

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

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HISTORY
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Historical Events/Government Initiatives in News

1. With reference to tribal resistance movements in British India, consider the following statements regarding the Serengsia Battle of 1837:

1. It was an armed military resistance led by the Ho Adivasi community against the expansion of the East India Company.
2. The conflict took place in the Serengsia valley located within the Kolhan region of present-day Jharkhand.
3. The military operations of the Ho fighters were organized under the leadership of Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu.
4. Following the suppression of the battle, major leaders including Poto Ho and Berai Ho were publicly executed by the British.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Serengsia battle (1837) was a direct, organized armed conflict where the indigenous Ho Adivasis fought against the encroachment and taxation policies of the British East India Company.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The battle took place in the narrow Serengsia valley, situated in the West Singhbhum district of the Kolhan division in modern-day Jharkhand.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The principal leader of this specific Ho resistance was Poto Ho (along with Berai Ho, Nara Ho, and Pandua Ho). Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu were the historic leaders of the Santhal Rebellion of 1855, not the Serengsia Battle of 1837.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** By December 1837, the British forces captured the primary leaders. Poto Ho, Berai Ho, and Nara Ho were publicly hanged at Jagannathpur on January 1, 1838, to terrify the local population.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Royal Indian Navy (RIN) Revolt of 1946:

1. The uprising initiated as a hunger strike on February 18, 1946, at the shore establishment HMIS Talwar in Bombay.
2. The mutiny remained limited and isolated to ships stationed in Bombay.
3. A Naval Central Strike Committee was elected by the ratings to coordinate actions and present political demands.
4. The revolt concluded on February 23, 1946, following the intervention and advice of national political leaders.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The revolt began on February 18, 1946, on HMIS Talwar when naval ratings went on a hunger strike protesting against racial discrimination, low pay, and unpalatable food.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The mutiny spread rapidly beyond Bombay, encompassing 78 ships and 20 shore establishments across Karachi, Madras, Calcutta, Vishakhapatnam, and the Andaman Islands, involving nearly 20,000 ratings.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** To manage the strike and negotiate efficiently, the ratings formed the Naval Central Strike Committee, led by M. S. Khan and Madan Singh.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** On February 23, 1946, after receiving assurances and critical interventions from leaders like Vallabhbhai Patel and Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the striking naval ratings formally surrendered.

3. With reference to the imperial Chola dynasty, consider the following statements regarding Emperor Rajendra Chola I:

1. He assumed the title Gangaikondachola following his successful military campaign against the Pala dynasty of Bengal.
2. He launched a historic naval expedition in 1025 CE that defeated the Srivijaya Empire, securing control over the strategic Malacca Strait.
3. He stopped the maritime expansion policies of his father, Rajaraja Chola I, to focus on land conquests in South India.

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:** To commemorate his military march to the banks of the Ganges and his victory over Mahipala I of the Pala dynasty, Rajendra Chola I took the title Gangaikondachola and built the new capital city, Gangaikonda Cholapuram.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In 1025 CE, Rajendra Chola I sent a formidable naval fleet across the Bay of Bengal to defeat the maritime empire of Srivijaya (Indonesia/Malaysia), ensuring unhindered trade routes through the Strait of Malacca for Chola merchants.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Rather than abandoning his father's policies, Rajendra Chola I significantly expanded upon the maritime blueprint laid down by Rajaraja Chola I, elevating the Chola navy to a dominant superpower in Southeast Asia.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the Buddhist monasteries in Arunachal Pradesh is/are correct?

1. The Tawang Monastery is the largest monastery in India and houses a massive gilded Buddha statue.
2. The Urgelling Monastery, dating back to the 15th century, is historically celebrated as the birthplace of the 6th Dalai Lama.

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Tawang Monastery, situated at an altitude of approximately 10,000 feet in Arunachal Pradesh, is the largest Buddhist monastery in India (and the second-largest in the world after the Potala Palace in Lhasa). It features a prominent 18-foot gilded image of the Buddha.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Located close to Tawang town, the ancient Urgelling Monastery is famous in Tibetan Buddhism as the birthplace of Tsangyang Gyatso, the 6th Dalai Lama, born there in 1683.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Gyan Bharatam Mission is/are correct?

1. It is a national initiative launched under the Ministry of Education to digitize manuscripts across India.
2. The mission is operationally anchored by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Gyan Bharatam Mission is a revamped national initiative dedicated to identifying, conserving, cataloging, and digitizing India's vast manuscript wealth (rare historical texts). It operates under the Ministry of Culture.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The mission is anchored by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), targeting the preservation of over one crore manuscripts spread across museums, academic bodies, and private collections.

6. With reference to the Gyan Bharatam Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It was announced in the Union Budget 2025–26 under the administrative purview of the Ministry of Culture.
2. It aims to survey, catalogue, and preserve over one crore manuscripts from both public institutions and private collectors.
3. Aims to promote Sanskrit and Indian classical knowledge systems.

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:** The mission is a major cultural conservation scheme funded by the central government, formally introduced in the Union Budget 2025–26.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The main objective of the mission is to systematically document, restore, and digitize more than 10 million rare manuscripts to prevent the loss of India's classical knowledge systems.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Aims to promote Sanskrit and Indian classical knowledge systems. Linked with institutions like CIIL, IIT Bombay, Samskriti Foundation.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the Santhali Language is/are correct?

1. It belongs to the Munda branch of the Austroasiatic language family, making it structurally distinct from Indo-European languages.
2. It was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution through the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003.

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Unlike the surrounding Indo-Aryan or Dravidian languages, Santhali is classified under the Austroasiatic language family (specifically the Munda sub-branch), sharing features with languages like Ho and Mundari.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Santhali obtained official constitutional recognition when it was integrated into the Eighth Schedule alongside Bodo, Dogri, and Maithili by the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 2003. It utilizes its own phonetic script, Ol Chiki, created by Pandit Raghunath Murmu in 1925.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Dogri Language is/are correct?

1. It is a Indo-Austro language spoken predominantly by the tribal populations of the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir.
2. It is one of the 22 scheduled languages of India and was designated as an official language of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in 2020.

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Dogri is an Indo-Aryan language. It is spoken predominantly in the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as parts of Himachal Pradesh and northern Punjab.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Dogri was added to the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution in 2003. Furthermore, the Parliament passed the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Act in 2020, establishing Dogri (along with Kashmiri, Hindi, Urdu, and English) as an official language of the UT.

9. With reference to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) framework, consider the following statements:

1. The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was adopted by UNESCO in 2003, and India ratified it in 2005.
2. To qualify for the Representative List, a cultural practice must be derived entirely from material archaeological monuments rather than living community traditions.
3. The ICH framework recognizes five distinct domains, including oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, and traditional craftsmanship.

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: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** UNESCO finalized the global ICH safeguarding convention in 2003, which officially entered into force in 2006. India became one of the early state parties by ratifying the treaty in 2005.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Tangible heritage covers physical monuments, archeological ruins, and artifacts. In contrast, Intangible Heritage focuses entirely on living cultural expressions, oral histories, rituals, and knowledge systems that are actively maintained and transmitted by human communities.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The UNESCO operational guidelines organize ICH into five broad domains: (i) Oral traditions and expressions; (ii) Performing arts; (iii) Social practices, rituals and festive events; (iv) Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; (v) Traditional craftsmanship.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the State Emblem of India is/are correct?

1. It is an adaptation of the ancient Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath and was officially adopted on January 26, 1950.
2. The national motto inscribed below the abacus, Satyameva Jayate, is rendered in the Kharosthi script.

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The State Emblem of India is a graphic modification of the 3rd-century BCE stone monolithic capital carved under Emperor Ashoka at Sarnath. It was adopted as India's official seal on January 26, 1950, when the Constitution came into effect.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The motto Satyameva Jayate (Truth Alone Triumphs), which is taken from the Mundaka Upanishad, is written underneath the circular abacus in the Devanagari script.

Miscellaneous News

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the Arul Mihi Navasakthi Vinayagar Temple is/are correct?

1. It is located in Victoria, the capital of Seychelles, and stands as the only Hindu temple in the country.
2. The temple architecture is constructed in the traditional North Indian Nagara style, featuring a white limestone shikhara.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Arul Mihi Navasakthi Vinayagar Temple was built in 1992 in Victoria, the capital of Seychelles. It is the only Hindu temple in the island nation, serving a Hindu community that accounts for about 2% of the population.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The temple does not follow the North Indian Nagara style. It is designed in the vibrant and intricate South Indian Dravidian architectural style, resembling the temples of Tamil Nadu. Its most defining feature is a colorful 100-foot *gopuram* (entrance tower).

2. Which of the following statements with regard to Thewa Art is/are correct?

1. It is a traditional decorative craft that involves the precise fusion of hand-carved sheets of pure gold onto vibrant, specially treated molten glass.
2. The craft is exclusively practiced and preserved in the Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan and holds a Geographical Indication status.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Thewa art is a highly specialized jewelry-making technique where extremely thin, intricately patterned sheets of pure gold are fused onto colored molten glass sheets, creating a brilliant, glowing visual effect.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** This centuries-old luxury craft is completely localized to the Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan. To protect its unique heritage and prevent counterfeits, it was officially granted a Geographical Indication (GI) status in 2013–2014.

3. With reference to Indian rock-cut heritage, consider the following statements regarding the Masroor Rock-Cut Temples:

1. This 8th-century monolithic temple complex is located in the Kangra Valley of Himachal Pradesh and exhibits the North Indian Nagara architecture style.
2. Unlike the vast majority of traditional Hindu temples that face eastward, the main shrine faces northeast toward the Dhauladhar mountains.
3. The complex features an layout where smaller shrines are arranged in a circular Dravidian-style open *mandapam* plan.

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)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Masroor Rock-Cut Temples are a 1,200-year-old complex in Himachal Pradesh carved out of a single monolithic rock. Due to its structural form, it is often called the "Ellora of Himachal" and represents the early Nagara style with elements showing Gupta influences.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The complex possesses a unique geographic alignment. Instead of facing the standard eastern direction, it is oriented directly toward the northeast, facing the Dhauladhar mountain range.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The temple plan does not utilize a Dravidian mandapam layout. It is laid out on a symmetrically arranged square grid, where the primary central temple is surrounded by smaller shrines following a strict mandala pattern.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the traditional Kalamkari painting tradition:

1. It is a heritage form of hand-painted or block-printed cotton textiles produced in Andhra Pradesh using purely organic dyes.
2. Srikalahasti Kalamkari relies heavily on wood-block printing techniques to create geometric patterns under Persian artistic influence.
3. Machilipatnam Kalamkari is characterized by freehand drawings made with a bamboo stick pen, focusing on Hindu temple iconography.

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: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kalamkari is a widely celebrated textile art form from Andhra Pradesh. It uses natural dyes derived from roots, seeds, leaves, and minerals, processed through complex steps involving treatment with buffalo milk and astringents.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** This describes the Machilipatnam style. The Srikalahasti style is the one executed entirely by hand using a *kalam* (pen) to depict Hindu mythological narratives and deities.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** This describes the Srikalahasti style. The Machilipatnam style (or Pedana Kalamkari) utilizes hand-carved wooden blocks to stamp intricate floral and geometric layouts, which were historically influenced by Persian motifs due to the patronage of the Golconda Sultanate.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the features and history of the Virupaksha Temple at Hampi:

1. It is situated on the southern bank of the Tungabhadra River within Karnataka and is part of a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site.
2. The temple has remained continuously operational without interruption since its establishment around the 7th century AD.
3. The main architectural complex was built during the Bijapur dynasty period to serve as an administrative repository.
4. The temple architecture incorporates advanced optical engineering, projecting an inverted pinhole camera image of its main tower onto an inner wall.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Virupaksha (or Pampapathi) temple is located at Hampi, Karnataka, along the banks of the Tungabhadra River. It is a key element of the 'Group of Monuments at Hampi', inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is celebrated as one of the oldest functioning temple complexes in India, keeping its sacred sanctuary operational since its modest 7th-century origin.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It was systematically expanded across centuries by pre-colonial dynasties, including the Chalukyas, Hoysalas, and notably the Vijayanagara Empire under rulers like Deva Raya II and Krishnadevaraya.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The building displays early mastery of physical concepts. Light passing through a small slit in the structural masonry acts as a natural pinhole camera, casting an inverted shadow image of the massive eastern gopuram onto an internal wall.

6. With reference to the cultural and religious geography of Karnataka, consider the following statements regarding the Kukke Subrahmanya Temple:

1. It is located in the Dakshina Kannada district, situated at the foothills of Kumara Parvatha along the banks of the Kumaradhara River.
2. The temple serves as one of the country's premier centers for *Sarpa* (serpent) worship, where Lord Subrahmanya is revered as the lord of serpents.
3. The temple complex is built in the North Indian Panchayatana architectural style, featuring flat-roofed stone structures.

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)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Kukke Subrahmanya Temple is located in a dense forest pocket of the Western Ghats in coastal Karnataka, positioned beneath the Kumara Parvatha peak near the Kumaradhara River.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is an important center for serpent rituals (*Nagaradhana*). According to legend, Lord Subrahmanya offered refuge to the divine serpent Vasuki here, making it a prominent spot for *Sarpa Samskara* ceremonies.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The temple does not feature a flat-roofed North Indian Panchayatana style. It is designed in the traditional Dravidian architectural style, characterized by intricate columns, tall gateways (*gopurams*), and pillared courtyard corridors.

7. With reference to the temple festivals of Southern India, consider the following statements regarding Thrissur Pooram:

1. It is celebrated annually at the Thekkinkadu Maidanam surrounding the ancient Vadakkunnathan Temple in Kerala.
2. The modern format of the festival was envisioned and institutionalized by Sakthan Thampuran, the Maharaja of Cochin, in the late 18th century.
3. The festival rituals are unique for their exclusion of percussive music, relying solely on silent meditation.

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)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Thrissur Pooram is held every year in the Malayalam month of Medam (April-May) at the sprawling grounds of the historic Vadakkunnathan Temple in Thrissur city.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Often called the "Mother of all Poorams," it was organized over 200 years ago by Raja Rama Varma (Sakthan Thampuran), the Maharaja of Cochin, to unite ten local temples in a friendly, structured competition.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Percussion and instrumental music are central to the festival. It is famous for its vibrant musical ensembles, such as the Ilanjithara Melam and Panchavadyam, where hundreds of traditional instrumentalists play alongside a line of adorned elephants.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Aoleang Festival is/are correct?

1. It is the premier spring and pre-harvest festival celebrated annually by the Konyak Naga tribe to mark the arrival of the tribal New Year.
2. The festival is celebrated across Nagaland during the first week of December to mark the end of winter harvesting activities.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Aoleang (or Aoleang Monyu) is the most important cultural festival of the Konyak community. It welcomes spring and the tribal New Year right after the community completes its jhum sowing activities, serving to preserve their heritage and ancestral customs.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The festival does not take place in December. It is celebrated annually in the first week of April (1st–6th), lining up with the spring planting cycle rather than the winter harvest.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the Padma Doree initiative is/are correct?

1. It is a cross-regional textile project that blends the Eri silk of Northeast India with the Chanderi weaving traditions of Madhya Pradesh.
2. The initiative is launched and implemented by Ministry of Culture.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Padma Doree is a unique textile project that combines two distinct Indian heritage crafts: the warm, sustainably harvested Eri (Ahimsa) silk from the Northeast and the delicate, sheer woven textures of Chanderi from Madhya Pradesh.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It was developed and implemented by the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC) to support local artisans by introducing traditional regional textiles to the luxury contemporary market.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to Ru-Soam Bridges is/are correct?

1. They are indigenous cane and bamboo suspension bridges built by the Lepcha community within the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve of Sikkim.
2. The bridges can be 100 metres long, and two or three people can cross them at a time.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In the Lepcha language, 'Ru' means cane/rattan and 'Soam' means a bridge. These suspension structures are built by the Lepcha community in Sikkim using local bamboo, wood, and rattan vines, showcasing an eco-friendly approach to building infrastructure.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** These bridges do not use any modern industrial elements like steel cables or concrete blocks. Instead, they are made entirely from natural materials, using parallel rattan ropes (*soamgyang*) tied securely to sturdy trees on opposite riverbanks to support a split-bamboo walking deck. The bridges can be 100 metres long, and two or three people can cross them at a time. This engineering practice reflects a sophisticated understanding of ecological balance and structural resilience.

Miscellaneous News-II

1. With reference to the Buddhist heritage site of Lalitagiri in Odisha, consider the following statements:

1. It is situated on the Nandapahad hillock within the Assia hill range and the Birupa river valley.
2. Archaeological excavations here revealed a massive Theravada stupa containing khondalite relic caskets.
3. Inscribed terracotta sealings deciphered from the site indicate its historic name as Madhavapura Mahavihara.

Which of the statements given above 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:** Lalitagiri is one of the foundational sites of Odisha's Diamond Triangle (along with Udayagiri and Ratnagiri). It is positioned precisely on the Nandapahad hill within the Assia range.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** A defining feature of Lalitagiri is its large structural stupa built during the early Theravada phase. Excavations yielded sacred khondalite stone caskets that preserved inner containers made of steatite, silver, and gold.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** This is a conceptual trap. An inscribed sealing from Lalitagiri identifies it as the Sri Chandraditya Vihara. The institutional name Madhavapura Mahavihara is specifically associated with the nearby site of Udayagiri, not Lalitagiri.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the Udayagiri Buddhist site in Jajpur is/are correct?

1. It features the Simhaprastha Mahavihara, which is a double-storied brick monastic complex.
2. Unlike Lalitagiri, it shows absolutely no architectural remains of a structural chaityagriha.

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Udayagiri houses significant monastic remains. The Simhaprastha Mahavihara is notable for being a well-preserved, double-storied brick structure complete with an upper shrine chamber.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Udayagiri does indeed possess the remains of a significant chaityagriha (assembly hall). This structure is archaeologically important because it shows evolutionary phases, transitioning from circular to apsidal and finally to rectangular plans.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the Ratnagiri Buddhist site in Odisha is/are correct?

1. It flourished between the 4th and 12th centuries CE and experienced its peak development under the Bhaumakara dynasty.
2. A copper plate inscription recording the residence of Queen Karpurashri provides clear evidence of historical female patronage at the site.

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ratnagiri (Hill of Jewels) is renowned as a prominent epicenter for the Mahayana and later Vajrayana schools. It reached its zenith between the 8th and 10th centuries CE under the active patronage of the Bhaumakara dynasty.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ratnagiri provides tangible proof of royal female involvement in its affairs. A specific copper plate inscription records that Queen Karpurashri of the Bhaumakara line chose this monastery as her residence, confirming high-status female patronage.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the historic Mahad Satyagraha:

1. It was launched in 1927 under the leadership of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to claim the rights of Dalits to collect water from the public Chawdar Tank.

2. The non-violent public protest was operationally organized by the Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha.
3. The second phase of the satyagraha was immediately called off because Mahatma Gandhi publicly opposed the movement in his journal Young India.
4. A legal decree by the Bombay High Court in 1937 ultimately affirmed that the Chawdar Tank was public property.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The 1927 Mahad Satyagraha was a watershed moment in the Indian social reform movement. Dr. Ambedkar led a peaceful march to exercise the right to access water from the publicly funded Chawdar Tank in Mahad, Maharashtra.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The logistical organization of this protest was managed by the Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha, an organization founded by Dr. Ambedkar in 1924 to champion the rights of marginalized classes.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The second march planned for December 1927 was not stopped by Gandhi. It was postponed by Dr. Ambedkar himself out of respect for a temporary court injunction obtained by caste Hindus claiming the tank was private property. Gandhi actually supported the satyagraha in his writings.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** This is a pivotal legal fact. Ten years after the event, on March 17, 1937, the Bombay High Court delivered a landmark ruling in favor of the Depressed Classes, formally declaring the Chawdar Tank open to all as public property.

5. With reference to the medieval Suryavamsi Gajapati Dynasty of Odisha, consider the following statements:

1. The dynasty was established by Kapilendradeva by overthrowing the final ruler of the Eastern Ganga dynasty.
2. The administrative apparatus included a ministerial council featuring positions like Sandhivigrahi and Pariksha.

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In 1435 CE, Kapilendradeva, a charismatic leader, overthrew Bhanu Deva IV, the last king of the weakened Eastern Ganga dynasty. He established a powerful new empire with Cuttack as its capital and adopted the Suryavamsi (Solar) title for legitimacy.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Historical records indicate that the Gajapati rulers maintained a highly specialized council of ministers (Amatyas) for imperial administration. Notable positions included the Sandhivigrahi (handling foreign affairs, war, and peace) and the Pariksha (managing the state treasury and accounts).

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the ancient ruler Samrat Samprati is/are correct?

1. He was a Mauryan emperor who succeeded to the throne as the grandson of Ashoka.
2. Historical accounts describe him as a staunch patron who actively worked to spread Buddhism across Southeast Asia.

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Samrat Samprati (3rd century BCE) was a significant ruler of the later Mauryan period. He was the son of Kunal and the grandson of the great Emperor Ashoka.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** This is a critical religious identity trap. While his grandfather spread Buddhism, Samrat Samprati is celebrated in history and legend as the Jain Ashoka. He played a pivotal role in promoting Jainism and its core principle of ahimsa (non-violence) by building and repairing thousands of Jain temples throughout his empire.

7. With reference to the life and contributions of Raja Ravi Varma, consider the following statements:

1. He belonged to the royal family of Travancore in modern-day Kerala.
2. Founded the Ravi Varma Fine Art Lithographic Press in Bombay in 1894 to mass-produce his artwork.
3. Formally granted the title of Raja through the award of the Kaisar-i-Hind Gold Medal by Lord Lytton in 1877.

Which of the statements given above 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:** He was born into the Kilimanoor royal lineage in Travancore, Kerala, and is considered the father of modern Indian art for pioneering the fusion of Indian imagery with Western oil painting techniques.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** He established this press in Bombay in 1894. This innovative step allowed for the mass production of affordable lithographs of his paintings, making his depictions of Indian mythological figures popular across diverse social classes.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While he was always addressed as Raja due to his royal connections, the title was formally and officially recognized by the British administration only in 1904. It was Lord Curzon who bestowed the Kaisar-i-Hind Gold Medal on him in that year, and the accompanying citation officially used the title Raja for the first time. Lord Lytton's 1877 Delhi Durbar had no connection to this specific honor.

8. With reference to Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, consider the following statements:

1. Organized and led the Vedaranyam March in 1930 to protest against the colonial salt tax laws.

2. Formulated the C.R. Formula to find a solution to the political deadlock between the Congress and the Muslim League.
3. Following India's independence, he served as the final Governor-General of India from 1948 to 1950.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In response to Mahatma Gandhi's call for Civil Disobedience, C. Rajagopalachari (popularly known as Rajaji) replicated the Salt Satyagraha in Tamil Nadu. He led the historic Vedaranyam Salt March in April 1930 to break the restrictive British salt laws.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In 1944, he proposed the C.R. Formula as a mechanism to break the pre-Partition political deadlock between the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League over the demand for Pakistan.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** After India became free, Rajaji succeeded Lord Mountbatten to become the first (and only) Indian Governor-General of independent India, serving from 1948 until the country declared itself a Republic on January 26, 1950. All three statements are accurate.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the cultural significance of Amaravati is/are correct?

1. It served as an ancient imperial capital city for the Satavahana dynasty around the 3rd century BCE.
2. The historic Amaravati School of Art is distinct for its exclusive use of red sandstone to construct highly stylized, non-narrative icons.

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The ancient city of Amaravati (historically known as Dhanyakataka) in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh was a major power center and served as the capital for the mighty Satavahana rulers around the 3rd century BCE.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** This is a classic material and style trap. The distinguishing building material of the Amaravati School was white limestone, not red sandstone. Artistically, this school is celebrated for its highly emotional, dynamic, and intricate narrative relief sculptures that depict specific stories and events, rather than just non-narrative icons.

10. The Vishwa Sutra initiative, recently in the news has been launched by which of the following organizations?

- (a) Ministry of Textiles
- (b) Ministry of Culture
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct:** The Vishwa Sutra– Weaves of India for the World initiative was conceptualized and launched by the Ministry of Textiles. It is being operationalized through the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) in collaboration with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) with the aim of reinterpreting and promoting 30 distinct Indian handloom weaves for global contemporary markets.

Miscellaneous News-III

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the Maru-Gurjara architectural style is/are correct?

1. It reached its zenith under the patronage of the Eastern Chalukya dynasty of Vengi.
2. In this style, the haveli functions as a large residential mansion organized around a central courtyard.

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Maru-Gurjara style originated around the 6th century in Rajasthan and Gujarat. It reached its architectural peak under the Solanki dynasty (the Chalukyas of Gujarat), not the Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi. Historic records like the 1169 CE Bhadrakali Inscription highlight the Solanki ruler Kumarapala's specific efforts in restoring these temples.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A classic feature of this regional style is the haveli, a large aristocratic mansion. These mansions were structurally designed around a central courtyard, which functioned as a micro-climate modifier to enhance ventilation, light, and privacy.

2. With reference to the centenary history and historical role of the Communist Party of India (CPI), consider the following statements:

1. The CPI was the first political entity to demand complete independence from British rule at the Ahmedabad session (1921) of the Indian National Congress.
2. The institutional idea of a Constituent Assembly for India was formally proposed by Communist leader M.N. Roy in 1934.
3. In 1925, the CPI adopted a constitutional mandate that allowed members of communal organizations to simultaneously hold leadership ranks within its party structure.

Which of the statements given above 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:** The CPI pioneered the demand for total independence (Purna Swaraj) by releasing open letters during the Ahmedabad (1921) and Gaya (1922) sessions of the Indian National Congress, years before the INC officially adopted the resolution at Lahore in 1929.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The official, formal proposal for a dedicated Constituent Assembly to frame an independent constitution for India was first put forward by the radical communist thinker M.N. Roy in 1934.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** In 1925, the CPI became the first political party in India to strictly bar members of communal organizations from joining its ranks, maintaining a firm ideological stance on secularism.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the tribal freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai is/are correct?

1. He led a prolonged guerrilla-style resistance movement against British rule utilizing tribal combatants primarily from the Ho and Santhal communities.
2. His armed rebellion resurged during the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 after the British applied the Doctrine of Lapse to annex the princely state of Sambalpur.

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Veer Surendra Sai was a prominent tribal leader born into the Chauhan royal family of Sambalpur, Odisha. The indigenous communities he organized into guerrilla forces were the Binjhal and Gond tribes of western Odisha, not the Ho and Santhal.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** When the ruler of Sambalpur died without a direct male heir, the British East India Company applied the aggressive Doctrine of Lapse to annex the state in 1849, ignoring Sai's legitimate claim. This grievance caused Sai to relaunch a fierce rebellion during the 1857 uprising, mobilizing local landlords (Zamindars) and village leaders (Gauntias).

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the traditional Bagurumba dance is/are correct?

1. It is an indigenous folk dance form associated exclusively with the Bodo community of Assam.
2. It is performed in lines or circles by young women, while men accompany them as musicians using traditional instruments.

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bagurumba is the most celebrated traditional folk dance of the Bodo community living in Assam. Its rhythmic movements are deeply inspired by nature, mimicking elements like blooming flowers and butterflies.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Structurally, the dance is performed collectively in visually elegant formations of lines or circles by young Bodo women. Bodo men participate directly in the performance as musicians, playing traditional folk instruments to guide the dancers. It is closely tied to seasonal festivals like Bwisagu (Bodo New Year).

5. With reference to the institutional structure of India's Gallantry Awards, consider the following statements:

1. The wartime awards Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, and Vir Chakra were formally instituted on Independence Day, August 15, 1947.
2. The recommendations for these awards are processed twice a year by the Ministry of Defence alongside the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. The final conferring authority for both wartime and peacetime gallantry decorations is the President of India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The three premier wartime gallantry awards (Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, and Vir Chakra) were officially instituted on January 26, 1950 (Republic Day), although they were given retrospective effect from August 15, 1947.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The administrative pipeline requires the Ministry of Defence to invite recommendations twice every year from the Armed Forces branches and the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** As the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, the President of India is the constitutional authority who formally confers these honors twice a year on Republic Day and Independence Day.

6. With reference to prehistoric and rock art archaeology, consider the following statements regarding Petroglyphs:

1. They are distinct from petrographs because they are created by physical carving or material engraving rather than simple surface painting.
2. Globally, these symbolic rock engravings have been documented across all continents except Antarctica.
3. The Edakkal Caves located in Wayanad, Kerala, serve as a prominent example of a petroglyph site within India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Petroglyphs are specific rock engravings made by removing the top layers of a stone surface using harder stone or metal tools (through scratching, pecking, or carving). This sets them apart from petroglyphs, which are drawings or paintings applied onto the rock face.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** These ancient markings are found globally and exist on every single continent on Earth with the sole exception of Antarctica.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The famous Edakkal Caves in Wayanad, Kerala, contain highly significant prehistoric rock carvings, making it one of the most prominent examples of a petroglyph site within the Indian subcontinent.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the Prambanan Temple complex is/are correct?

1. It was built in the 9th century CE by the Sailendra dynasty, a prominent Mahayana Buddhist kingdom of Central Java.
2. It stands as the largest Hindu temple complex in Indonesia and is dedicated structurally to the Hindu Trimurti.

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Prambanan Temple complex was built in the 9th century CE by the Sanjaya dynasty, a powerful Hindu kingdom ruling central Java. The contemporary Sailendra dynasty was primarily responsible for building nearby Buddhist monuments, such as Borobudur.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Prambanan is recognized as the largest Hindu temple site in Indonesia (inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991). The complex features soaring spires dedicated to the Hindu Trimurti: Shiva (the presiding deity), Vishnu, and Brahma.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Balirajgarh Fort archaeological site is/are correct?

1. It is a centrally protected national monument managed under the Patna Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
2. Archaeological excavations have revealed a five-fold cultural sequence starting from the Gupta Empire down to the Mughal era.

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Balirajgarh Fort (located in the Madhubani district of Bihar) is an ancient fortified settlement. It is an officially protected monument of national importance managed by the Patna Circle of the ASI.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The five-fold cultural sequence uncovered at the site is far older. It begins with the ancient Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) phase (circa 700–200 BCE), and continues

sequentially through the Shunga, Kushan, and Gupta periods, ending around the Pala period (12th century CE). It does not begin with the Guptas or extend to the Mughals.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the traditional Thanjavur painting style is/are correct?

1. It is a classical art form that originated and flourished primarily under the patronage of the Nayakas rulers of Tanjore in the 19th century.
2. A defining technical feature of this artwork is the use of gesso work made from a mixture of chalk and gypsum to create embossed relief patterns.

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Thanjavur (Tanjore) paintings originally emerged and flourished around 1600 AD under the patronage of the Nayakas of Thanjavur.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A unique characteristic of this GI-tagged art style is its embossed, three-dimensional texture. This is achieved by applying gesso, a thick paste made of chalk, gypsum, and glue onto a canvas attached to a wooden plank (palagai padam), which is then covered with glittering gold leaf and semi-precious stones.

10. With reference to global musical heritage, the Boreendo a rare spherical clay vessel-flute recently inscribed on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding list is historically linked to the sonic lineage of which ancient civilization?

- (a) Indus Valley Civilization
(b) Mesopotamian Civilization
(c) Egyptian Civilization
(d) Mayan Civilization

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct:** The Boreendo is an ancient, spherical clay vessel-flute played primarily in the Sindh region of Pakistan. Musicologists and archaeologists have successfully traced its structural and sonic design directly back to clay artifacts excavated at Mohenjo-daro, confirming its deep historical lineage to the Indus Valley Civilization.

Important Islands

1. Consider the following statements regarding Greenland:

1. Geographically, it is part of the North American continent, but politically it is an autonomous territory associated with Europe.
2. The island is separated from Canada to its west by the Davis Strait and Baffin Bay.
3. It is one of the eight member states of the Arctic Council.

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:** Geologically and geographically, Greenland sits on the North American continental shelf. However, politically it remains an autonomous constituent territory within the Kingdom of Denmark, associating it closely with Europe.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Greenland is separated from Canada's Arctic islands (like Ellesmere Island) to the north and west by the Nares Strait, Baffin Bay, and the Davis Strait.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Greenland is not a sovereign country and therefore cannot be an independent member state of the Arctic Council. Instead, the Kingdom of Denmark (representing both Denmark and its autonomous territories, including Greenland) is one of the eight permanent member states of the Arctic Council.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the island of New Guinea:

1. It is the second-largest island in the world and is politically divided between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.
2. The island is separated from Australia by the Torres Strait and falls entirely within the geographical region of Oceania.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** New Guinea is the world's second-largest island (after Greenland). The western half is administered by Indonesia (provinces of Papua, West Papua, etc.), while the eastern half constitutes the independent nation of Papua New Guinea.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The island lies just north of Australia and is separated from it by the 150 km wide Torres Strait. Despite Indonesia's administrative control over the western half, the island itself is physically located in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, making it a prominent part of the Melanesian subregion of Oceania.

3. Consider the following statements with reference to the island of Borneo:

1. The island is politically divided among three countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei.
2. It is primarily formed due to recent Cenozoic volcanic deposition and is a part of the Pacific Ring of Fire.

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:** The island of Borneo is politically divided among three nations. Indonesia controls the southern region (known as Kalimantan), Malaysia controls the northwestern states of Sabah and Sarawak, and the sovereign state of Brunei is located on the northern coast.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Borneo is not of volcanic origin and is relatively stable tectonically, differentiating it from the highly volcanic Indonesian islands to its south and east (such as Java and Sulawesi). Its geological foundation is primarily attributed to tectonic processes, including Mesozoic accretion of microcontinental fragments on a Paleozoic continental core.

4. Consider the following statements regarding Madagascar:

1. The Tropic of Cancer passes through the southern part of the island nation, giving it a largely tropical climate.
2. The Mozambique Channel separates Madagascar from the African mainland.
3. The island harbors significant endemic biodiversity, with the majority of its flora and fauna found nowhere else on Earth.

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 Tropic of Capricorn passes directly through the southern portion of Madagascar. Because of its latitude and vast size, the country has a tropical climate along its coasts, temperate inland regions in the highlands, and arid conditions in the deep south.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Madagascar is an island nation in the Indian Ocean off the southeastern coast of Africa, completely separated from the African mainland by the highly strategic Mozambique Channel.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Due to its millions of years of geographic isolation, Madagascar features remarkable biogeography. Nearly 90% of all its plant and animal life (such as lemurs) are endemic, meaning they are native only to this island.

5. Consider the following statements regarding Baffin Island:

1. It is the largest island in Canada and is separated from Greenland by the Baffin Bay and the Davis Strait.
2. The capital city of Nunavut, Iqaluit, is located on its southern coast.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Baffin Island is the largest island in Canada and the fifth-largest island in the world. It is situated in the territory of Nunavut and is separated from Greenland to its north and east by the Baffin Bay and the Davis Strait.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The territorial capital of Nunavut is Iqaluit, which sits at the head of Frobisher Bay on the southern coast of Baffin Island.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the island of Sumatra:

1. The equator bisects the island of Sumatra, passing directly through its central region.
2. The island is entirely located in the Indian Ocean, with no boundaries adjoining the Pacific Ocean.

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:** The equator does indeed bisect central Sumatra, contributing to the island's hot, humid, and equatorial climate with dense rainforests.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Sumatra is not solely bound by the Indian Ocean. To the northeast, the Strait of Malacca separates it from the Malay Peninsula, connecting the Andaman Sea (Indian Ocean) in the west with the South China Sea (Pacific Ocean) in the east.

7. Consider the following statements about the island of Honshu:

1. It is the largest and most populous island in the Japanese archipelago, and the second most populous island in the world.
2. The island is separated from Hokkaido in the north by the Tsugaru Strait.
3. The Japanese Alps are located on Honshu, which is home to Mount Fuji, Japan's highest peak.

Which of the statements given above is/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:** Honshu is Japan's largest island and constitutes over 80% of the country's population. It is the seventh-largest island globally and the second most populous after the Indonesian island of Java.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Tsugaru Strait physically separates Honshu from the northern island of Hokkaido, with the Seikan Tunnel running beneath it.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Japanese Alps traverse the central part of the island, which also features Mount Fuji, an iconic active stratovolcano and the highest peak in Japan.

8. Consider the following statements about Victoria Island:

1. It straddles the administrative boundary between Nunavut and the Northwest Territories of Canada.
2. It features the world's largest known island within a lake, located on an unnamed island within a lake on the island itself.
3. The Prince of Wales Strait separates Victoria Island from Banks Island to its west, forming part of the disputed Northwest Passage.

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)

Explanations:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Victoria Island lies entirely within the Arctic Circle and is administratively divided, with the western third falling in the Inuvik Region (Northwest Territories) and the remainder in the Kitikmeot Region (Nunavut).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Deep in its interior, the island hosts a Guinness World Record-holding geographical oddity: a lake that contains an island, which in turn contains another lake, which features a final, tiny island.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Situated to the west of Victoria Island, Banks Island is separated by the Prince of Wales Strait. These waterways connect to form segments of the contested Northwest Passage.

9. Consider the following statements about the island of Great Britain and its surrounding regions:

1. The island of Great Britain comprises the countries of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
2. The Strait of Dover separates Great Britain from continental Europe and connects the North Sea to the Atlantic Ocean.
3. The North Sea is bordered by Great Britain to the west and by countries like Norway and Denmark to the east.

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 island of Great Britain consists exclusively of England, Scotland, and Wales. Great Britain. Northern Ireland is located on the separate island of Ireland. Great Britain, and together these four regions comprise the United Kingdom.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** The Strait of Dover is the narrowest part of the English Channel and serves as a vital maritime boundary between Great Britain and continental Europe. It directly links the North Sea with the Atlantic Ocean.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** Geographically, the shallow North Sea lies between the island of Great Britain and mainland northwestern Europe. It is bordered to the west by Scotland and England, and to the east by Norway, Denmark, Germany, and the Netherlands.

10. Consider the following statements regarding Ellesmere Island:

1. It contains Cape Columbia, which is the most northerly point of land in Canada.
2. The Arctic Cordillera mountain system covers much of the island, making it the most mountainous island in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago.
3. It is separated from northwestern Greenland by the Robeson Channel and Kennedy Channel.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one statement
- (b) Only two statements

- (c) All three statements
(d) None of the above

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanations:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Cape Columbia is indeed located on Ellesmere Island and serves as the most northerly point of land in Canada.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Arctic Cordillera mountain system spans a vast portion of the island, making it the most rugged and mountainous island within the Canadian Arctic Archipelago.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The island's eastern shores are separated from northwestern Greenland by a series of narrow marine passages, specifically Smith Sound, the Kennedy Channel, and the Robeson Channel.

Important Water Bodies of The World

1. With reference to the Red Sea, consider the following statements:

1. It does not receive water from any permanent rivers.
2. The Bab el-Mandeb Strait connects the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea.
3. It lies on a divergent plate boundary formed by the separation of the African Plate and the Arabian Plate.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanations

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Red Sea is situated in an extremely arid region between the Sahara and Arabian deserts. It receives very little precipitation and is completely unique among large bodies of water for having no permanent (perennial) rivers that drain into it.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Bab el-Mandeb Strait connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden (and subsequently the Indian Ocean) in the south. The Red Sea is connected to the Mediterranean Sea in the north via the man-made Suez Canal.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Geologically, the Red Sea is a classic example of an axial trough. It sits in a rift depression formed by a divergent plate boundary, where the African (or Nubian) Plate and the Arabian Plate are pulling apart from one another.

2. Consider the following statements about the Arabian Sea:

1. The mean surface salinity of the Arabian Sea is higher than that of the Bay of Bengal.
2. The rivers flowing into the Arabian Sea generally form estuaries rather than deltas due to a steep topographic gradient.
3. The coral islands of the Lakshadweep archipelago are situated in the Arabian Sea.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanations

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The mean surface salinity of the Arabian Sea is higher than that of the Bay of Bengal. This is primarily due to higher evaporation rates (due to arid climatic conditions along the Arabian Peninsula) and a lower freshwater discharge, as it receives significantly less river inflow compared to the Bay of Bengal.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Unlike the eastward-flowing rivers that deposit huge amounts of sediments and form large deltas into the Bay of Bengal, the rivers draining into the Arabian Sea (such as the Narmada and Tapi) pass through steep terrains of the Western Ghats. These fast-flowing rivers carry fewer sediments and drop directly into the sea, forming **estuaries** rather than deltas.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Lakshadweep Islands are an archipelago of coral atolls, reefs, and submerged banks located in the Arabian Sea, off the southwestern coast of mainland India.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Andaman Sea:

1. It is formed by the subduction of the Indian Plate beneath the Burma microplate, making the region highly prone to tectonic activity.
2. The Andaman Sea is a critical maritime bottleneck connecting the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean via the Strait of Malacca.
3. Barren Island, located in this sea, is the only dormant volcano in South Asia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanations

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Andaman Sea and its associated islands are a direct result of the tectonic subduction of the Indian Plate under the Burma microplate. This uplift formed the submarine mountain range linked to the Arakan Yoma of Myanmar.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Andaman Sea is a highly strategic body of water. Situated at the eastern edge of the Indian Ocean, it acts as a maritime corridor/chokepoint funneling global shipping traffic into the Strait of Malacca.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Located within the Andaman Sea, Barren Island is India's and South Asia's only historically confirmed active volcano.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the South China Sea:

1. It is a marginal sea of the Pacific Ocean connected to the East China Sea via the Taiwan Strait.
2. The Paracel Islands and Spratly Islands are subject to overlapping territorial claims by several nations, including China, Vietnam, and the Philippines.
3. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) serves as the primary universally binding legal framework for resolving all maritime claims in the region.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanations

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The South China Sea is a marginal sea of the Western Pacific Ocean. It is connected to the East China Sea via the Taiwan Strait and to the Philippine Sea via the Luzon Strait.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Paracel Islands and the Spratly Islands are major areas of contention. They involve overlapping claims by countries such as China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, and the Philippines.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While UNCLOS provides the legal framework for maritime claims, it does not act as a final universally binding resolution tool for sovereignty over the disputed land features. China's expansive nine-dash line historical claims are fundamentally in dispute, and China largely rejects the binding nature of UNCLOS tribunal rulings (such as the 2016 Permanent Court of Arbitration ruling in favor of the Philippines).

5. With reference to the East China Sea, consider the following statements:

1. The Kuroshio Current, a warm ocean current analogous to the Gulf Stream in the Atlantic, flows northward through this sea.
2. The Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands, which are a major point of territorial dispute between China and Japan, are located in this region.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanations:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Kuroshio Current is a warm, northward-flowing ocean current on the western edge of the North Pacific. It enters the East China Sea east of Taiwan and travels parallel to the Ryukyu Islands, regulating the regional climate much like the Gulf Stream.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The uninhabited but highly strategic Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands are located in the East China Sea, northeast of Taiwan. They are claimed by both Japan and China, making the area a geopolitical flashpoint regarding Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) boundaries and seabed resources.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Yellow Sea:

1. It is bordered by mainland China to the west, and both North Korea and South Korea to the east.
2. The Bohai Sea is its innermost northwestern extension, which receives the discharge of the Yellow River.
3. The distinct yellow coloration of its waters is entirely attributed to silt brought in by the Yangtze River.

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** The Yellow Sea lies to the north of the East China Sea. It is geographically bordered by mainland China to the west and north, and by the Korean Peninsula (North Korea and South Korea) to the east.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** The Bohai Sea (often referred to as the Bohai Gulf) is the innermost, northwestern-most extension of the Yellow Sea. Several of northern China's major rivers, most notably the Yellow River (Huang He) and the Hai River, empty into the Bohai Sea.
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect:** While the Yangtze River is a massive river system in the region, the characteristic golden-yellow color of the Yellow Sea is primarily due to the heavy loads of **loess sediment** (silt) from the Yellow River and wind-blown dust from the Gobi Desert sandstorms.

7. With reference to the Sea of Japan, consider the following statements:

1. It is almost entirely enclosed by the Japanese archipelago, Sakhalin, the Korean Peninsula, and mainland Russia, and shares maritime borders with four countries.
2. Like the Mediterranean Sea, it has almost no tides due to its near-complete isolation from the Pacific Ocean.
3. It features high biological productivity due to the interaction of the warm Tsushima Current and the cold Liman Current.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Sea of Japan is a marginal sea of the western Pacific Ocean. It is bounded by Russia and Sakhalin Island to the north, North Korea to the west, South Korea to the southwest, and the Japanese archipelago to the east and south. A total of four countries share a coast along it.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Due to its near-complete enclosure by surrounding landmasses and narrow connecting straits (such as the Korea and Tsugaru straits), the sea has almost no tides, sharing this specific oceanographic characteristic with the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The sea is a prime fishing ground globally. This high biological productivity is driven by high dissolved oxygen concentrations and the convergence of two major oceanic currents: the warm Tsushima Current and the cold Liman Current.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Caspian Sea:

1. It is an endorheic basin.
2. Its waters are entirely fresh, as it is primarily fed by the Volga River system.
3. It is bordered by exactly five countries: Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Azerbaijan.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanations:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Caspian Sea is the world's largest enclosed inland body of water and is technically an endorheic basin, meaning its water levels are balanced purely by evaporation and river inflows.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Although it receives massive freshwater inflows (the Volga River alone supplies about 80% of its water), the Caspian Sea is a saltwater (brackish) lake. Its salinity varies significantly, being nearly fresh in the north and saltier in the south, but it is not entirely fresh.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Caspian is uniquely bordered by exactly five littoral states: Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Azerbaijan.

9. Consider the following statements regarding the Black Sea:

1. The deep waters of the Black Sea are anoxic, meaning they contain virtually no dissolved oxygen.
2. It has a higher salinity than the open global oceans due to its enclosed nature and high evaporation rates.
3. The countries bordering the Black Sea include Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, and Turkey.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Black Sea is recognized as the world's largest meromictic basin. The absence of vertical mixing between surface and deeper layers makes the deep waters permanently anoxic.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Contrary to popular belief, the Black Sea has lower salinity than the global oceans. This is because it receives massive volumes of freshwater inflow from major rivers (like the Danube and Dnieper) and has a restricted exchange of water with the saltier Mediterranean.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Black Sea is bordered by exactly six countries: Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, and Turkey.

10. Consider the following statements with reference to the Sea of Azov:

1. It is globally recognized as the shallowest sea in the world and is connected to the Black Sea via the Kerch Strait.
2. It has relatively high salinity due to the heavy inflow of marine water from the Black Sea.

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:** The Sea of Azov holds the geographical distinction of being the shallowest sea on Earth, with a maximum depth of only about 14 meters. It is located in Eastern Europe and is connected to the Black Sea exclusively through the strategic Kerch Strait.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Sea of Azov exhibits exceptionally low salinity, to the point of being practically freshwater in certain areas (such as the northeastern Taganrog Gulf). This is due to massive, continuous freshwater discharge from inflowing rivers, primarily the Don and Kuban rivers.

Important Water Bodies of The World-I

1. Consider the following statements about the Mediterranean Sea:

1. It is bordered by 21 countries.
2. The sea is connected to the Red Sea via the Suez Canal and to the Black Sea through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits.
3. The Nile River is the only major African river that drains into the Mediterranean Sea.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanations:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Mediterranean Sea is bordered by 22 countries and one territory, making it one of the world's most internationally shared marine regions.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Mediterranean's strategic geopolitical positioning relies on these chokepoints. It links to the Red Sea at the Suez Canal and to the Black Sea through the Turkish Straits system (which consists of the Bosphorus Strait, the Sea of Marmara, and the Dardanelles Strait).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Nile River, which originates in Central and East Africa, flows northward and is the primary African river that drains directly into the Mediterranean Sea.

2. Consider the following statements about the Aegean Sea:

1. It is bordered exclusively by two countries, Greece and Turkey.
2. The island of Crete marks the southern natural boundary of the Aegean Sea.
3. The region is tectonically stable and does not experience significant seismic activity.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Aegean Sea is an elongated embayment of the Mediterranean Sea that is bounded by the Balkan Peninsula (specifically Greece) to the west and north, and Anatolia (Turkey) to the east.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The island of Crete is the largest island in the Aegean and is widely recognized as marking its natural southern boundary.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Aegean Sea lies on the Aegean tectonic plate and is a highly complex, seismically active Mediterranean tectonic region formed by the interaction of the African and Eurasian tectonic plates. It is highly prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity.

3. Consider the following statements with reference to the Ionian Sea:

1. It connects to the Adriatic Sea in the north through the Strait of Otranto.
2. The sea hosts some of the deepest parts of the Mediterranean Sea, including the Calypso Deep in the Hellenic Trench.

3. It is bounded by two countries Italy and Greece.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanations:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Ionian Sea is situated south of the Adriatic Sea and is connected to it via the Strait of Otranto.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Ionian Sea contains some of the deepest waters in the entire Mediterranean basin. The Calypso Deep, located within the Hellenic Trench, represents its deepest point.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The basin countries and coastal regions that bound the Ionian Sea include Italy (west), Greece (east), and Albania (northeast).

4. Consider the following statements regarding the Adriatic Sea:

- 1. It separates the Italian Peninsula from the Balkan Peninsula.
- 2. It shares its coast with Albania, Croatia, and Greece.

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:** The Adriatic Sea is a body of water that acts as a geographic divider separating the Italian Peninsula from the Balkan Peninsula.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While Albania and Croatia both border the Adriatic, Greece does not. The Adriatic Sea's southeastern boundary ends at the Strait of Otranto, while Greece's coastline falls further south along the Ionian, Aegean, and Mediterranean seas.

5. Consider the following statements about the Tyrrhenian Sea:

- 1. It is bordered by the Italian peninsula to the east and the islands of Corsica and Sardinia to the west.
- 2. It is connected to the Ionian Sea through the Strait of Messina.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanations:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Tyrrhenian Sea is a marginal sea of the Mediterranean located off the western coast of Italy. It is bounded by the regions of Tuscany, Lazio, Campania, Basilicata, and Calabria

(the Italian peninsula) to the east, Sicily to the south, and the islands of Corsica and Sardinia to the west.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Strait of Messina is a narrow passage that separates the island of Sicily from the Italian mainland (Calabria), and it explicitly connects the Tyrrhenian Sea to the northwest with the Ionian Sea to the southeast.

6. Consider the following statements about the Sargasso Sea:

1. It is the only sea in the world that does not have a land boundary.
2. It records the lowest surface salinity in the Atlantic Ocean due to the constant influx of cold water currents.

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)

Explanations:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Sargasso Sea is unique as it is the only sea on Earth that does not have a land boundary or a coastline. Instead, its boundaries are defined entirely by four circulating ocean currents that form the North Atlantic Gyre: the Gulf Stream (west), the North Atlantic Current (north), the Canary Current (east), and the North Atlantic Equatorial Current (south).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Sargasso Sea does not have the lowest salinity; in fact, it records some of the highest surface salinity levels in the Atlantic Ocean. This high salinity is driven by its location in a subtropical high-pressure zone, which features high rates of evaporation, minimal precipitation, and a lack of fresh water influx (since there are no rivers emptying into it).

7. Consider the following statements regarding the Caribbean Sea:

1. The Cayman Trench is the deepest point in the Caribbean Sea, located between Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.
2. The Caribbean Sea is connected to the Pacific Ocean through the Panama Canal.

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)

Explanations:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Cayman Trough (or Cayman Trench) is a complex transform fault zone and pull-apart basin, marking the deepest point in the Caribbean Sea at approximately 7,686 meters (25,217 feet) below sea level. It is situated on the floor of the western Caribbean between the Cayman Islands and Jamaica.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Caribbean Sea opens into the Atlantic Ocean, not the Pacific. While the Panama Canal does link the Caribbean Sea to the Pacific Ocean, it is an artificial waterway, not a natural connection. The natural boundary between the two oceans in this region is the isthmus of Central America.

8. Consider the following statements with reference to the Labrador Sea:

1. It is a marginal sea of the North Atlantic Ocean bounded by the Labrador Peninsula to the west and Greenland to the northeast.
2. It was formed due to the geological separation of the North American Plate and the Greenland Plate.
3. It contains the Northwest Atlantic Mid-Ocean Channel, which is one of the world's largest turbidity current channel systems.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanations:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Labrador Sea is a northwestern arm (marginal sea) of the North Atlantic Ocean. It lies directly between Canada's Labrador Peninsula and the island of Greenland.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Geologically, the Labrador Basin formed as a failed rift arm during the broader North Atlantic tectonic breakup. The basin opened due to the separation of the North American Plate and the Greenland Plate, a process that started approximately 60 million years ago.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Labrador Sea houses the Northwest Atlantic Mid-Ocean Channel (NAMOC). It stretches thousands of kilometers and is one of the world's largest deep-sea turbidity current channel systems

9. Consider the following statements regarding the North Sea:

1. It is bordered by seven countries, including the United Kingdom, Norway, Germany, and France.
2. The Dogger Bank, located within the sea, is a famous fishing ground formed as an extensive submarine moraine.
3. The Norwegian Trench is the deepest point in the North Sea.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The North Sea is bordered exactly by seven countries: the United Kingdom, Norway, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Located about 100 km off the northeastern coast of England, the Dogger Bank is a well-known, highly productive fishing ground. Geographically, it is a huge glacial moraine deposited at the southern limit of the last glaciation.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The North Sea is relatively shallow overall (average depth of about 95 meters), but the Norwegian Trench runs along the southern coast of Norway and contains the deepest part of the sea, plunging to 725 meters.

10. Consider the following statements with reference to the Coral Sea:

1. The Coral Sea is a marginal sea of the South Pacific Ocean, primarily located off the northeastern coast of Australia.
2. It is bound to the west by the Great Barrier Reef, which is the world's largest coral reef system.

3. The Coral Sea Islands Territory, scattered across this region, is known for its dense permanent human settlements and thriving agricultural exports.

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: (a)

Explanations:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Coral Sea is indeed a marginal sea of the South Pacific, situated directly off the northeast coast of Queensland, Australia.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The world-famous Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral reef system—is located within the Coral Sea, separating it from the wider Pacific Ocean.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Coral Sea Islands Territory (an Australian external territory) has no permanent human inhabitants, except for a small meteorological staff working on the Willis Islets. Therefore, there are no agricultural exports or mainland-style settlements in this territory.

Important Straits

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Strait of Gibraltar:

1. It is the only natural waterway that connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea.
2. The strait separates the continents of Europe and Africa, with its narrowest point located between Spain and Morocco.
3. The easternmost point of the strait is flanked by the Rock of Gibraltar and the Atlas Mountains of Northern Africa.

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: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Strait of Gibraltar is globally recognized as the only natural link between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. Until the Suez Canal opened in 1869, it was the only means of oceanic access.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is the primary dividing boundary between the continents of Europe and Africa. At its narrowest point, it spans roughly 13 to 14.3 kilometers between Punta de Tarifa in Spain and Point Cires in Morocco.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While the northern flank is indeed marked by the Rock of Gibraltar, the southern flank is marked by Mount Hacho (part of the Spanish autonomous city of Ceuta) and Jebel Moussa (not the Atlas Mountains). It creates a notable division between the high plateau of Spain and the Atlas Mountains, but the mountains themselves do not directly flank the eastern edge.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Strait of Hormuz:

1. The strait forms the only natural sea passage connecting the resource-rich Persian Gulf to the open ocean.

2. It is bordered by two countries Iran to the north and the Sultanate of Oman to the south.
3. The strait's deepest waters and designated commercial shipping channels are primarily located closer to the Iranian coastline rather than the Omani side.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Strait of Hormuz is the world's only sea passage connecting the waters of the Persian Gulf to the open ocean and is considered one of the most vital strategic chokepoints in the world.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While it is true that Iran borders the waterway to the north and Oman borders it to the south, the southern border is not solely made up of Oman. A portion of the southwestern peninsula near the strait is governed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** According to the Strauss Center, the strait is deep and mostly clear of maritime hazards, but its greatest depths are located near the Musandam Peninsula (the Omani side). The depth tapers as the waters move north toward the Iranian shore, and commercial traffic generally routes through the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) lying north of the Omani coast.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. The strait serves as a maritime border only between Yemen and Djibouti.
2. The channel is divided into two parts by Perim Island, with the western channel acting as the primary deep-water shipping lane.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Bab al-Mandab Strait is flanked by Yemen on the Arabian side, and both Djibouti and Eritrea on the African side. It separates the Arabian Peninsula from the Horn of Africa, sharing its borders with three countries.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Yemeni island of Perim (or Mayyun) divides the strait into two channels. The deeper, wider western channel (Dact-el-Mayun) is generally used by large vessels, while the shallower eastern channel (Bab Iskender) is narrower.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the Bering Strait:

1. The strait connects the Arctic Ocean with the [Bering Sea] and separates the continents of Asia and North America.
2. The International Date Line passes directly through the strait, specifically between the Diomed Islands.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Bering Strait links the Arctic Ocean (Chukchi Sea) in the north with the [Bering Sea] (Pacific Ocean) in the south. It acts as the natural dividing line between the continents of Asia and North America at their closest point.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The imaginary line of the [International Date Line] zigzags through the strait, passing directly between the two [Diomed Islands] (Big Diomed in Russia and Little Diomed in the USA). This results in a time difference of approximately 21 hours between the two islands.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Strait of Malacca:

1. It is the main shipping channel connecting the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, serving as a critical energy route for East Asian economies.
2. The strait is bounded by Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand.
3. Its narrowest point lies near the Phillip Channel.

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)

Explanations:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Strait of Malacca is the primary, shortest sea route between the Middle East and East Asia, linking the Andaman Sea (Indian Ocean) with the South China Sea (Pacific Ocean). It is highly significant for the energy imports of China, Japan, and South Korea.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Geographically, the strait runs between the western coast of the Malay Peninsula and the eastern coast of Sumatra. The countries that directly bound the strait and control its waters are Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The strait is approximately 890 kilometers in length. Its width, however, varies, becoming its narrowest at the Phillip Channel near Singapore, measuring only about 2.8 kilometers wide.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Palk Strait:

1. It connects the Palk Bay in the Bay of Bengal with the Gulf of Mannar in the Laccadive Sea.
2. The Vaigai River of Tamil Nadu discharges its freshwater directly into the Palk Strait.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Palk Strait is a narrow strip of water separating the southeastern coast of India and the northern coast of Sri Lanka. It serves as a vital maritime link, connecting the Palk Bay in

the northeast (part of the Bay of Bengal) with the Gulf of Mannar in the southwest (which is a part of the Laccadive Sea).

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Palk Strait receives freshwater inflow from several rivers originating in Tamil Nadu, most notably the Vaigai River.

7. Consider the following statements regarding the Sunda Strait:

1. It connects the Java Sea to the Indian Ocean.
2. It separates the islands of Borneo and Sumatra.

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:** The Sunda Strait serves as a vital natural navigational corridor linking the Java Sea directly to the waters of the Indian Ocean.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The strait separates the islands of Java and Sumatra. It is the Karimata Strait that lies between Sumatra and Borneo.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Torres Strait:

1. It separates the mainland of Australia from the Melanesian island of New Guinea.
2. The Torres Strait Islander peoples share the same ancestry and ethnic background as the mainland Australian Aboriginal peoples.

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)

Explanations:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Torres Strait is the passage situated between the northernmost continental extremity of Australia (Cape York Peninsula, Queensland) and the island of New Guinea.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Indigenous population of the strait region is known as the Torres Strait Islander peoples. While they are also Indigenous Australians, they are of Melanesian descent and are culturally and ethnically distinct from the mainland Aboriginal peoples.

9. Consider the following statements regarding the Bass Strait:

1. It separates the island state of Tasmania from the Australian mainland and connects the Indian Ocean with the Tasman Sea.
2. The strait is highly significant for offshore energy as it contains major petroleum and natural gas resources.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Bass Strait is a narrow maritime passage separating the island state of Tasmania from the southeastern Australian mainland (specifically the state of Victoria). By traversing between the two, it acts as a direct link connecting the Indian Ocean to the Tasman Sea (part of the South Pacific).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The strait is recognized not only as a shipping route but also for its economically prominent offshore petroleum and natural gas reservoirs. Significant commercial extraction has occurred here since the discoveries at Barracouta and Kingfish in the 1960s.

10. Consider the following statements:

1. The Cook Strait separates the North Island from the South Island and connects the Tasman Sea to the South Pacific Ocean.
2. The Foveaux Strait separates the South Island from Stewart Island and was historically dry land during the Last Glacial Period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Cook Strait:** Located in New Zealand, this infamous maritime passage lies between the North Island and South Island. It extends northwest to southeast, linking the Tasman Sea with the South Pacific Ocean.
- **Foveaux Strait:** Positioned further south, it separates Stewart Island from the South Island. Geological evidence and petrographic analyses of seafloor gravels reveal that this area was actually a coastal plain during the last glacial maximum and only became inundated as sea levels rose.

Important Straits and Grasslands of the World

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the Kerch Strait is/are correct?

1. It connects the Black Sea with the Caspian Sea.
2. It separates the Crimean Peninsula from the Taman Peninsula of mainland Russia.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Kerch Strait connects the Black Sea with the Sea of Azov, not the Caspian Sea. It serves as a vital choke point for maritime traffic accessing ports in southern Russia and eastern Ukraine.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Geographically, the strait forms a narrow passage separating the Crimean Peninsula in the west from Russia's Krasnodar Krai (Taman Peninsula) in the east.

2. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Bosphorus Strait splits the city of Istanbul into European and Asian parts, connecting the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara.
2. The Strait of Otranto acts as a narrow maritime passage connecting the Adriatic Sea with the Ionian Sea.

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:** The Bosphorus Strait is a globally vital choke point located in northwestern Turkey. It physically separates European Turkey from Asian Turkey (Anatolia) and links the Black Sea to the internal Sea of Marmara.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Strait of Otranto lies between Italy (Apulia) to the west and Albania to the east, acting as the maritime boundary that connects the Adriatic Sea with the deeper Ionian Sea.

3. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Yucatan Strait forms a deep water channel that links the Gulf of Mexico with the Caribbean Sea.
2. The Strait of Florida separates the island of Cuba from the Bahamian Archipelago.

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: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Yucatan Strait (or Yucatan Channel) runs between Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and Cuba, acting as the main deep-water portal connecting the Caribbean Sea to the Gulf of Mexico.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Strait of Florida separates the Florida Keys (USA) from Cuba, connecting the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean. The channel separating Cuba from the Bahamas is the Old Bahama Channel.

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

1. The Strait of Magellan is located at the northernmost tip of South America, connecting the Caribbean Sea to the Atlantic Ocean.
2. The Davis Strait is an exceptionally broad northern strait connecting the Labrador Sea to Baffin Bay.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- a) **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Strait of Magellan is located at the southernmost tip of mainland South America (within Chile), crossing between the mainland and Tierra del Fuego to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.
- b) **Statement 2 is correct:** The Davis Strait is located between mid-western Greenland and Canada's Baffin Island. It connects the northern Baffin Bay to the southern Labrador Sea (part of the Atlantic Ocean).

5. The Strait of Dover, recognized as the world's busiest international shipping lane, connects which of the following two bodies of water?

- (a) The North Sea and the Baltic Sea
- (b) The North Sea and the English Channel
- (c) The Irish Sea and the Atlantic Ocean
- (d) The Norwegian Sea and the North Sea

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Option (b) is correct:** The Strait of Dover forms the narrowest part of the English Channel, marking the boundary where the English Channel terminates and transitions directly into the North Sea. It physically separates Great Britain from continental Europe (France).

6. Consider the following statements regarding Tropical Grasslands:

- 1. These ecosystems are characterized by short, dense plants and receive less than 30 cm of highly erratic annual rainfall.
- 2. Regionally, these grasslands are known as Campos in Brazil and Llanos in Venezuela.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Tropical grasslands are characterized by a warm climate year-round with distinct wet and dry seasons, receiving a moderate 50 cm to 130 cm of annual rainfall. It is temperate grasslands that typically receive less precipitation (25 cm to 75 cm).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Tropical grasslands are distributed globally across the tropics. Their regional names include the Savanna in East Africa, the Campos in the Brazilian Highlands, and the Llanos in the Orinoco River basin of Venezuela.

7. With reference to global Temperate Grasslands, consider the following statements:

- 1. They generally experience hot summers and exceptionally cold winters, with temperature drops hitting 0°F in peak winter seasons.
- 2. The annual precipitation ranges between 25 cm and 75 cm, falling significantly in the form of dew and snow.
- 3. The dominant natural vegetation includes sagebrush, perennial grasses, buffalo grass, and wild indigos.

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:** Unlike tropical equivalents, temperate grasslands experience sharp continental temperature extremes, where winters drop to 0°F or lower and summers routinely push past 90°F.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** They have lower overall moisture inputs than tropical savannas, receiving a limited 25 cm to 75 cm of precipitation annually. Because of the freezing winter regimes, a large portion of this moisture arrives via seasonal snow and morning dew.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Due to the dry, cold periods, trees are rare. The biome is ruled by cold-tolerant, deep-rooted vegetation like perennial grasses, buffalo grass, clovers, wild indigos, and woody shrubs like sagebrush.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the geographic nomenclature of Temperate Grasslands:

1. The vast, treeless mid-latitude plains of North America are classified as Prairies, while the semi-arid interiors of Eurasia are known as Steppes.
2. The fertile lowlands of Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil are referred to as the Pampas.
3. The interior high-altitude plateaus of South Africa are called Velds, while the temperate plains of Australia are designated as Downs.

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:

- **Statements 1, 2, and 3 are all correct:**
 - North America: Prairies
 - Eurasia (Central Asia/Russia): Steppes
 - South America (Argentina/Uruguay): Pampas
 - South Africa: Velds
 - Australia: Downs

9. Consider the following pairs regarding the types and distribution of grasslands in India:

Grassland Type	Region	Key Feature
1. Sub-Himalayan Grasslands	Terai belt (J&K to Arunachal Pradesh)	Tall, dense grasses with scattered trees
2. Semi-Arid Grasslands	Western Peninsular India and Western Ghats	Heavy, dense shrublands suited for rice cultivation

3. Dry Sub-Humid Grasslands	Central Peninsular India	Open plains critical for crops like wheat and barley
4. Montane Grasslands	High Altitudes (e.g., Bughals of Uttarakhand)	Alpine meadows found above the tree line

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** The Sub-Himalayan/Terai grasslands stretch across the moist foothills from J&K to Arunachal, featuring highly productive elephant grasses interspersed with swampy sal forests.
- **Pair 2 is incorrectly matched:** Semi-Arid Grasslands are found in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi, and Western UP. They are characterized by short, drought-resistant, sparse grasses mixed with thorny shrubs, completely unsuited for intensive rice cultivation.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Dry Sub-Humid Grasslands cover large swathes of the continental Deccan plateau. The deep, moisture-retentive black and alluvial soils found here make them high-value blocks for commercial cereal crops like wheat and barley.
- **Pair 4 is correctly matched:** Montane Grasslands occupy the high altitudes of the Himalayas and North-East India. Examples include the famous Bughals of Uttarakhand, Khajjiar in Himachal Pradesh, and the Dzukou Valley on the Nagaland-Manipur border.

10. With reference to the structural differences between Tropical and Temperate Grasslands, consider the following statements:

1. Tropical grasslands are dominated by exceptionally tall grasses that can grow up to 3–4 meters in height, whereas temperate grasslands primarily feature short, low-lying plants.
2. Precipitation in temperate grasslands occurs in the form of uniform tropical monsoons, while tropical grasslands rely primarily on dew and snow.
3. Large wild herbivores such as elephants, giraffes, and zebras are native to tropical savannas, whereas wild buffaloes, bison, and antelopes dominate temperate grasslands.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Due to the combination of year-round warmth and heavy seasonal rain (50–130 cm), tropical savanna grasses like elephant grass grow massive stalks reaching 3 to 4 meters. Temperate grasslands have less moisture and freezing winters, producing short, nutrient-dense, lawn-like carpets.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Tropical grasslands experience distinct wet and dry seasons with warm monsoonal or convective rains. It is the temperate grasslands that face sub-zero winters where precipitation routinely takes the form of morning dew and heavy snow.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The megafauna differs dramatically: the African/Tropical savanna supports browsing giants like elephants and giraffes alongside cursorial plains herds (zebras, cheetahs), while temperate steppes and prairies historically supported massive migratory herds of wild bison, pronghorn antelopes, and wild horses.

Plateaus and Grasslands of the World

1. Consider the following statements regarding the physical and climatic features of the Tibetan Plateau:

1. It was geologically formed due to the tectonic collision of the Indo-Australian and Eurasian plates.
2. The plateau is bound to the northeast by the Karakoram Range and to the west by the Kunlun Range.
3. Its immense altitude is sufficient to reverse the atmospheric Hadley cell convection cycles.
4. It acts as a major thermal engine that drives the summer monsoonal winds of India towards the south.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Tibetan Plateau is the highest and largest plateau on Earth, formed during the Cenozoic era due to the continental collision between the Indo-Australian (Indian) plate and the Eurasian plate.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Tibetan Plateau is bound to the south by the Himalayas, to the northeast by the Kunlun Range, and to the west by the Karakoram Range.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Due to its average elevation exceeding 4,500 meters, intense summer heating over the plateau creates a strong rising thermal core. This localized updraft is powerful enough to physically alter and reverse the classic regional atmospheric Hadley cell circulation.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The thermal low pressure generated over the heated Tibetan Plateau acts as a meteorological pump that pulls and drives the moist multi-branch South West Monsoonal winds towards the north/northwest into the Indian subcontinent, not towards the south.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the Colorado Plateau is/are correct?

1. It is a classic example of an intermontane plateau, geologically defined by flat-lying sedimentary strata containing prominent mesas and buttes.
2. The plateau is structurally bisected by the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon system.
3. The region is widely known for widespread, perched groundwater tables that naturally erupt as positive-pressure Artesian wells.

Select the correct 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)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Located in the Western United States (covering parts of Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico), the Colorado Plateau is an unwarped intermontane plateau. Long-term subaerial erosion has carved its horizontal rock layers into steep-sided, flat-topped landforms known as mesas and smaller buttes.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Colorado River system acts as the primary drainage and erosive agent of this plateau, slicing deeply through the crust to form the world-famous Grand Canyon.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While the Colorado Plateau is famous for complex sandstone aquifers and deeply carved canyon springs, it is not a classic basin defined by widespread positive-pressure structural *Artesian wells* (which require specific deep, confined synclinal basins like the Great Artesian Basin of Australia).

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

1. The Deccan Traps within the plateau represent one of the largest subaerial volcanic features on Earth, built from multiple overlapping basaltic lava flows.
2. Fossil records are absent throughout the dense, crystalline rock layers of the Deccan Traps due to the extreme heat of historical volcanic eruptions.
3. The easternmost core of the Deccan Plateau includes the mineral-rich Golconda region, which historically served as a prime global source of diamonds.

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Deccan Traps form a massive flood basalt province covering over 500,000 square kilometers in western and central India. It was created by step-like, sequential fissure eruptions during the late Cretaceous period.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Despite the volcanic origin, the sedimentary layers deposited *between* successive lava flows (known as Intertrappean beds) contain highly unique, globally significant fossils of late Cretaceous plants, frogs, mollusks, and even dinosaur teeth/eggs.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The southern and eastern fringes of the Deccan block are exceptionally rich in primary minerals. The historic Golconda region (spanning parts of modern Telangana and Andhra Pradesh) was celebrated globally for its ancient alluvial diamond mines.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the Columbia-Snake Plateau is/are correct?

1. It is a structural flood basalt plateau formed as a direct result of extensive sequential volcanic fissure eruptions.
2. It is bound to the west by the Rocky Mountains and bordered along its eastern margin by the Cascade Range.

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Columbia Plateau (covering parts of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho) is a premier global example of a *Flood Basalt Plateau*. It was built up by liquid, low-viscosity basaltic lava flows that flooded the landscape and cooled into thick layers.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Columbia Plateau is bound to the west by the Cascade Range and to the east by the Rocky Mountains.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Patagonian Plateau:

1. It is a classic geomorphic example of a Piedmont plateau located at the southern terminus of South America.
2. The plateau functions as a cold, hyper-humid rain-forest ecosystem due to unhindered winds blowing off the Pacific Ocean.
3. Economically, the sparse vegetation and cold climate make it a vital regional zone for extensive pastoral sheep rearing.

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: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Patagonian Plateau in southern Argentina is a classic *Piedmont plateau*—a high landform that sits at the foot of a mountain range (the Andes) and drops off steeply on its other side toward the Atlantic Ocean.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Patagonian Plateau is actually a rain-shadow desert plateau. The towering Andes mountains to its west block incoming moisture from the Pacific Ocean, causing the air to drop its rain on the Chilean side and cross into Patagonia as dry, desertifying wind.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Because the climate is cold and arid, the landscape is dominated by hardy shrubs and short grasses. This semi-arid steppe vegetation makes the plateau ideally suited for large-scale, commercial sheep ranching rather than crop farming.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the Appalachian Plateau is/are correct?

1. It is a highly rugged, deeply dissected plateau that marks the northwestern face of the larger Appalachian mountain system.
2. Unlike a typical flat tableland, its modern mountainous appearance is the result of long-term fluvial erosion cutting deep V-shaped valleys into an uplifted plain.
3. Geographically, it forms an elongated block that stretches from the state of New York down to southern Florida.

Select the correct 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)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Appalachian Plateau is the westernmost physiographic province of the Appalachian Mountains, extending from New York southwestward through Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee, down to Alabama.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Though it looks like a mountain range to an observer on the ground, it is geologically a *dissected plateau*. It consists of a flat, elevated block of sedimentary rock that has been heavily carved into sharp hills and valleys by rivers over millions of years.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The plateau terminates in northern Alabama, not Florida. Florida is entirely made up of low-lying coastal plains and karstic limestone structures, completely outside the Appalachian system.

7. With reference to the Piedmont Plateau of the United States, consider the following statements:

1. It is situated as a transitional plateau region bounded between the Atlantic Coastal Plain to the east and the main Appalachian Mountains to the west.
2. The eastern boundary of this plateau is marked by a prominent geomorphic feature known as the 'Fall Line', where rivers drop rapidly into the coastal plain.
3. The province is composed of young, undisturbed, non-foliated sedimentary rocks of the Holocene era.

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 Piedmont is a plateau province in the Eastern US that forms a transitional zone between the low Atlantic Coastal Plain and the higher Appalachian ridges further inland.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The eastern edge of the Piedmont meets the coastal plain at the **Fall Line**. Here, rivers flowing off the hard bedrock of the plateau drop down via waterfalls and rapids onto the softer sediments of the plain, historically marking the limit of river navigation.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Piedmont is a highly complex geological zone made up of ancient, heavily deformed Precambrian and Paleozoic metamorphic and igneous rocks (such as schists, gneisses, and granites), not young Holocene sedimentary deposits.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Laurentian Plateau is/are correct?

1. It is composed of exposed, ancient Precambrian igneous and high-grade metamorphic rocks that form the geological core of North America.
2. The plateau is highly valued for its economic geology, containing massive and exceptionally fine-quality reserves of iron ore.

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Laurentian Plateau, or Canadian Shield, is a massive U-shaped region of ancient, stable rock wrapping around Hudson Bay. It represents the ancient geological craton of the North American plate, shaped by billions of years of tectonic activity and glacial erosion.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Because of its ancient volcanic and metamorphic history, this shield is incredibly rich in metallic minerals. It holds some of the world's most productive deposits of high-grade iron ore, nickel, gold, and copper.

9. Consider the following statements regarding the Altiplano Plateau:

1. It is an extensive intermontane plateau located in west-central South America where the Andes mountain ranges reach their maximum width.
2. The plateau serves as a premier global mining hub, holding massive primary reserves of copper and iron ore.
3. Both La Paz (the administrative capital) and Sucre (the constitutional capital) of Bolivia are situated directly on this high plateau.

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: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Altiplano (or Andean Plateau) is the second-largest high-altitude plateau on Earth after Tibet. It sits trapped between the Eastern and Western cordilleras of the Andes mountains.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While it is a massive mining zone, its primary globally famous mineral reserves are tin, silver, and lithium (including the massive Salar de Uyuni lithium flats), rather than copper and iron ore.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Altiplano forms the geographic heart of Bolivia. Both its administrative capital, La Paz (the highest capital city in the world), and its constitutional capital, Sucre, are located within this high-altitude mountain plateau environment.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the Guiana Highlands is/are correct?

1. Located in northeastern South America, these highlands form part of the Guiana Shield, which represents one of the oldest stable land surfaces on Earth.
2. Geologically, the formation consists of young Phanerozoic volcanic structures that emerged during the separation of Africa and South America.

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Guiana Highlands are an ancient landscape located between the Amazon and Orinoco rivers. They are part of the Guiana Shield, an ancient craton that has remained stable for hundreds of millions of years.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The shield is not made of young Phanerozoic volcanoes. It is an ancient Precambrian geological formation dating back roughly 1.7 billion years, consisting primarily of highly resistant quartzites, sandstones, and crystalline basement rock that form dramatic flat-topped mountains called *tepui*s.

Major Mountains of the World

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Andes Mountain Range:

1. It is the longest continental mountain range on Earth and stands as the highest system outside of Asia.
2. Its highest peak, Mount Aconcagua, is an active volcano located along the tectonic boundary of the South American Plate.
3. Ojos del Salado, situated on the Chile-Argentina border, is classified as the highest active volcano on Earth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer:(b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Andes form a continuous highland along the western coast of South America. It is the longest continental mountain range in the world (~7,000 km) and the highest outside Asia, boasting an average elevation of around 4,000 m.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While Mount Aconcagua (6,962 m) is of volcanic origin, it is a dormant/extinct volcano.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ojos del Salado (6,893 m) is a structurally active stratovolcano on the Argentina-Chile border and holds the definitive geographic record as the highest active volcano on Earth.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the Rocky Mountains is/are correct?

1. They constitute the largest mountain system in North America and form an integral part of the American Cordillera.
2. The range was formed during the Cenozoic era due to the tectonic collision between the African and Eurasian plates.

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:(a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Rocky Mountains (or the Rockies) span more than 4,800 km from northern British Columbia in Canada to New Mexico in the Southwestern United States, making them the largest mountain network in North America and a key component of the western American Cordillera.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The collision between the African and Eurasian plates formed the Alps in Europe. The Rockies were formed primarily via the Laramide orogeny on the western margin of the North American Plate.

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

1. It forms a continuous sequence of mountain ranges spanning the western backbone of the Americas but excludes the Antarctic landmass.
2. It acts as the primary structural backbone of the volcanic arc that forms the western half of the Pacific Ring of Fire.

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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The American Cordillera is an almost unbroken chain of mountain ranges that forms the western backbone of North America, South America, and continues through the Scotia Arc into Antarctica (Antarctic Peninsula).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** This is a spatial/directional trap. The American Cordillera runs along the western edge of the Americas, which corresponds to the eastern half of the global Pacific Ring of Fire, not the western half.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the Himalayan Mountain Range is/are correct?

1. It contains the highest peaks on Earth and structurally acts as a young fold mountain barrier.
2. Its western anchor is marked by Namcha Barwa, while its easternmost anchor terminates at Nanga Parbat.
3. The structural width of the range is asymmetrical, varying from 400 kilometers in the west to 150 kilometers in the east.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Himalayas house the planet's highest peaks (including Mount Everest) and represent a classic collisional mountain belt.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The western anchor is Nanga Parbat (lying just south of the northernmost bend of the Indus River), and the eastern anchor is Namcha Barwa (located just west of the great bend of the Brahmaputra/Tsangpo River).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Himalayan range exhibits significant structural compression variations from west to east; it narrows considerably towards the east (150 km) compared to its wider western wing (400 km).

5. Consider the following statements regarding the regional extensions of the global Cordillera system:

1. The Alaska Range and the Brooks Range form the northernmost extensions of the North American Cordillera.
2. In Mexico, the continuous mountain backbone is represented by the Sierra Madre Occidental and the Sierra Madre Oriental.
3. The South American Cordillera forms parallel chains that terminate completely north of the Tierra del Fuego archipelago.
4. The structural system terminates at the tip of South America, showing no geological continuity with the Antarctic Peninsula.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer:(a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The North American Cordillera includes the northern sub-arctic ranges like the Brooks Range and Alaska Range within Alaska.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** As the cordillera moves south into Mexico, it splits into two massive flanking ranges: the Sierra Madre Occidental (west) and the Sierra Madre Oriental (east).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Andes do not stop north of Tierra del Fuego; they continue all the way through the parallel chains to the very southern tip of South America at Tierra del Fuego.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Tectonically, the system does not end at South America; it continues underwater along the Scotia Arc loop before rising again as the mountain backbone of the Antarctic Peninsula.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the Cascade Range is/are correct?

1. It is a major volcanic mountain range of western North America that forms part of the Pacific Ring of Fire.
2. The active volcanism in the Cascades is driven by a subduction zone where the dense North American Plate plunges beneath the Juan de Fuca oceanic plate.
3. The range features a mix of thousands of small, short-lived vents alongside a few strikingly massive stratovolcanoes like Mount St. Helens.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer:(b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Cascade Range is a prominent segment of the Pacific Ring of Fire in the US Pacific Northwest and Canada, well-known for its historic volcanic eruptions.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Subduction occurs because the dense oceanic Juan de Fuca plate plunges beneath the overriding continental North American Plate.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Geomorphically, the Cascades are built from a base of thousands of small, short-lived volcanic domes and cones, punctuated by massive, prominent volcanic peaks like Mount St. Helens and Mount Rainier.

7. Consider the following statements regarding the Great Dividing Range and the European Alps:

1. The Great Dividing Range, also known as the Eastern Highlands of Australia, was formed primarily due to ancient continental rifting events.
2. The European Alps were geologically created as the African and Eurasian tectonic plates collided.
3. The extreme folding during the Alpine orogeny pushed deep crystalline mantle rocks upward, creating high peaks like Mont Blanc that are devoid of marine sedimentary rocks.
4. The Alpine region contains a hundred peaks that rise higher than 5,000 meters, known colloquially as the five-thousanders.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Great Dividing Range (Eastern Highlands of Australia) is an ancient complex system formed during the Paleozoic era, later uplifted and shaped significantly by the rifting and breakup of the Gondwana supercontinent.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Alps are classic fold mountains formed during the Cenozoic era due to the continuous northward collision of the African plate into the Eurasian plate.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The intense compression and thrust-faulting of the Alpine orogeny actually lifted up ancient marine sedimentary rocks from the former Tethys Sea floor, folding them up to form the high peaks (including Mont Blanc). They are not devoid of sedimentary rocks.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Alpine region contains peaks higher than 4,000 m (not 5,000 m), which are globally recognized by mountaineers as the four-thousanders.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Transantarctic Mountains is/are correct?

1. They comprise a continuous, uninterrupted wall of uplifted rock extending across the continent from Cape Adare to Coats Land.
2. These mountains act as the definitive structural and geographic dividing line between East Antarctica and West Antarctica.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Transantarctic Mountains stretch across the continent from Victoria Land to Coats Land, but they are broken up at various intervals by massive outlet glaciers flowing from the polar ice sheets.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Geographically and geologically, this mountain range separates the older, stable craton of East Antarctica from the younger, tectonically active rifts of West Antarctica.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the Ural Mountains is/are correct?

1. The range runs north-to-south through western Russia, extending from the Arctic Ocean coast down to northwestern Kazakhstan.
2. They were formed due to an ancient continent-continent collision between the supercontinent Laurussia and the continent of Kazakhstania.
3. The western slope of the Ural mountain chain is traditionally designated as the natural geographic boundary separating Europe and Asia.

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:** The Urals form a north-south line through western Russia, running from the Arctic Ocean to the Ural River in northwestern Kazakhstan.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Uralian orogeny occurred in the late Paleozoic era, resulting from the major continent-continent collision of Laurussia with the weaker continent of Kazakhstania.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The eastern side/slope of the Ural Mountains is what is traditionally considered the boundary dividing Europe and Asia, not the western side.

10. Consider the following prominent global mountain peaks:

1. Mount Toubkal (Atlas Mountains)
2. Mont Blanc (European Alps)
3. Ojos del Salado (Andes Mountains)
4. Mount Aconcagua (Andes Mountains)

Which one of the following options represents the correct chronological sequence of the peaks arranged in ascending order of their maximum elevations?

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

Correct Answer:(a)

Explanation:

To solve this high-yield question, we must look at the precise factual elevations of these major peaks:

- **Mount Toubkal:** The highest peak in the Atlas Mountains of North Africa, standing at 4,165 m.
- **Mont Blanc:** The highest peak in the European Alps, standing at 4,810 m.
- **Ojos del Salado:** The highest active volcano on Earth located in the Andes, standing at 6,893 m.
- **Mount Aconcagua:** The absolute highest peak in the Andes range and the entire Western Hemisphere, standing at 6,962 m.

Arranging them from lowest to highest gives the sequence: Mount Toubkal → Mont Blanc → Ojos del Salado → Mount Aconcagua.

Major Deserts of the World

1. Consider the following statements regarding the geographical factors contributing to desert formation:

1. Rain shadow regions are formed on the windward side of mountain ranges during plate convergence due to the blocking of rain-bearing clouds.
2. Cold ocean currents running parallel to coasts suppress atmospheric evaporation, directly preventing cloud formation and inducing desertification.
3. Subtropical high-pressure belts cause descending air movements, creating stable atmospheric conditions that prevent convective precipitation.
4. Off-shore winds bring moisture-laden air masses from the ocean interiors toward coastal belts, driving structural landward desertification.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Rain shadow regions are formed on the leeward side (sheltered side) of mountain ranges, not the windward side. The windward side receives heavy precipitation as air rises and condenses.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Cold ocean currents cool the overriding air masses, creating high atmospheric stability and thermal inversions that prevent evaporation and deep convection, resulting in hyper-arid coastal deserts.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** High-pressure zones feature dynamically sinking (subsiding) air. Sinking air warms adiabatically and dries out, suppressing the upward air currents needed for condensation and cloud formation.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** On-shore winds bring moisture from the sea to the land. Off-shore winds blow from the dry interior of landmasses toward the sea, depriving coastal zones of moisture.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to Hot and Dry Deserts is/are correct?

1. They are primarily distributed within subtropical high-pressure zones between 15° and 30° latitudes north and south of the Equator.
2. The Sahara Desert stands as the largest desert system on Earth and experiences high annual temperatures with minimal seasonal variation.

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Tropical or hot and dry deserts are structurally tied to the planetary wind circulation patterns, lying along the Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn (between 15° and 30° N/S) under the dry subsiding arm of the Hadley Cell.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** This is an absolute/classification trap. The Sahara Desert is the largest hot desert in the world, but it is only the third-largest desert overall on Earth (ranking behind the Antarctic and Arctic polar deserts).

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Polar Cold Deserts is/are correct?

1. They are characterized by absolute water scarcity due to the absence of hydrological deposits on the ground surface.
2. Antarctica and the Arctic are geographic classifications of cold deserts located at the extreme ends of Earth's rotational axis.

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Cold polar deserts actually contain plenty of water, but it is cryogenically locked in the form of permanent ice sheets. It is biologically and physically unavailable for immediate ecosystem use, rather than being completely absent.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Both Antarctica (Antarctic Desert) and the Arctic region meet the structural definition of a desert due to receiving less than 250 mm of annual precipitation, and they are located at the Earth's geographic poles.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to Coastal Deserts is/are correct?

1. They develop along the eastern edges of continents where warm ocean currents stimulate intense coastal convective downpours.
2. The Namib Desert in Africa and the Atacama Desert in South America are classic examples where heavy advection fog occurs despite near-zero rainfall.

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Coastal deserts develop along the western edges of continents (e.g., Atacama, Namib), where cold ocean currents (like the Humboldt and Benguela currents) run parallel to the shore, suppressing rainfall.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Cold air passing over warm surfaces creates a strong thermal inversion layer. This creates thick, dense coastal fog (locally called camanchaca in the Atacama) that rolls inland, serving as the primary source of moisture for highly specialized endemic species.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Continental Deserts is/are correct?

1. They are characterized by extreme distance from maritime moisture sources or placement on the leeward sides of massive mountain ranges.

2. The Sahara and Kalahari deserts serve as the primary global type-specimens for these low-altitude continental interiors.

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Continental deserts (cold-winter deserts) form either due to continentality (being located deep within the heart of a giant landmass where maritime winds lose all moisture before arrival) or via the rain-shadow effect on the leeward side of mountains.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Gobi Desert (Central Asia) and the Taklamakan/Tibet region are classic continental/rain-shadow deserts. The Sahara and Kalahari are sub-tropical/trade-wind hot deserts.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the physical typologies of global deserts:

1. Salt deserts, geomorphically classified as salt pans, consist of high-salinity flat surfaces formed by intense evaporation of enclosed drainage basins.
2. The Great Rann of Kutch, located in western India, is recognized as the largest salt desert surface area in the world.
3. The Ar Rub' al Khali, which covers a massive portion of the Arabian Peninsula, is the largest continuous sand desert on Earth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Salt deserts or salt flats form in arid endorheic basins (internal drainage systems) where water accumulates but cannot drain out. High evaporation rates leave behind heavy crusts of minerals and salts.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While the Great Rann of Kutch is a massive salt desert and India's prime example, the Salar de Uyuni in Bolivia is the largest salt desert/pan in the world (~10,000 square kilometers).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Ar Rub' al Khali (The Empty Quarter) is hyper-arid and constitutes the largest continuous body of sand dunes (erg topography) globally.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the ecological distribution of deserts in India is/are correct?

1. The Thar Desert is confined within the boundaries of India, covering portions of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, and Haryana.
2. The Cold Desert of Ladakh sits within the Trans-Himalayan rain-shadow zone and experiences extreme temperature fluctuations with scarce precipitation.
3. The Rann of Kutch operates as a seasonal marshy salt pan desert that exhibits high-density white halite crust landscapes during dry months.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Thar Desert is not confined entirely within India; roughly 15% of its total geographical expanse stretches across the international border into Pakistan (where it is called the Cholistan Desert).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ladakh is classified as a high-altitude cold desert. The Great Himalayas block the entry of the southwest monsoon, leaving the region in a perpetual rain shadow with dry, frigid conditions.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Rann of Kutch is unique because it is submerged under water during the monsoon season and dries out during the winter to expose vast, hyper-saline white salt fields.

8. Consider the following statements regarding planetary desert records and extremes:

1. The Arctic Desert represents the largest geographical desert system on Earth, followed closely by the Antarctic Desert.
2. The Carcross Desert, located in Yukon, Canada, holds the record as the smallest recognized desert surface area globally.
3. The Atacama Desert is classified as the world's driest non-polar desert and receives lower mean annual precipitation than typical polar deserts.
4. The Sahara Desert covers a total land surface area exceeding 14 million square kilometers, making it larger than the Antarctica.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Antarctic Desert is the largest desert in the world (14.2 million sq km), followed by the Arctic Desert as the second-largest (13.9 million sq km).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Carcross Desert in Canada measures only about 2.5 square kilometers. It is technically a series of northern sand dunes kept dry by rain shadow effects, commonly considered the smallest desert worldwide.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Atacama Desert is a hyper-arid non-polar desert. Certain weather stations there have recorded zero rainfall for decades, making its precipitation levels lower than even parts of the frozen poles.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Sahara Desert covers approximately 9.2 million square kilometers, not 14 million (which is closer to the size of Antarctica).

9. Which of the following statements with regard to unique desert dynamics is/are correct?

1. The Gobi Desert is recognized as the fastest-expanding desert in the world due to severe anthropogenic desertification and wind-driven soil erosion.

2. Although the Antarctic Desert is a hyper-arid ecosystem, its permanent ice sheet structures hold nearly 90% of Earth's liquid surface freshwater.

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Gobi Desert is expanding rapidly (losing over 3,600 sq km of grasslands annually to desertification), a process heavily driven by climate shifts, overgrazing, and deforestation in northern China and Mongolia.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** This is a classic geographical paradox. Antarctica gets almost no new precipitation (making it a desert), but its massive accumulated, permanently frozen ice sheets contain roughly 90% of the entire planet's freshwater reserves.

10. Consider the following statements regarding the geological chronology and human-induced creation of deserts:

- 1. The Namib Desert in Southwestern Africa is geologically recognized as the oldest existing desert ecosystem on Earth.
- 2. The Sahara Desert is older than the Namib Desert, having maintained its hyper-arid status continuously for over 50 million years.
- 3. The Aralkum Desert is classified as the world's newest desert, having formed entirely within the modern era on the dried bed of the Aral Sea.
- 4. The formation of the Aralkum Desert is a natural geological event caused by tectonic uplift along the borders of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Namib Desert has experienced hyper-arid conditions for at least 55 to 80 million years, making it the oldest continuous desert on Earth.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Sahara is actually much younger geologically, having transitioned to a permanent desert state roughly 2 to 3 million years ago.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Aralkum Desert is the youngest desert on Earth. It sits on what was once the floor of the Aral Sea, drying up rapidly from the mid-20th century onward.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Aralkum is an anthropogenic (human-caused) desert, not a natural tectonic event. It was created because Soviet-era agricultural irrigation projects diverted the feeding rivers (Amu Darya and Syr Darya), leading to an ecological disaster that dried up the sea basin.

Major Rivers of the World

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Mississippi-Missouri River system:

1. The Missouri River is structurally the longest individual river in North America and acts as a major tributary to the Mississippi River.
2. The Mississippi River originates from Lake Itasca in Minnesota, while the Missouri River rises in the Rocky Mountains.
3. The river system forms a classic arcuate delta at its mouth, similar to the Nile and Ganges river systems.
4. The Missouri River flows south and converges directly with the Mississippi River within the city boundaries of New Orleans.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Missouri River (3,767 km) is longer than the main stem of the Mississippi River (3,540 km), making it the longest single river in North America. It serves as the principal western tributary of the Mississippi.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Mississippi River begins its journey at Lake Itasca, USA. Its major tributary, the Missouri River, begins at the confluence of the Madison, Jefferson, and Gallatin rivers in the Rocky Mountains of Montana.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Mississippi-Missouri river system is famous for creating a Bird's Foot delta (digitate delta), characterized by long, finger-like distributary channels, not an arcuate delta.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Missouri River meets and empties into the Mississippi River just north of St. Louis, Missouri, not New Orleans (which lies thousands of miles downstream near the river's final exit into the Gulf of Mexico).

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the Rio Grande and Colorado Rivers is/are correct?

1. The Rio Grande River rises in the San Juan Mountains and forms the definitive international land border between the USA and Mexico.
2. The Colorado River originates in the Rocky Mountains and is the primary hydrological agent responsible for cutting the Grand Canyon.
3. The Hoover Dam, a major engineering marvel, is structurally built across the main stem of the Rio Grande River.

Select the correct 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 Rio Grande originates in southwestern Colorado (San Juan Mountains) and flows south to form the natural international political boundary separating Texas (USA) from Mexico before draining into the Gulf of Mexico.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Colorado River rises in northern Colorado (Rocky Mountains). Over millions of years, its fast-flowing, sediment-heavy waters have cut deep into the Colorado Plateau to form the Grand Canyon.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Hoover Dam is located on the Colorado River (along the border between Nevada and Arizona), creating Lake Mead, not on the Rio Grande.

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

1. It stands as the longest river in the world by linear measurement.
2. It holds the largest drainage basin globally, with its waters flowing through Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, and Brazil.
3. The Rio Negro, Madeira, and Xingu rivers serve as primary major tributaries that empty directly into the Amazon stem.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Amazon River is the largest river in the world by water volume discharge, but it is officially ranked as the second-longest river in the world, behind Africa's Nile River.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Amazon Basin covers roughly 7 million square kilometers, making it the largest drainage basin globally. It crosses through six sovereign South American countries as it drains the dense Amazon Rainforest.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Amazon is fed by over 1,100 tributaries. Its largest northern tributary is the dark-water Rio Negro, and its largest southern tributary is the Madeira, alongside the massive Xingu River near its Atlantic mouth.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the Danube River is/are correct?

1. It is the longest river located within the continental limits of Europe.
2. It originates in the Black Forest Mountains of Germany and flows in a unique west-to-east direction to drain into the Black Sea.
3. The capital cities of Vienna, Budapest, and Belgrade are located directly along its banks.

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: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Danube is the second-longest river in Europe. The absolute longest river in Europe is the Volga River, which flows entirely through Russia.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Danube is unique among major European rivers because it cuts horizontally across the continent, flowing from its source in southwestern Germany eastward through 10 countries before emptying into the Black Sea via the Danube Delta.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Danube holds the record for flowing through more sovereign nations and capital cities than any other river on Earth, directly passing through Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest, and Belgrade.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Volga and Rhine Rivers is/are correct?

1. The Volga River rises in the Valdai Hills of Western Russia and flows south to drain into the endorheic Caspian Sea.
2. The Rhine River originates in the Swiss Alps, flows through Germany and France, and runs east to empty into the Baltic Sea.

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: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Volga is Europe's longest river (~3,530 km). It originates in the Valdai Hills northwest of Moscow and flows through western Russia into the Caspian Sea, an inland landlocked sea basin.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Rhine River flows primarily northward (not east) through Western Europe and empties into the North Sea at Rotterdam (Netherlands).

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Ural and Dnieper Rivers:

1. The Ural River rises in the Ural Mountains and serves as a natural, traditional geographical boundary dividing Europe and Asia.
2. The Dnieper River flows through Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine before emptying directly into the landlocked Caspian Sea.
3. Both the Ural and Dnieper rivers share the exact same headwater source location within the Valdai Hills of Western Russia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Ural River flows through Russia and Kazakhstan, and its channel is traditionally recognized as the boundary that demarcates the European and Asian continents. It empties into the Caspian Sea.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Dnieper River drains into the Black Sea, not the Caspian Sea. It is a critical maritime transit river for Ukraine.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Dnieper rises in the Valdai Hills, but the Ural River rises far to the east in the Ural Mountains (Southern Russia).

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

1. It is the longest river in the world, flowing from north to south across northeastern Africa to drain into the Mediterranean Sea.
2. The main stem of the Nile is formed by the geomorphic confluence of two primary systems: the White Nile and the Blue Nile.
3. The Nile Hydrological Basin is highly international, spanning an area that covers parts of 11 African nations.

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: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Nile River flows from south to north (originating in equatorial East Africa and flowing northward through Sudan and Egypt into the Mediterranean Sea).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Nile is fed by two main branches: the White Nile (which provides a steady base flow from Lake Victoria) and the Blue Nile (which brings seasonal floodwaters and fertile silt from the Ethiopian Highlands). They merge at Khartoum, Sudan.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Nile Basin is shared by 11 nations: Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, DRC, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Egypt. This shared basin makes it a key focal point for transboundary water diplomacy.

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

1. It holds the definitive record as the deepest river system on Earth and is the only major global river to cross the Equator twice.
2. It originates as the Chambeshi River in Zambia and flows west to drain into the Indian Ocean along the eastern African coast.

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: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Congo River has measured depths exceeding 220 meters, making it the deepest recorded river in the world. Due to its massive arc shape around the Congo Basin, it crosses the Equator once flowing northward and a second time flowing southward.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Congo River flows westward across the African continent and empties into the Atlantic Ocean.

9. Consider the following statements regarding the Niger and Zambezi Rivers:

1. The Niger River originates in the Guinea Highlands, flows in a distinctive crescent path, and was historically dubbed the "Oil River" due to the colonial palm oil trade.
2. The Zambezi River is the longest east-flowing river in Africa and discharges its waters directly into the Atlantic Ocean.
3. The iconic Victoria Falls and the major Kariba and Cahora Bassa dams are all built across the course of the Zambezi River system.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Niger River takes an unusual crescent route, looping inland toward the Sahara Desert before turning south toward Nigeria. Its delta area was historically called the Oil Rivers because it served as a major export hub for palm oil during British colonial rule.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Since the Zambezi is an east-flowing river, it empties into the Indian Ocean (along the coast of Mozambique), not the Atlantic Ocean.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Zambezi River houses several major geographical and engineering features, including Victoria Falls (on the Zambia-Zimbabwe border), Lake Kariba (Kariba Dam), and the Cahora Bassa Dam in Mozambique.

10. Consider the following statements regarding the Mekong and Yellow River systems:

1. The Mekong River originates on the Tibetan Plateau and flows through China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam.
2. The lower Mekong forms a fertile delta in Vietnam that ranks as one of the world's premier rice-producing agricultural zones.
3. The Yellow River is the absolute longest river system in China, rising from the Loess Plateau highlands.
4. The Yellow River is termed China's Sorrow because its low sediment load causes severe coastal water deficits along the Bohai Sea.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Mekong River has its source in the Tibetan Plateau and flows southeast through six nations, acting as a crucial regional economic lifeline for mainland Southeast Asia.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Mekong Delta in southern Vietnam is an incredibly flat, nutrient-rich alluvial plain. The extensive irrigation network here makes it a global hub for intensive wet-rice cultivation.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Yellow River is the second-longest river in China; the longest river in China (and all of Asia) is the Yangtze River. Additionally, the Yellow River rises in the Tibetan Plateau and later flows *through* the Loess Plateau, rather than rising directly from it.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Yellow River is called China's Sorrow because it carries an exceptionally high sediment load of fine yellow loess silt. This silt settles on the riverbed, raising the water level over time and causing catastrophic, unpredictable floods that have historically devastated the surrounding plains.

Major Volcanoes

1. Consider the following statements regarding famous active volcanoes:

1. Mount Vesuvius is a destructive stratovolcano near Naples that entirely buried the ancient Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum during its 79 AD eruption.
2. Mount St. Helens, located in the Cascade Range of the USA, is a shield volcano famous for its highly documented 1980 effusive basaltic eruption.
3. Mount Etna, located on the island of Sicily, stands as Europe's tallest and longest-recorded active stratovolcano.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Mount Vesuvius is a classic composite volcano located on the Gulf of Naples. Its historic eruption in 79 AD released a massive cloud of ash and pyroclastic flows, sealing Pompeii and Herculaneum in a layer of volcanic matter.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Mount St. Helens is a stratovolcano (composite volcano), not a shield volcano, and its famous 1980 eruption was a highly explosive lateral blast caused by a massive debris avalanche, not a gentle, effusive basaltic flow.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Mount Etna is a highly active stratovolcano situated on the east coast of Sicily, Italy. It is the largest active volcano in Europe, with recorded history of eruptions dating back to 1500 BC.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to volcanic structures is/are correct?

1. Shield volcanoes feature steep, precipitous slopes and are built by high-viscosity, silica-rich lava flows.
2. Stratovolcanoes are composite structures composed of alternating layers of hardened lava flows, volcanic ash, and tephra.
3. Cinder Cone volcanoes are typically small, steep-sided cones constructed from loose pyroclastic debris ejected during explosive eruptions.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Shield volcanoes have broad, gently sloping sides (resembling a warrior's shield) and are formed by the eruption of low-viscosity, low-silica basaltic lava that flows easily over long distances, not high-viscosity lava.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Stratovolcanoes (composite volcanoes) develop their characteristic steep profiles because they are built from sequential layers of thick, sticky lava flows alternating with explosive deposits of ash, cinders, and volcanic rocks.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** Cinder cones are the simplest type of volcano. They build up when gas-charged lava is blown violently into the air, breaks into small fragments (cinders), and falls back around the vent to form a circular or oval cone with a central bowl-shaped crater.

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

1. A Caldera is a large volcanic crater formed by the high-pressure accumulation and swelling of magma prior to an explosive eruption.
2. Submarine volcanoes are predominantly clustered along divergent plate boundaries where they actively contribute to the creation of new seafloor at mid-ocean ridges.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** A caldera is formed by the collapse of the summit structure of a volcano after a massive eruption empties the underlying magma chamber, leaving it unsupported. It is caused by structural collapse, not upward swelling or accumulation.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Submarine volcanoes are highly concentrated along the global mid-ocean ridge systems (such as the Mid-Atlantic Ridge) where tectonic plates pull apart, allowing mantle material to rise, melt, and form new oceanic crust.

4. Consider the following statements regarding Indonesian volcanism:

1. Mount Merapi is a highly active stratovolcano situated on the island of Java that poses a continuous pyroclastic threat to the nearby city of Yogyakarta.
2. The historic 1883 explosive eruption of Krakatoa occurred in the Malacca Strait, generating megatsunamis and acoustic sound waves that travelled unhindered to Europe.

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:** Mount Merapi (meaning Mountain of Fire) is located in Central Java, Indonesia. It regularly experiences dangerous pyroclastic flows, making it an immediate threat to the dense population centers below it, particularly Yogyakarta.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** This contains two geographic/factual traps. Krakatoa is located in the Sunda Strait (separating the islands of Java and Sumatra), not the Malacca Strait. While the sounds were heard up to 4,800 km away in the Indian Ocean (such as Rodriguez Island), they were not audibly heard directly in Europe.

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

1. The 1815 eruption of Mount Tambora in Indonesia stands as the most powerful volcanic eruption in recorded human history, directly triggering the global Year Without a Summer in 1816.

2. The Yellowstone Caldera in the western United States is a massive continental supervolcano responsible for prehistoric eruptions that distributed ash over large areas of North America.
3. Both Mount Tambora and the Yellowstone Caldera are classified as young, oceanic shield volcanoes formed by low-silica hotspot volcanism.

Select the correct 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 1815 eruption of Mount Tambora on Sumbawa Island had a Volcanic Explosivity Index (VEI) of 7. The massive volume of atmospheric sulfur aerosols it generated blocked solar radiation, dropping global temperatures and causing severe agricultural failure across Europe and North America in 1816.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Yellowstone is a continental supervolcano. Its system has produced three prehistoric super-eruptions (2.1 million, 1.3 million, and 640,000 years ago) that blanketed the North American continent in volcanic ash.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Mount Tambora is a stratovolcano, and Yellowstone is a continental caldera system. Neither is an oceanic shield volcano, and both are driven by highly explosive, high-silica magma systems, not low-silica fluid basaltic flows.

6. Consider the following statements regarding Mauna Loa and Mount Fuji:

1. Mauna Loa in Hawaii is recognized as the largest active volcano on Earth by mass and volume, rising from a deep oceanic floor base.
2. Mount Fuji is a highly symmetrical active shield volcano located on the island of Honshu, built by ancient continental rifting.
3. While Mauna Loa erupts via effusive, low-viscosity lava flows, Mount Fuji is a subduction-zone stratovolcano capable of explosive eruptions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Mauna Loa is a massive shield volcano. Its subaerial height is 4,169 meters (13,678 feet), but when measured from its true base on the ocean floor, it stands over 9,000 meters tall, making it the largest active volcano by volume.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** This is a morphological/tectonic trap. Mount Fuji is a **stratovolcano** (composite volcano), not a shield volcano, and it is located above a complex triple subduction zone junction (Pacific, Philippine Sea, and Eurasian plates), not a continental rift valley.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Mauna Loa's hotspot location generates hot, fluid basaltic lava (effusive). Mount Fuji, being a subduction-zone volcano, contains higher-viscosity and higher-silica andesitic/basaltic mixtures that make its eruptive potential explosive.

7. Consider the following reference matrix regarding volcanic features within Indian territory:

Name	Location	Type
Barren Island	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Active Stratovolcano
Narcondam Island	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Dormant Stratovolcano
Deccan Plateau	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana	Extinct Caldera
Baratang Island	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Frequently Active; Mud Volcano

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- Barren Island. It is located in the Andaman Sea along a highly active subduction zone arc. It remains the only verified active subaerial magmatic volcano in South Asia, with its most recent eruptive phase well-documented into 2025.
- The Deccan Traps are classified as a Large Igneous Province (LIP) formed by massive fissure eruptions (highly fluid, low-viscosity basaltic lava flooding out of deep crustal cracks over millions of years). They are not an extinct caldera, which is a cauldron-like volcanic feature formed by the structural collapse of a magma chamber summit.
- Unlike the magmatic systems of Barren and Narcondam, Baratang is world-renowned for its active mud volcanoes (known locally as Jalki). These are low-temperature surficial structures formed when underground high-pressure tectonic gases (mainly methane) and water force mud slurries to blast upwards through the surface crust.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to global volcanic elevations is/are correct?

1. Ojos del Salado, situated in the Andes along the Argentina–Chile border, is verified as the highest active volcano on Earth.
2. The Taal Volcano, located on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines, is globally recognized as the lowest and smallest active volcano.
3. Despite its extremely low elevation, the Taal Volcano remains historically destructive due to its hydrovolcanic (phreatomagmatic) eruption mechanics.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Nevado Ojos del Salado stands at 6,893 meters above sea level in the Andes mountains. It features active fumaroles and is universally documented as the highest active volcano globally.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Taal Volcano is located on the island of Luzon, approximately 50 kilometers south of Manila, not on the southern island of Mindanao. It is, however, recognized as one of the lowest and smallest active volcanoes (~311 meters).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Because Taal sits inside a lake (Lake Taal) and contains a crater lake itself, its eruptions often involve magma interacting directly with water, leading to highly explosive phreatomagmatic (hydrovolcanic) eruptions that generate dangerous base surges and ash falls.

9. Consider the following statements regarding the global geographic distribution of volcanoes:

1. The Pacific Ring of Fire contains the highest concentration of active subaerial volcanoes globally, directly affecting littoral nations like Japan, the Philippines, Chile, and the USA.
2. The Mid-Atlantic Ridge is characterized by explosive volcanism fueled by the subduction of the South American plate beneath the African plate.
3. Iceland experiences vigorous volcanic activity because it is situated directly over a divergent plate boundary where the North American and Eurasian plates rift apart.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Pacific Ring of Fire is an extensive, horseshoe-shaped seismically active belt driven by subduction zones. It accounts for roughly 75% of the world's active and dormant volcanoes.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Mid-Atlantic Ridge is a divergent plate boundary where plates pull away from each other, not a subduction zone. Its volcanism is typically effusive and non-explosive, generating new basaltic oceanic crust.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Iceland is a unique geological hotspot located directly atop the subaerial portion of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The rifting between the North American plate moving west and the Eurasian plate moving east creates a major crustal expansion zone filled by rising mantle magma.

10. Consider the following statements regarding regional tectonic volcanic zones:

1. The East African Rift represents a major continental divergence zone where active volcanoes like Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya are located.
2. The volcanic arc of the Andes Mountains is created by the subduction of the Nazca Plate beneath the overriding South American Plate.
3. The high density of active volcanoes in the Indonesian Archipelago is primarily driven by the shallow transform faulting between the Indian-Australian and Pacific plates.
4. The Aleutian volcanic arc in Alaska belongs directly to the Mid-Atlantic Ridge tectonic system, formed via the rifting of the Arctic crust.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

(d) 1 and 4 only

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation::

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The East African Rift is an active continental rift valley system where the African Plate is splitting into the Somali and Nubian sub-plates. This extension allows magma to breach the continental crust, forming massive isolated volcanic peaks like Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Western margin of South America is a classic convergent boundary. The oceanic Nazca Plate subducts beneath the continental South American Plate, melting the lower crust and fueling the extensive volcanic chain of the Andes.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Indonesia's high volcanic density is driven by subduction zones (convergent boundaries) where the Indo-Australian plate subducts beneath the Sunda/Eurasian plate, not by transform (horizontal sliding) faulting.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Aleutian volcanic arc in Alaska is located in the northern Pacific Ocean and forms a segment of the Pacific Ring of Fire, not the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. It is formed by the subduction of the Pacific Plate under the North American Plate.

Major Lakes

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Lake Baikal, situated in Siberia, is historically and structurally documented as both the deepest and the largest freshwater lake by liquid volume on Earth.
2. Lake Tanganyika is geographically classified as the absolute longest lake in the world, while holding the second-largest volume globally.
3. Lake Tanganyika ranks as the third deepest lake system globally, sitting directly behind Lake Superior.

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Lake Baikal contains approximately 23,600 cubic kilometers of fresh water, which equates to roughly 20% of the world's surface unfrozen freshwater, making it the largest by volume. It is also the deepest at 1,637 meters.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Lake Tanganyika is the longest lake globally, stretching approximately 660 kilometers through East Africa. It also ranks second globally in freshwater volume.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Lake Tanganyika is the second deepest lake on Earth (~1,470 meters), sitting directly behind Lake Baikal. Lake Superior is much shallower (~406 meters).

2. Consider the following statements:

1. The absolute highest waterbody on Earth, irrespective of surface area footprint, is the crater lake of the Ojos del Salado volcano in the Andes.
2. Pumoyong Tso, located within the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, is recognized as the highest massive large-scale lake globally.

3. Lake Titicaca, straddling the border of Peru and Bolivia, is classified as the world's highest commercially navigable lake.
4. Dead Sea represents the lowest continental land elevation and functions as the lowest brackish lake system on Earth.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ojos del Salado hosts a small permanent volcanic crater lake at 6,390 meters above sea level, making it the highest water body on Earth.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Pumoyong Tso sits at an extreme elevation of 5,018 meters above sea level in Tibet, qualifying it as the highest among the world's large-scale lakes.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Lake Titicaca sits at 3,812 meters elevation. It handles major commercial vessel navigation and stands as the largest freshwater lake in South America by volume.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** While the Dead Sea is the lowest lake on Earth (~418 meters below sea level), it is a hyper-saline terminal salt lake.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to continental lake maximums is/are correct?

1. Lake Eyre, an endorheic terminal salt pan system, constitutes the largest lake by surface area within the Australian continent.
2. Lake Victoria is the largest lake in Africa and is classified as the second largest freshwater lake by surface area.

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: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Lake Eyre (Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre) is located in hyper-arid South Australia. It is a massive ephemeral salt lake that marks the lowest point of Australia when dry and its largest lake basin when flooded.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Lake Victoria is indeed the largest lake in Africa, but globally it is the third-largest freshwater lake by surface area, sitting behind Lake Superior and Lake Huron.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to regional continental lakes is/are correct?

1. Lake Ladoga and Lake Onega, both situated in northwestern Russia, represent the largest and second-largest lakes by surface area inside Europe.
2. Lake Maracaibo is recognized as the largest landlocked freshwater lake in South America.

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: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Lake Ladoga (~17,700 sq km) is the largest lake in Europe, followed closely by Lake Onega (~9,700 sq km). Both are freshwater glacial lakes situated in northwestern Russia.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela is much larger by area, but it is not landlocked or purely fresh; it is a tidal bay/estuary connected directly to the Caribbean Sea by a narrow strait, making it brackish. Therefore, Lake Titicaca remains the largest true inland lake in South America.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the North American Great Lakes:

1. The geographical sequencing of the Great Lakes arranged from west to east is Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario.
2. The volumetric and surface area sorting of these lakes from largest to smallest is Superior, Huron, Michigan, Erie, and Ontario.
3. Lake Superior holds the geographic record as the largest continuous freshwater lake by surface area in the world.
4. Lake Huron holds the record as the largest lake located within the sovereign geographic borders of a single nation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Mapped spatially from West to East, the sequential line-up is exactly Superior → Michigan → Huron → Erie → Ontario.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Measured by total surface area size, the downward hierarchy runs exactly Superior → Huron → Michigan → Erie → Ontario.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Lake Superior (~82,100 sq km) is the largest freshwater lake on Earth by surface area (excluding the brackish/saline Caspian Sea).
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Lake Michigan is the only one of the five Great Lakes that lies entirely inside the United States. Lake Huron is shared across the international border with Canada.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Dead Sea:

1. The Dead Sea is an endorheic hypersaline lake that directly borders Jordan to its east, and Israel and Palestine to its west.
2. The lake's surface and shoreline mark the absolute lowest hyper-saline terrestrial elevation point on Earth.
3. The high density of the Dead Sea is maintained because it is fed by multiple major transboundary rivers flowing out of Egypt.

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Dead Sea sits in the Jordan Rift Valley. Its eastern shores belong to Jordan, while its western half is shared between Israel and the West Bank (Palestine).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The shorelines of the Dead Sea sit at more than 400 meters below sea level, making it the lowest dry land spot on the planet.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Dead Sea is primarily fed by the Jordan River, which flows from the north through Lebanon, Syria, Israel, and Jordan. It has no hydrological connection to Egypt or Egyptian river systems.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the African Great Lakes is/are correct?

1. They represent a series of tectonic lakes formed within the structural depression zones of the East African Rift.
2. Unlike the deep rift valleys of Lake Malawi and Lake Tanganyika, Lake Victoria is a shallow basin that did not form inside a rift valley.

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:** The African Great Lakes are a collection of massive lakes clustered around the East African Rift, where the African tectonic plate is actively splitting apart.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** While Lake Tanganyika and Lake Malawi are classic deep, narrow trench lakes (grabens) formed directly inside rift faults, Lake Victoria is a broad, shallow structural depression located on the plateau *between* the eastern and western branches of the rift system.

8. Excluding the Caspian Sea from global lake classifications, consider the following statements regarding surface area rankings:

1. Lake Superior in North America holds the global rank as the largest surface area freshwater body.
2. Lake Victoria in Africa ranks immediately ahead of Lake Huron in the global surface area sequence.
3. Lake Michigan is ranked as the second-largest lake by surface area in the Western Hemisphere.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** With the Caspian Sea excluded, Lake Superior is the undisputed largest freshwater lake by surface area globally (~82,100 sq km).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In the global surface area rankings, Lake Victoria (~68,870 sq km) occupies the 2nd position, ranking just ahead of Lake Huron (~59,600 sq km), which sits at 3rd.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Within the Western Hemisphere (North and South America), **Lake Huron** is the second largest by surface area, while Lake Michigan is the third largest.

9. Consider the following statements regarding the volumetric capacity of global freshwater lakes:

1. Lake Baikal contains more fresh water than all five North American Laurentian Great Lakes combined.
2. The downward global sequence of freshwater lakes by total liquid volume is Lake Baikal, followed by Lake Tanganyika, and then Lake Superior.
3. Due to intense subglacial freezing, Lake Vostok in Antarctica holds a smaller volume of liquid water than Lake Ontario in North America.

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: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Lake Baikal's immense depth allows it to hold 23,600 cubic kilometers of water, which exceeds the combined volume of all five Great Lakes (~22,684 cubic kilometers).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The global volume leaderboard for freshwater lakes is topped by Lake Baikal (1st), followed by Lake Tanganyika (2nd), and Lake Superior (3rd).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Even though it is sealed beneath 4 kilometers of ice, Lake Vostok is a massive subglacial lake containing roughly 5,400 cubic kilometers of liquid fresh water, making it significantly larger by volume than Lake Ontario (~1,640 cubic kilometers).

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the deepest lakes in the world is/are correct?

1. Lake Baikal and Lake Tanganyika occupy the top two positions on the global checklist of maximum lake depths.
2. Both of these deepest lakes are ancient geological rift valleys that contain deep accumulations of bottom sediment layers.

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:** Lake Baikal reaches a maximum depth of 1,637 meters (the deepest), and Lake Tanganyika drops to 1,470 meters (the second deepest). No other lake on Earth exceeds 1,000 meters in depth except these two and the Caspian Sea.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Both Baikal and Tanganyika are long-lived rift valley lakes (grabens). Because they have existed for millions of years within active tectonic rifts, their floors have accumulated massive, kilometers-thick layers of runoff sediment that are highly valued for paleoclimate research.

Major Peninsulas of the World

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the Indian Deccan Peninsula is/are correct?

1. Bordered by the Arabian Sea to the west and the Bay of Bengal to the east, it is the largest peninsula in the world by landmass.
2. Spanning across exactly eight Indian states, its topography is structurally framed by the Eastern and Western Ghats.
3. The peninsula hosts highly biodiverse tiger reserves governed by the NTCA, a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

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: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Indian Peninsula is the second-largest peninsula in the world. The Arabian Peninsula holds the rank of the absolute largest.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The peninsular plateau covers parts of eight major central and southern Indian states, and its edges are defined structurally by the Western and Eastern Ghats mountain ranges.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The NTCA acts as the nodal statutory agency (constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972) overseeing tiger conservation across this biodiversity-rich landscape.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the Horn of Africa is/are correct?

1. Also known as the Somali Peninsula, its political geography exclusively comprises only three sovereign nations: Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Somalia.
2. It is bound by the Gulf of Aden to its north and extends eastward into the Arabian Sea and the open Indian 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: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Horn of Africa comprises four sovereign nations, often remembered by the acronym SEED: Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Djibouti.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The massive protrusion of land acts as a geographical divide between the Gulf of Aden (connecting to the Red Sea) to its north and the broader Indian Ocean/Arabian Sea to its east and south.

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

1. It physically separates the open Pacific Ocean to the south from Bristol Bay, which acts as an arm of the Bering Sea.

2. The peninsula is characterized by the Aleutian Range, a dormant mountain system completely devoid of active volcanism.
3. The ecosystem falls under federal protection, hosting numerous national wildlife refuges administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The peninsula projects 497 miles to the southwest, serving as a distinct maritime boundary between the Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea's Bristol Bay.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Aleutian Range is a highly active volcanic mountain range situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire, not a dormant system.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The region is heavily conserved, featuring multiple protected wildlife refuges managed by federal nodal agencies like the US Fish and Wildlife Service to protect its dense brown bear and salmon populations.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the Labrador Peninsula is/are correct?

1. Situated in Eastern Canada, its maritime boundaries include the Hudson Bay to the west and the Gulf of Saint Lawrence to its southeast.
2. The peninsula is administered by a single Canadian province, Quebec.
3. Because it is geographically situated atop the ancient Canadian Shield, the peninsula features a dense network of post-glacial lakes.

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The peninsula is surrounded by massive water bodies: Hudson Bay (west), Hudson Strait (north), Labrador Sea (east), and the Gulf of St. Lawrence (southeast).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Labrador Peninsula is divided between two provincial jurisdictions: the province of Quebec and the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Canadian Shield is composed of hard, Precambrian igneous rock. Glacial scouring during the last Ice Age created millions of depressions that are now filled with lakes.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Scandinavian Peninsula is/are correct?

1. Representing one of the largest peninsulas in Europe, its geographic landmass encompasses Sweden, Norway, and the entirety of Denmark.
2. More than a quarter of the peninsula's territory lies north of the Arctic Circle, featuring tundra climates bordered by the Barents 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: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While Denmark belongs to the *cultural* region of Scandinavia, it geographically occupies the Jutland Peninsula, not the Scandinavian Peninsula (which physically comprises Norway, Sweden, and northwestern Finland).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The northern extremity of the peninsula stretches deeply into the Arctic Circle, abutting the Barents Sea, transitioning from subarctic forests to harsh tundra.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the Balkan Peninsula is/are correct?

1. It is bordered by the Adriatic and Ionian Seas to its west, and the Black Sea to its east and northeast.
2. Due to structural geography, the peninsula features a strictly demarcated and universally recognized northern border formed by the Alps.
3. The peninsula comprises fragmented political territories, encompassing nations such as Greece, Bulgaria, and the European segment of Turkey.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Balkan Peninsula is defined by distinct maritime boundaries on three sides: Adriatic/Ionian (west/southwest), Aegean (south), and Black Sea (east).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Unlike the Iberian or Italian peninsulas, the Balkan Peninsula lacks a well-defined northern geographical boundary (historically, geographers use river lines like the Danube or Sava rather than a mountain range).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The region covers 181,000 square miles and includes multiple sovereign states like Albania, Croatia, Greece, Romania, Serbia, and the East Thrace region of North Turkey.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the Iberian Peninsula is/are correct?

1. Spanning 225,000 square miles, it ranks as the absolute largest European peninsula by geographical expanse.
2. The political sovereignty of the peninsula is exclusively restricted to two sovereign nations: Spain and Portugal.
3. It is separated from the northwestern African coast by the narrow Strait of Gibraltar and the Mediterranean Sea.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is the second-largest European peninsula; the Scandinavian Peninsula is the largest.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While dominated by Spain and Portugal, the landmass also includes the sovereign microstate of Andorra, a small portion of southern France, and the British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Strait of Gibraltar acts as the critical geographic choke point separating the southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula from Morocco (Africa).

8. Which of the following statements regarding the Kamchatka Peninsula are correct?

1. It is situated in the Russian Far East and functions as a physical barrier separating the Bering Sea from the Sea of Japan.
2. The region features the highly active 'Volcanoes of Kamchatka,' which are formally recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.
3. The peninsula experiences a strictly arid, desert climate characterized by exceptionally hot summers.
4. Administratively, the peninsula and its adjacent islands constitute the Kamchatka Krai within the Russian Federation.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Kamchatka Peninsula separates the Sea of Okhotsk (on its west) from the open Pacific Ocean (on its east).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The UNESCO-designated "Volcanoes of Kamchatka" contain some of the highest concentrations of active stratovolcanoes on the Pacific Ring of Fire.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Kamchatka does not have an arid climate. It experiences moderately cool summers and notoriously severe, stormy, snow-heavy winters.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Geopolitically, the Kamchatka Peninsula, Commander Islands, and Karaginsky Island are bundled into a single federal subject known as Kamchatka Krai.

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

1. Located in Northwestern Mexico, it serves as a geographic divider between the open Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.
2. The landmass extends for 1,247 km continuously southward, terminating at Cabo San Lucas in the state of Baja California Sur.

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: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The peninsula separates the Pacific Ocean from the Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez), not the Gulf of Mexico (which is located on Mexico's eastern Atlantic coastline).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The peninsula stretches roughly 1,247 kilometers from the northern border city of Mexicali all the way down to the tourist hub of Cabo San Lucas at its southern tip.

10. Which of the following statements regarding major global peninsulas are correct?

1. The Italian Peninsula, structurally known as the Apennine Peninsula, extends southward from the Alps directly into the central Mediterranean Sea.
2. The Sinai Peninsula serves as a strategic transcontinental desert land bridge, representing the only portion of Egypt's territory located in Asia.
3. The Crimean Peninsula extends into the northern coast of the Black Sea and connects to the Eastern European mainland solely through the narrow Perekop Isthmus.
4. The Kola Peninsula is located in the extreme southeast of Russia, protruding directly into the warm waters of the Black Sea.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Italian Peninsula forms the distinctive boot shape of Italy, framed by the Apennine Mountains extending from the Alps to the Mediterranean.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Sinai is a harsh desert peninsula bounded by the Mediterranean Sea (North) and Red Sea (South). It geographically links Africa to Asia and serves as Egypt's sole Asian landmass.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Crimea is an essentially isolated landmass flanked by the Black Sea and Sea of Azov, relying on the 5-mile-wide Perekop Isthmus to connect to mainland Ukraine.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Kola Peninsula is located in the extreme northwest of Russia, projecting into the freezing waters of the Barents and White Seas (Arctic region), not the Black Sea.

Miscellaneous Continents of the World

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the Arctic Council and India's polar infrastructure is/are correct?

1. The Arctic Council is a high-level intergovernmental forum established under the Ottawa Declaration of 1996.
2. The sovereign voting membership of the Council consists exclusively of all eight nations that encircle the Arctic region.
3. India's permanent polar research laboratory, Himadri, is situated in the Svalbard archipelago under the nodal funding of the Ministry of External Affairs.

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 Arctic Council was formally established via the Ottawa Declaration in 1996 to provide a forum for cooperation among Arctic states and indigenous communities.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Only the eight Arctic states (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States) hold sovereign voting membership. Other nations, like India, hold "Observer" status.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While India's research base *Himadri* is indeed located at Ny-Ålesund in Svalbard, Norway, India's polar research program is managed and funded by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the marginal seas of the Arctic Ocean is/are correct?

1. The Chukchi Sea is hydro-geographically linked to the Bering Sea and the open Pacific Ocean via the narrow corridor of the Bering Strait.
2. The Laptev Sea is landlocked, separating the East Siberian Sea from the internal Kara 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: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** At its southernmost end, the Chukchi Sea meets the Bering Strait, which serves as the narrow choke point separating the Russian Far East from Alaska and connecting the Arctic and Pacific oceanic systems.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Laptev Sea is surrounded on three sides by land (the Siberian coast and northern archipelagos), leaving its northern flank completely open to the main Arctic Ocean basin.

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

1. It stands as the coldest, driest, and windiest continent, holding approximately 90% of the world's ice reserves.
2. The Onyx River functions as the longest sub-glacial river system on the continent, emptying directly into the landlocked Lake Vostok.
3. Astrobiological research conducted in Lake Vostok aims to understand environmental models applicable to Jupiter's icy moon, Europa.

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Antarctica is classified as a polar desert. It contains roughly 90% of the Earth's surface ice sheets and nearly 70% of the planet's total fresh water.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Onyx River is a meltwater stream that flows through the Wright Valley and empties into Lake Vanda, a hypersaline ice-covered lake on the surface, not the deep sub-glacial Lake Vostok.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Lake Vostok is a massive lake trapped under 4 kilometers of ice. Scientists study it as an analog for sub-surface liquid oceans beneath the ice crusts of planetary bodies like Jupiter's moon Europa.

4. Consider the following statements regarding Antarctica and India's strategic research stations:

1. The Transantarctic Mountain range structurally bisects the continent into two halves: Greater Antarctica and Lesser Antarctica.
2. Mount Erebus, situated within this ecosystem, holds the record as the southernmost active magmatic volcano on Earth.
3. India's operational research bases Maitri and Bharati are managed by the ISRO under the Department of Space.

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: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Transantarctic Mountains stretch across the continent, dividing it into the geologically distinct East (Greater) and West (Lesser) ice sheets.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Located on Ross Island, Mount Erebus is an active stratovolcano featuring a persistent lava lake, making it the southernmost active volcano on Earth.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** India's polar stations (Maitri and Bharati, following the decommissioning of Dakshin Gangotri) are under the institutional control of the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), which operates under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the political geography of North America is/are correct?

1. The 49th Parallel acts as the straight international land boundary separating the mainland United States from Canada.
2. The Arctic Circle passes through the sovereign territories of the United States (Alaska), Canada, and Iceland.

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 49th parallel north forms the long, straight international boundary stretching from the Lake of the Woods to the Strait of Georgia between Canada and the USA.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Arctic Circle crosses USA (Alaska), Canada, and Greenland (which is a territory of Denmark). It passes just north of mainland Iceland, crossing only its tiny offshore island of Grímsey.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the San Andreas Fault is/are correct?

1. It is structurally classified as a continental transform fault line that extends approximately 1,200 kilometers through California.
2. The fault delineates the active right-lateral strike-slip tectonic boundary between the Pacific Plate and the North American Plate.
3. Vertically, the fault line terminates at its southernmost end within the waters of Hudson Bay.

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 San Andreas Fault is a classic, visible example of a continental transform fault stretching across California.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The fault marks the boundary where the Pacific Plate is sliding horizontally past the North American Plate in a right-lateral strike-slip motion.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The San Andreas Fault runs south and terminates in the Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez), which is located thousands of miles away in northeastern Canada.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to North American river systems is/are correct?

1. The Yukon River flows through Canada and Alaska, gaining historical economic importance due to the discovery of placer gold deposits along its basin.
2. The Mackenzie River drains northward into the Beaufort Sea and is the longest river system flowing into the Arctic Ocean from the North American continent.

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 Yukon River was the focal point of the famous Klondike Gold Rush due to rich placer gold deposits found in its tributaries.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Mackenzie River forms the largest river network in Canada and stands as the largest North American river system that empties its discharge into the Arctic Ocean via the Beaufort Sea.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the St. Lawrence and Mississippi river networks:

1. The St. Lawrence River flows out of Lake Ontario, forming a segment of the international boundary between the United States and Canada.

2. The Mississippi River is the largest drainage system on the North American continent, outranking the catchment basin of Hudson Bay.
3. The Mississippi River terminates in the Gulf of Mexico by building a classic, bird-foot shaped depositional delta.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The St. Lawrence River acts as a natural maritime boundary separating New York State (USA) from Ontario (Canada) as it flows northeast toward the Atlantic.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Mississippi River drainage basin is the second-largest on the continent, sitting behind the massive Hudson Bay drainage basin in total area.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Mississippi River carries high mud loads into the calm waters of the Gulf of Mexico, forming a elongated bird-foot delta along its distributaries.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to western North American river boundaries is/are correct?

1. The Colorado River carves through the Colorado Plateau to form the Grand Canyon before emptying into Lake Mead along the Arizona-Nevada border.
2. The Rio Grande serves as a fixed, unshifting international boundary between the United States and Mexico, free from bilateral territorial disputes.

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 Colorado River is the primary force that carved the Grand Canyon. It flows southwestward and fills the massive Hoover Dam reservoir (Lake Mead) on the Nevada-Arizona line.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Rio Grande is notorious for shifting its river channel due to natural avulsion and flooding. These shifts historically caused frequent boundary disputes between the US and Mexico (such as the Chamizal dispute).

10. Which of the following statements regarding the North American Great Lakes are correct?

1. Lake Superior is geologically classified as the largest single freshwater lake by surface area in the world.
2. The international boundary line between Canada and the United States divides all five Great Lakes into equal sovereign shares.
3. Lake Michigan holds the geographical distinction of being the only Great Lake situated entirely within the borders of the United States.
4. The Great Lakes Waterway bypasses structural bottlenecks to connect these inland basins directly to the Atlantic Ocean via the Amazon basin.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Excluding the saline/brackish Caspian Sea, Lake Superior holds the record as the world's largest freshwater lake by surface area (~82,100 sq km).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Four of the lakes are shared between the US and Canada, but they are not split into equal geographic halves.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Lake Michigan lies entirely inside the territory of the United States, whereas Lakes Superior, Huron, Erie, and Ontario are shared across the international border with Canada.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Great Lakes connect to the Atlantic Ocean via the Saint Lawrence Seaway.

Continents of the World (North America & South America)

1. Which of the following statements regarding the physical features of North America are correct?

1. Denali, located in the Alaska Range, is the highest mountain peak in both the United States and the continent of North America.
2. The Canadian Shield consists of ancient Precambrian bedrock whose topography has been significantly reduced by prolonged erosion and weathering.
3. Mount Mitchell forms the highest elevation point within the Western Cordilleras system.
4. The Great Plains represent tropical savanna ecosystems extending along the Atlantic coast.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Denali (formerly Mt. McKinley), rising to 6,190 meters in the Alaska Range, is the highest peak in North America.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Canadian Shield is a vast area of exposed Precambrian crystalline rock (remnants of ancient continental crust) that has been eroded and scoured by successive glaciations.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Mount Mitchell (2,037 m) is the highest peak of the Appalachian Mountains in eastern North America.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Great Plains consist of temperate grasslands (known locally as Prairies).

2. Which of the following statements with regard to North American physical geography is/are correct?

1. The Isthmus of Tehuantepec in Mexico represents the shortest overland distance between the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean.
2. Newfoundland Island is located along the Pacific coast of Canada and is famous for its desert ecology.

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 Isthmus of Tehuantepec is a narrow land bridge in southern Mexico measuring roughly 200 km across, serving as the shortest route between the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Newfoundland is an island situated off the eastern (Atlantic) coast of Canada. It is renowned for its rich Grand Banks fishing grounds (where warm Gulf Stream and cold Labrador currents meet).

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the political and physical geography of South America is/are correct?

1. The Equator passes through three South American nations: Ecuador, Colombia, and Brazil.
2. The Tropic of Capricorn crosses Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil.
3. All sovereign nations in South America possess direct maritime coastlines along either the Pacific or Atlantic Oceans.

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:** Moving west to east, the Equator (0° latitude) cuts through Ecuador, Colombia, and Brazil.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Moving west to east, the Tropic of Capricorn (23.5° S latitude) passes through Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** South America has two completely landlocked nations lacking direct sea access: Bolivia and Paraguay.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to French Guiana is/are correct?

1. French Guiana is an overseas department of France that hosts the primary spaceport of the European Space Agency (ESA) at Kourou.
2. Launching geosynchronous satellites from this territory requires significantly higher fuel usage because the Earth's Coriolis force reaches its maximum intensity at this latitude.

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:** French Guiana is an integral territory of France. Its Guiana Space Centre at Kourou serves as Europe's main spaceport for launching Ariane rockets.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Proximity to the Equator ($\sim 5^\circ \text{N}$) provides a maximal rotational speed boost ($1,670 \text{ km/h}$) to launches heading east, saving fuel rather than consuming more. Furthermore, the Coriolis force is zero at the Equator.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the geography and economic centers of Brazil is/are correct?

1. Brazil shares a common land border with every single sovereign nation on the South American continent.
2. The urban region formed by Rio de Janeiro, Santos, and Sao Paulo is traditionally termed the Coffee Triangle and is vital to Brazil's agricultural export economy.

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: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Brazil borders ten South American entities, but it does not share land borders with Chile or Ecuador (as well as the island nation of Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Rio de Janeiro–Santos–São Paulo zone forms Brazil's economic heartland, handling processing, meat packaging, and coffee exports via the port of Santos.

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

1. The agricultural zone encompassing Buenos Aires, Mendoza, and Rosario is historically known as the Wheat Triangle.
2. The Strait of Magellan remains the primary commercial maritime trade route for international container ships traveling between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans today.

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 fertile Pampas region spanning Buenos Aires, Mendoza, and Rosario forms Argentina's core commercial wheat production triangle.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Commercial usage of the hazardous Strait of Magellan dropped dramatically following the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914, which provided a far shorter and safer passage between the oceans.

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

1. The city of Arica, situated in northern Chile within the Atacama Desert ecosystem, is documented as one of the driest inhabited places on Earth.
2. Valparaíso is Chile's primary industrial center for heavy iron ore smelting, situated in the hyper-arid Atacama region.

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:** Arica lies on the edge of the Atacama Desert and receives an average annual rainfall of less than 1 mm, earning its status as one of the driest places on Earth.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Valparaíso is located in central Chile (Mediterranean climate zone) and is world-famous as a historic port city, cultural center, and wine-exporting hub.

8. Which of the following statements regarding the grasslands and ecosystems of South America are correct?

1. The Llanos of Venezuela and Colombia are classified as tropical savanna grasslands.
2. The Pampas of Argentina and Uruguay constitute temperate grassland ecosystems.
3. The Selva region of the Amazon basin is a cold alpine tundra environment.
4. The Gran Chaco represents a coastal mangrove swamp along the Pacific ocean.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Llanos basin in the Orinoco river system is a classic tropical savanna grassland experiencing distinct wet and dry seasons.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Pampas are flat, fertile temperate grasslands ideal for intensive agriculture and cattle ranching.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Selvas refer to the dense, equatorial tropical rainforests of the Amazon Basin.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Gran Chaco is a hot, semi-arid lowland alluvial plain located in the interior of South America (Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina).

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the plateaus and highlands of South America is/are correct?

1. Angel Falls, the world's highest uninterrupted waterfall, is located on the Gauja/Caroni River system within the Guiana Highlands of Venezuela.
2. Lake Titicaca, recognized as the world's highest commercially navigable lake, is situated on the Bolivian Plateau (Altiplano).
3. The Mato Grosso Plateau is a high-altitude glacial landform located entirely inside the borders of Chile.

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:** Angel Falls drops nearly 979 meters from a tabletop mountain (tepui) in the Guiana Highlands of southeastern Venezuela.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Lake Titicaca sits at an elevation of 3,812 meters on the high Altiplano plateau shared between Bolivia and Peru.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Mato Grosso Plateau is an ancient plateau located in central Brazil (forming a drainage divide between the Amazon and Paraguay river basins).

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the Andes Mountain system is/are correct?

1. Mount Aconcagua, standing at over 6,900 meters, represents the highest peak in the Andes as well as the Western Hemisphere.
2. The Uspallata Pass serves as a historic mountain pass providing a transportation corridor across the Andes between Argentina and Chile.
3. The Andes are classified as ancient block mountains formed during the Precambrian era without active volcanism.

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:** Mount Aconcagua (6,961 m), located in Argentina near the Chilean border, is the highest peak in the Americas and the highest peak outside of Asia.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Uspallata Pass (also known as the Bermejo Pass) connects Mendoza in Argentina with Santiago/Valparaíso in Chile, serving as a primary trans-Andean route.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Andes are young fold mountains formed by the subduction of the oceanic Nazca Plate beneath the continental South American Plate. Consequently, the range features extensive active volcanism along the Pacific Ring of Fire.

Continents of the World (South America and Central America)

1. Which of the following statements with regard to South American river systems is/are correct?

1. The Amazon River carries the largest discharge volume of water globally, with its drainage basin extending across Peru, Colombia, and Brazil.
2. The Orinoco River is the fourth largest river in the world by discharge volume, flowing through Colombia and Venezuela.
3. Angel Falls, the world's highest waterfall, drops directly from the main stem of the Amazon River within eastern Peru.

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 Amazon River is the world's largest river by discharge volume (accounting for roughly 20% of global river flow). Its massive basin drains parts of Peru, Colombia, and Brazil, among other nations.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Orinoco River is one of the longest rivers in South America and ranks fourth globally by discharge volume, flowing through Colombia and Venezuela.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Angel Falls is located on the Churun River (a tributary of the Caroní River, which feeds into the Orinoco River) in Venezuela, not on the Amazon River in Peru.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to Lake Titicaca is/are correct?

1. It is the largest freshwater lake in South America by both surface area and water volume.
2. Situated at an altitude of approximately 3,812 meters (12,507 ft), it is recognized as the world's highest commercially navigable lake, shared between Peru and Bolivia.

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:** Lake Titicaca holds the largest volume of fresh water and surface area among all lakes on the South American continent.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Located on the high Andean Altiplano plateau at 12,507 feet above sea level, Lake Titicaca holds the international geographic title of the "highest navigable lake" in the world, with its western portion in Peru and eastern portion in Bolivia.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the La Plata river network is/are correct?

1. Parana River ranks second in length only to the Amazon River in South America, merging downstream with the Uruguay River.
2. Uruguay River flows from south to north, serving as the primary international maritime boundary between Chile and Argentina.

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:** Running through Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina, the Paraná River is South America's second-longest river. It joins the Paraguay River and later the Uruguay River to discharge into the Atlantic Ocean via the Río de la Plata.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Uruguay River flows from north to south (not south to north) and forms parts of the borders of Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay. It does not border Chile (which lies west of the Andes).

4. Which of the following statements with regard to Lake Maracaibo is/are correct?

1. Lake Maracaibo is a large brackish tidal bay connected to the Gulf of Venezuela via the Tablazo Strait.
2. The basin surrounding Lake Maracaibo is devoid of mineral resources, functioning as an agricultural marine reserve.

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:** Located in the Zulia state of Venezuela, Lake Maracaibo acts as a brackish inlet of the Caribbean Sea, joined to the Gulf of Venezuela through the narrow Tablazo Strait.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Maracaibo Basin contains some of the largest crude oil reserves in the world, making it a primary economic engine and hydrocarbon production hub for Venezuela. (Additionally, it experiences the famous Catatumbo lightning phenomenon).

5. Which of the following statements with regard to island territories off South America is/are correct?

1. Falkland Islands represent a disputed archipelago in the South Atlantic Ocean, administered as a British Overseas Territory while claimed by Argentina.
2. The Galapagos Islands are a chain of volcanic islands located in the Pacific Ocean that are governed as an internal territory of Brazil.

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 Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) are self-governing British Overseas Territories in the South Atlantic, with defence and foreign affairs handled by the UK, though sovereignty remains contested by Argentina.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Galápagos Archipelago, famed for its hyper-endemic biodiversity, is an official province and territory of Ecuador, not Brazil.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to South American arid zones is/are correct?

1. Patagonian Desert is the largest desert by area in Argentina, bounded by the Andes to its west and the Atlantic Ocean to its east.

- Atacama Desert in Chile is recognized as the driest non-polar desert on Earth, functioning as a primary coastal fog desert.
- Sechura Desert is a hyper-arid coastal desert located along the Pacific coastline in southern Peru.

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 Patagonian Desert spans over 670,000 km² mainly in southern Argentina, formed in the rain shadow of the Andes mountains.
- Statement 2 is correct:** Atacama receives virtually no rainfall due to the rain-shadow effect of the Andes and the cold offshore Humboldt Current, making it the driest non-polar desert globally.
- Statement 3 is correct:** The Sechura Desert occupies a strip along the Pacific coast of northwestern/southern Peru south of the Piura Region.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to South American desert ecoregions is/are correct?

- Monte Desert is an arid South American ecoregion lying entirely within the sovereign territory of Argentina.
- La Guajira Desert is a coastal desert region situated in northern Colombia and parts of northwestern Venezuela.

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 Monte Desert lies wholly within Argentina, north of the Patagonian Desert and east of the Andes, sharing similar rain-shadow characteristics.
- Statement 2 is correct:** The La Guajira Desert occupies the La Guajira Peninsula at the northernmost tip of South America, split between northern Colombia and western Venezuela along the Caribbean Sea.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Lithium Triangle is/are correct?

- The Lithium Triangle encompasses the Andean salt flat regions spanning the borders of Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile.
- The region is estimated to hold over 50% of the world's total identified lithium brine reserves.
- The Indian Navy has prioritized securing lithium reserves in this region primarily to fuel coal-based thermal power stations across coastal India.

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 Lithium Triangle includes major salt pans such as Salar de Uyuni (Bolivia), Salar de Atacama (Chile), and Salar del Hombre Muerto (Argentina).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Geographic estimates indicate that this concentrated tri-national area holds roughly 54% to 60% of known global lithium resources.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to Central American isthmus nations is/are correct?

1. El Salvador is the only country on the Central American isthmus that borders the Pacific Ocean exclusively, lacking a direct coastline on the Caribbean Sea.
2. Belize stands as the only Central American nation that possesses dual coastlines along both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean 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: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** El Salvador is situated entirely on the western side of the isthmus, making it the only Central American state without a Caribbean Sea coastline.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Belize lies exclusively on the eastern side bordering the Caribbean Sea (Atlantic Ocean) and has no Pacific coast. Nations like Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama border both oceans.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to Central and South American transport corridors is/are correct?

1. The Panama Canal relies on an artificial lock system Gatun Lake, reducing maritime travel distance between the US East and West coasts.
2. Darien Gap, characterized by dense swamp forests and mountainous terrain and forms the only major physical break in the continuous Pan-American Highway.

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 engineering design of the Panama Canal uses locks as water elevators to lift ships 85 feet to Gatun Lake level before lowering them. It cuts transit distance between New York and San Francisco from $\sim 22,500 \text{ km}$ (via Cape Horn) to $\sim 9,500 \text{ km}$.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Darién Gap is a 106-km unpaved swath of tropical rainforest and marshland across the Panama-Colombia border. It represents the single missing link in the otherwise

continuous **48,000-km** Pan-American Highway, halting overland motor vehicle transit between Central and South America.

Continents of the World (Australia)

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the continent of Australia is/are correct?

1. Australia is the only geographic entity in the world that constitutes both an entire continent and a single sovereign nation.
2. The Tropic of Capricorn cuts the Australian landmass roughly into two equal halves.
3. Mount Kosciuszko, the highest peak on the continent, is located within the Western Plateau region.

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:** Australia is unique as it is the world's smallest continent while being the only continent entirely occupied by a single sovereign state.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Tropic of Capricorn (**23.5° S** latitude) passes through the middle of the continent, bisecting it into tropical and temperate zones.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Mount Kosciuszko (2,230 meters) is located in the Snowy Mountains within the Great Dividing Range (Eastern Highlands) of New South Wales, not in the Western Plateau.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to Australian hydrography and coastal sites is/are correct?

1. Murray River is Australia's longest river, flowing southwest to empty into the Southern Ocean.
2. Darling River originates in New South Wales and serves as the principal right-bank tributary of the Murray River.
3. Shark Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its stromatolites, is located on the eastern coast of Queensland facing the Pacific 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:** The Murray River stretches approximately 2,508 kilometers, making it the longest river system on the Australian continent.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Darling River is the third-longest river in Australia and joins the Murray River at Wentworth, New South Wales.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Shark Bay is located at the westernmost point of Western Australia on the Indian Ocean. Located at the most westerly point of Western Australia, Shark Bay is a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its exceptional marine biodiversity.

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

1. The Great Dividing Range is a complex cordillera of ancient plateaus, upland escarpments, and residual mountain chains rather than a single continuous ridge.
2. The Australian continent is characteristically devoid of active, young fold mountain belts formed during the Cenozoic alpine orogeny.
3. The Eastern Highlands constitute Australia's largest internal drainage division by geographical area.

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 Great Dividing Range (East Australian Cordillera) consists of a series of plateaus, hill chains, and escarpments with an ancient geological history.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Unlike Asia or South America, Australia lacks young fold mountain systems because it is located centrally on its tectonic plate, far from active convergent plate boundaries.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Western Plateau (covering nearly 60% of the landmass) is Australia's largest drainage division, not the Eastern Highlands.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to Australian arid regions and marine systems is/are correct?

1. The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system, located off the northeastern coast of Queensland in the Coral Sea.
2. The Western Desert region is an alpine tundra landscape situated south of Tasmania.

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:** Stretching over 2,300 kilometers off Queensland's coast in the Pacific Ocean (Coral Sea), the Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral ecosystem on Earth.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Western Desert comprises vast arid and semi-arid sand-ridge environments (including the Great Sandy, Little Sandy, and Gibson Deserts) in Western Australia, not an alpine tundra south of Tasmania.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the climatic divisions of Australia is/are correct?

1. The temperate southern coastal regions experience summer from December to February and winter from June to August.

2. Tropical northern regions experience distinct wet (monsoonal) and dry seasonal spells rather than four traditional temperate seasons.
3. The equatorial zone is restricted to the northernmost fringes, including the tip of Cape York and offshore islands near Darwin.

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:** Located in the Southern Hemisphere, Australia's seasons are inverted relative to the Northern Hemisphere. Summer runs from December through February, while winter spans June through August.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Northern tropical Australia (including the Top End and Kimberley) operates under a tropical monsoonal climate characterized by a high-rainfall "wet season" and a rainless "dry season."
- **Statement 3 is correct:** True equatorial conditions in Australia are limited to extreme northern maritime points such as northern Cape York Peninsula, Melville Island, and Bathurst Island.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the regional groupings of Oceania is/are correct?

1. Melanesia includes island nations situated north and east of Australia, such as Papua New Guinea, Fiji, and the Solomon Islands.
2. Micronesia is an agglomeration of small islands in the western Pacific, including Guam, Kiribati, and the Marshall Islands.
3. Polynesia forms a central triangular region whose geographic limits extend to New Zealand in the north and Midway Islands in the extreme south.

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:** Melanesia (black islands) comprises the island chain lying directly north and northeast of Australia, including Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, and Fiji.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Micronesia (small islands) encompasses low-lying archipelagos north of the Equator, including Guam, Palau, Kiribati, and the Marshall Islands.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Polynesian triangle extends from Midway Islands in the north to New Zealand in the south (and Easter Island in the east).

7. Which of the following statements regarding Australia's structural and spatial geography are correct?

1. The Great Dividing Range stretches over 3,500 kilometers along the eastern coast from Cape York in Queensland down through New South Wales and Victoria.

2. The continental landmass of Asia lies northwest of the Australian continent across the Indonesian archipelago.
3. Singapore on the Asian mainland forms the closest continental proximity point to Australia.
4. The Great Dividing Range originated as a volcanic island arc during the late Holocene epoch.

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 and 4

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Great Dividing Range spans over 3,500 km, running parallel to the eastern coastline from northern Queensland to western Victoria.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Asia lies to the northwest of Australia, separated by maritime channels and the Indonesian island chain.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Singapore (at the tip of the Malay Peninsula) represents the nearest mainland Asian point relative to northern Australia.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Great Dividing Range is an ancient continental structural formation (Paleozoic origin), not a recent volcanic island arc formed during the Holocene epoch.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Western Plateau region is/are correct?

1. The Western Plateau is an ancient, highly eroded shield dominated by desert landforms and subterranean karst features.
2. High annual rainfall across the Western Plateau is driven by warm equatorial ocean currents flowing along the Western Australian coast.

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 Western Plateau consists of stable Precambrian crystalline rock that has undergone prolonged weathering, giving rise to interior deserts and underground karst/cave networks.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The region is hyper-arid. Its dry climate is reinforced by the cold West Australian Current, which suppresses evaporation and cloud formation along the western coast.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the Central Lowlands of Australia is/are correct?

1. The Central Lowlands form an extensive interior basin positioned between the Eastern Highlands and the Western Plateau.
2. The Great Artesian Basin lies beneath this region, containing pressurized groundwater aquifers that discharge naturally via artesian wells.
3. The groundwater extracted from the Great Artesian Basin is generally saline, rendering it more suitable for livestock watering than human drinking water.

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 Central Lowlands occupy the structural sag between the ancient Western Shield and the Eastern Highlands.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Great Artesian Basin is one of the world's largest underground freshwater resources, where confined groundwater is trapped under high hydrostatic pressure between impermeable clay layers.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** High concentrations of dissolved mineral salts (sodium bicarbonate and soluble salts) make artesian water brackish. It is primarily used for pastoral stock watering rather than direct human consumption.

10. Which of the following statements regarding Australian river basins and drainage systems are correct?

1. High evaporation rates and low average precipitation across Australia limit the formation of permanent ocean-bound river networks.
2. The Lake Eyre Basin represents a major endorheic (internal) drainage system covering over one million square kilometers.
3. The Murray River originates in the Western Desert and flows north directly into the Gulf of Carpentaria.
4. The principal tributaries of the Murray River system include the Murrumbidgee and Lachlan rivers.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Due to low overall rainfall and high potential evapotranspiration, much of Australia lacks perennial rivers reaching the sea.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Lake Eyre Basin is one of the largest endorheic drainage systems in the world (covering over 1.2 million km^2), draining interior rivers into Lake Eyre without an oceanic outlet.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Murray River originates in the Snowy Mountains (Great Dividing Range) in the east and flows southwest, not from the Western Desert to the Gulf of Carpentaria.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The Murrumbidgee and Lachlan rivers are major right-bank components of the Murray-Darling river basin.

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-channelled 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 m}) in Aragon, Spain, is the highest summit of the Pyrenees.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Urals are the longest European range (^{~ 2,500 km}), followed by the Scandinavian Mountains (^{~ 1,700 km}). The Carpathians rank third (^{~ 1,500 km}).
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Mount Elbrus (^{5,642 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.

