England, Scotland, and Wales.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The United Kingdom comprises Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland is an independent sovereign state.

2. Which of the following statements regarding the mountain ranges of Europe are correct?

1. The Scandinavian Mountains extend across Norway, Sweden, and northern Finland.
2. The Baltic Shield forms the ancient geological basement of Northern Europe.
3. Galdhøpiggen in Norway is the highest peak in mainland Northern Europe.
4. The Alps form an extensive mountain system situated within the borders of Switzerland and Austria.

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 Scandinavian Mountains run through the Scandinavian Peninsula across Norway, Sweden, and parts of Finland.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Fenno-Scandian (Baltic) Shield is an ancient Precambrian segment of continental crust under Segment Northern Europe.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Galdhøpiggen (^{2,469 m}) in southern Norway is the highest elevation in mainland Northern Europe.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Alps spread across eight countries: France, Switzerland, Italy, Monaco, Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany, and Slovenia.

3. Which of the following statements regarding European mountain ranges are correct?

1. The Pyrenees form a continuous natural barrier straddling the border between France and Spain, enclosing the microstate of Andorra.
2. Mount Aneto is the highest peak of the Pyrenees range.
3. The Carpathian Mountains form second longest mountain range in Europe, surpassing the Ural Mountains in total length.
4. Mount Elbrus, the highest peak in Europe, is located in the Caucasus range along the Atlantic coast.

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: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Pyrenees separate the Iberian Peninsula from the rest of continental Europe, with Andorra situated in the range.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Pico Aneto ($3,404\text{ m}$) in Aragon, Spain, is the highest summit of the Pyrenees.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Urals are the longest European range ($\sim 2,500\text{ km}$), followed by the Scandinavian Mountains ($\sim 1,700\text{ km}$). The Carpathians rank third ($\sim 1,500\text{ km}$).
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Mount Elbrus ($5,642\text{ m}$) is located in the Caucasus Mountains (Russia).

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the Dinaric Alps and Apennine Mountains is/are correct?

1. The Dinaric Alps separate the Balkan Peninsula from the Adriatic Sea, extending from Slovenia to Albania.
2. The Apennine Mountains form the central spine running along the length of peninsular Italy.
3. The Dinaric Alps lie within the island of Sicily in the western Mediterranean Sea.

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:** The Dinaric Alps run along the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea through Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo, and Albania.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Apennines extend down the entire length of peninsular Italy from north to south.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Dinaric Alps are located on the Balkan mainland.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Balkan mountains is/are correct?

1. Balkan Mountains form a mountain chain located in the eastern Balkan Peninsula, primarily in Bulgaria and Serbia.
2. Alps, Dinaric Alps, and Pindus Mountains represent ancient eroded Block Mountains formed during the Precambrian Eon.

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 Balkan Mountain range extends across Bulgaria into eastern Serbia.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Alps, Dinaric Alps, and Pindus Mountains are Young Fold Mountains formed during the Cenozoic Alpine Orogeny.

Question 6: Major Northern and Western Peninsulas of Europe (3 Statements: All Correct)

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the Northern and Western Peninsulas of Europe is/are correct?

1. Scandinavian Peninsula is the largest peninsula in Europe, occupied by Norway, Sweden, and northern Finland.
2. Jutland Peninsula forms mainland Denmark and extends south into northern Germany, dividing the North Sea from the Baltic Sea.
3. The Iberian Peninsula is situated in southwestern Europe and is shared by Spain, Portugal, Andorra, and Gibraltar.

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:** The Scandinavian Peninsula covers $\sim 750,000 \text{ km}^2$, making it the largest in Europe.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Jutland projects northwards, separating the North Sea to the west from the Baltic Sea system to the east.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Iberian Peninsula is home to Spain, Portugal, Andorra, and the British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to Southern European peninsulas is/are correct?

1. The Apennine Peninsula extends into the central Mediterranean Sea, containing Italy, San Marino, and Vatican City.
2. The Balkan Peninsula is a landmass bounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the west and the North Sea to the north.

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 Apennine (Italian) Peninsula hosts Italy and encloses the microstates of San Marino and Vatican City.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Balkan Peninsula is bounded by the Adriatic Sea, Ionian Sea, Aegean Sea, and Black Sea in southeastern Europe.

8. Which of the following statements regarding the major river systems of Europe are correct?

1. The Danube is the second-longest river in Europe, originating in the Black Forest of Germany and draining into the Black Sea.
2. The Danube River flows through or forms borders for ten European nations.
3. The Rhine River originates in the Swiss Alps and flows northward into the North Sea.
4. The Rhine drainage basin serves as an international industrial waterway touching Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany, France, and the Netherlands.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Danube (~ 2,850 km) is second to the Volga (~ 3,530 km) and empties via the Danube Delta into the Black Sea.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Danube touches 10 countries: Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, and Ukraine.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Rhine flows out of Lake Constance/Swiss Alps through Western Europe into the North Sea at Rotterdam.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The Rhine is a major commercial artery passing through six nations before reaching its delta.

9. Which of the following statements regarding Western European hydrology and the Baltic Sea are correct?

1. Rhone River rises in the Swiss Alps, flows through Lake Geneva, and discharges into the Mediterranean Sea.
2. Baltic Sea is an arm of the Atlantic Ocean connected via the Danish Straits.
3. Major sub-gulfs of the Baltic Sea include the Gulf of Bothnia, the Gulf of Finland, and the Gulf of Riga.
4. The Baltic Sea is a landlocked saline lake located entirely inside the Russian landmass with no connection to global ocean waters.

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 Rhone flows west out of the Rhône Glacier into Lake Geneva, then south through France into the Gulf of Lion (Mediterranean).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Baltic Sea is a brackish marginal sea of the Atlantic Ocean, connected through the Kattegat and Skagerrak straits.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The primary arms of the Baltic Sea are the Gulf of Bothnia (north), Gulf of Finland (east), and Gulf of Riga (east).

- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Baltic Sea is surrounded by nine countries (Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany) and connects directly to the ocean.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the Gulf of Lion and Bay of Biscay is/are correct?

1. The Gulf of Lion is a wide coastal embayment of the Mediterranean Sea along the southern coast of France.
2. The Bay of Biscay is a gulf of the northeast Atlantic Ocean situated south of the Celtic Sea, bounded by western France and northern Spain.

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 Gulf of Lion extends along the Mediterranean coast of southern France from the Spanish border to the Rhône Delta.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Bay of Biscay lies along the western coast of France and northern coast of Spain in the North Atlantic.

Russia

1. Which of the following statements regarding the geographical boundaries of Russia are correct?

1. Russia shares direct land borders with European nations including Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Belarus, and Ukraine.
2. Russia maintains a land border with Poland via the Kaliningrad Oblast exclave.
3. Russia shares land borders with Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia, and North Korea along its southern boundary.
4. Russia have direct maritime access points in the North Sea along with other channels.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Russia shares land borders with Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia, and Azerbaijan on its western/southwestern side.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Kaliningrad Oblast is a Russian exclave bordered by Poland to the south and Lithuania to the north and east.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Russia's southern land border is shared with Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia, and North Korea.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Russia does not have direct maritime access points in the North Sea proper; instead, its primary strategic gateway to northern European and Atlantic waters is through Murmansk on the Kola Peninsula along the Barents Sea, which connects westward via the Norwegian Sea.



2. Which of the following statements regarding the major hydrological features of Russia are correct?

1. The Volga River is the longest river in Europe and discharges into the landlocked Caspian Sea.
2. Siberian rivers such as the Ob, Yenisey, and Lena flow northwards to discharge into the Arctic Ocean.
3. The Amur River flows eastward, forming a major natural boundary between Russia and China.
4. Lake Baikal is a shallow, artificial reservoir constructed along the Volga basin for hydroelectric production.

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 Volga River (~ 3,530 km) is Europe's longest river and flows into the endorheic Caspian Sea basin.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The major rivers of Western, Central, and Eastern Siberia (Ob, Yenisey, Lena) flow north into the Arctic Ocean.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Amur River forms a significant portion of the international boundary between Russian the Far East and Northeastern China (Heilongjiang).
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Lake Baikal is a naturally formed rift lake, the deepest (1,642 m) and largest freshwater lake by volume in the world, not an artificial reservoir.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the natural vegetation zones of Russia is/are correct?

1. The Tundra biome forms a treeless, permanently frozen zone along the northern Arctic coast.
2. The Taiga represents a continuous belt of boreal coniferous forest covering major portions of Siberia.

3. The Steppe zone consists of temperate grasslands located primarily in the southern transition zone near the Black and Caspian Seas.

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:** The tundra is characterized by permafrost, low-growing vegetation, and treeless plains along the Arctic rim.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Taiga (boreal forest) is the world's largest land biome dominated by pines, spruces, and larches across Siberia.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Russian Steppe forms the temperate grassland region stretching across southwestern Russia, north of the Black Sea and Caspian Sea.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to Russian rivers is/are correct?

- 1. The Volga River is Europe's largest river in terms of total volume discharge and drainage basin area.
- 2. The Ob River system lies in Western Siberia and flows northward into the Gulf of Ob in the Kara Sea.
- 3. The Indigirka River flows entirely within Western Europe and empties directly into the Mediterranean Sea.

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:** The Volga River basin covers over 1.3 million km² and carries the largest discharge of any European river.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Ob River is a primary river of Western Siberia, terminating in the Kara Sea (Arctic Ocean).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Indigirka River is located in the Russian Far East (Yakutia) and drains into the East Siberian Sea (Arctic Ocean), not Western Europe or the Mediterranean.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Siberian river systems is/are correct?

- 1. The Yenisey River system constitutes the largest river system by discharge draining into the Arctic Ocean.
- 2. The Lena River is the second-shortest river in Asia and flows entirely within the European part of Russia.

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 Yenisey River system discharges $\sim 19,800 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$ into the Kara Sea (Arctic Ocean), making it the largest Arctic-draining river system.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Lena River ($\sim 4,294 \text{ km}$) is the 11th-longest river in the world and the longest river located entirely within Russia (flowing through Eastern Siberia, not European Russia).

6. Which of the following statements with regard to Lake Baikal is/are correct?

1. Lake Baikal is a rift lake containing roughly 22% to 23% of the world's fresh surface water.
2. Lake Baikal is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is the world's deepest lake.
3. Lake Baikal drains into the Angara River, which is a major tributary of the Yenisey River 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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Lake Baikal holds $\sim 23,600 \text{ km}^3$ of water, more than all five North American Great Lakes combined.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is both the world's deepest lake and oldest lake ($25\text{--}30 \text{ million years}$), designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Angara River is the sole outflow of Lake Baikal, which eventually joins the Yenisey River.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to Lake Ladoga and Lake Onega is/are correct?

1. Lake Ladoga is the largest lake located entirely in Europe.
2. Lake Onega belongs to the Baltic Sea basin and is the second-largest lake in Europe.
3. Lake Ladoga is situated in the high altitude region of the Vladivostok.

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:** Lake Ladoga ($\sim 17,700 \text{ km}^2$), located near Saint Petersburg, is the largest lake in Europe.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Lake Onega ($\sim 9,700 \text{ km}^2$) lies in northwestern Russia within the Baltic Sea drainage area and is Europe's second-largest lake.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Lake Ladoga is located in northwestern European Russia (Republic of Karelia/Leningrad Oblast).

8. Which of the following statements with regard to mountain ranges in Russia is/are correct?

1. The Ural Mountains form a boundary between Europe and Asia, with Mount Narodnaya as their highest peak.
2. Mount Elbrus is situated in the Caucasus Mountains and represents the highest peak in Russia and Europe.

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 Ural Mountains extend north-south across Russia to the Arctic Ocean; Mount Narodnaya (1,895 m) is its highest summit.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Mount Elbrus (5,642 m) is a dormant volcano in the Western Caucasus in Russia, serving as the highest point in both Russia and the European continent.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to Russian peninsulas is/are correct?

1. The Kamchatka Peninsula lies in the Russian Far East, bounded by the Sea of Okhotsk to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the east.
2. The Kanin Peninsula is located in the Black Sea, completely surrounded by the Mediterranean waters of Southern Europe.

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:** Kamchatka is a volcanic peninsula extending between the Sea of Okhotsk and the North Pacific Ocean.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Kanin Peninsula is located in northwestern Arctic Russia (Nenets Autonomous Okrug), bounded by the White Sea to the west and the Barents Sea to the north/east.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the Yamal and Taymyr Peninsulas is/are correct?

1. Yamal Peninsula extends into the Kara Sea.
2. Taymyr Peninsula forms the northernmost mainland of Eurasia.

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:

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- **Statement 1 is correct:** Yamal projects into the Kara Sea in northwestern Siberia, flanked by the Gulf of Ob and Baydaratskaya Bay.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Taymyr lies in northern Siberia between the Kara Sea (west) and Laptev Sea (east), containing Cape Chelyuskin—the northernmost point of mainland Eurasia.

