

T.B.C. : STS-K-TPT
Serial No.:

Test Booklet Series

TEST BOOKLET

Subject : Test 26 – GS Full Test 4
Answer Key



Time Allowed : Two Hours

Maximum Marks : 200

INSTRUCTIONS

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS TEST BOOKLET DOES NOT HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TORN OR MISSING PAGES OR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GOT IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.

2. Please note that it is the candidate's responsibility to encode and fill in the Roll Number and Test Booklet Series A, B, C or D carefully and without any omission or discrepancy at the appropriate places in the OMR Answer Sheet. Any omission/discrepancy will render the Answer Sheet liable for rejection.

3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the Test Booklet in the Box provided alongside. DO NOT write anything else on the Test Booklet.

4. This Test Booklet contains 100/80 items (questions).

Each item is printed in English. Each item comprises of four responses (answers). You will select the response

which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response, mark the response which you

consider the best. In any case, choose ONLY ONE response for each item.

5. You have to mark all your responses ONLY on the separate Answer Sheet provided. See directions in the Answer Sheet.

6. All items carry equal marks

7. Before you proceed to mark in the Answer Sheet the response to various items in the Test Booklet, you have to fill in some particulars in the Answer Sheet as per instructions sent to you with your Admission Certificate.

8. After you have completed filling in all your responses on the Answer Sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over to the Invigilator only the Answer Sheet. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.

9. Sheets for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.

10. Penalty for wrong answers:

THERE WILL BE PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS MARKED BY A CANDIDATE IN THE OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTION PAPERS

(i) There are four alternatives for the answer to every question. For each question for which a wrong answer has been given by the candidate, **one third** if the marks assigned to that question will be deducted as penalty.

(ii) If a candidate gives more than one answer, it will be treated as a wrong answer even if one of the given answers happens to be correct and there will be same penalty as above to that question.

(iii) If a question is left blank, i.e., no answer is given by the candidate, there will be no penalty for that question.

DO NOT OPEN THIS TEST BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO

1. Assertion (A): The Governor must appoint the leader of the majority party as the Chief Minister.

Reason (R): The Governor has no discretion if a clear majority exists in the Assembly.

Select the correct answer:

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true

✔ **Answer: (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A**

2. Consider the following about the Public Account of India:

1. Money held by the Government of India in trust is kept in the Public Account.
2. Parliamentary approval is not required for withdrawal from the Public Account.
3. Expenditure from the Public Account requires a prior vote of Parliament.

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) 1 and 2 only**

3. Consider the following about the Home Rule Movement (1916–17):

1. Tilak's Home Rule League operated mainly in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Berar, and Central Provinces.
2. Annie Besant's League operated in the rest of India except Maharashtra and Central Provinces.
3. The Home Rule Movement led directly to the immediate attainment of Dominion Status for India.

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

✔ **Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

✦ **Explanation:**

- The Home Rule Movement strengthened nationalism, but India did not attain Dominion Status immediately; it came much later. ✘

4. Assertion (A): The Home Rule Movement aimed at demanding immediate dominion status for India.

Reason (R): Annie Besant's Home Rule League covered the entire country including Maharashtra and Central Provinces.

Select the correct answer:

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true

✔ **Answer: (c) A is true, but R is false**

✦ **Explanation:**

- Annie Besant's League excluded Maharashtra and Central Provinces; those were under Tilak's League ✔
- Both aimed for self-government within the empire ✔

5. Assertion (A): The Gram Sabha is the cornerstone of the Panchayati Raj system in India.

Reason (R): Gram Sabha exercises executive powers over Gram Panchayat.

Select the correct answer:

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true

✔ **Answer: (c) A is true, but R is false**

✦ **Explanation:**

- Gram Sabha is central to democratic decentralization ✔
- But Gram Panchayat exercises executive functions — Gram Sabha plays a deliberative and supervisory role. ✘

6. Which of the following statements regarding the Vice President of India are correct?

1. The Vice President is elected by an electoral college consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament.
2. The election follows the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.
3. Nominated members of Rajya Sabha are not eligible to vote in Vice Presidential elections.

Select the correct answer:

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

✔ **Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

✦ **Explanation:**

- Nominated members can vote in Vice-President elections unlike President election ✔
- PR-STV system ✔

7. Which of the following Buddhist texts are mentioned explicitly in Ashoka's Bhabru edict as texts on Dhamma?

- (a) Jatakas
- (b) Mahaparinibbana Sutta
- (c) Six selected Buddhist texts
- (d) Dhammapada

✔ **Answer: (c) Six selected Buddhist texts**

Explanation:

The Bhabru edict refers to Ashoka recommending six Buddhist texts for study.

8. Consider the following regarding Mauryan Pillars:

1. Pillars were typically monolithic and highly polished.
2. Capitals often included animals symbolizing Buddhist principles.
3. Pillar shafts were composed of several stone pieces joined together.

Which of the 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) 1 and 2 only**

✦ **Explanation:**

- Mauryan pillars were monolithic (single stone) ✔
- Buddhist symbols like lion = leadership featured ✔
- NOT assembled from multiple pieces. ✘

9. Consider the following statements about the Barabar Caves:

1. They are considered among the earliest surviving examples of rock-cut architecture in India.
2. They were exclusively patronized for Buddhist monks.
3. Highly polished interiors are a characteristic feature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

✔ **Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only**

Explanation: Built for Ajivika sect, not exclusively Buddhist monks.

Early rock-cut caves with polished interiors ✔

10. Match List I (Article of the Constitution of India) with List II (Fundamental Rights) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists

List I	List II
A. Article 14	1. Right to Equality
B. Article 22	2. Right of a person under detention
C. Article 25	3. Right to Freedom of Religion
D. Article 32	4. Right to Constitutional Remedies

Codes

A B C D

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

Answer: A

11. Which of these is not included as a Fundamental Right in the Indian Constitution?

- (a) Right to Freedom of Speech
- (b) Right to Equality before Law
- (c) Right to Constitutional Remedies
- (d) Right to Equal Wages for Equal Work

Answer: D

12. Which of the following are the correct stages of Money Laundering?

- 1. Placement
- 2. Integration
- 3. Structuring
- 4. Layering

Select the correct answer:

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

✔ **Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 4 only**

✦ **Explanation:**

- Placement → introduction of illicit money
- Layering → separation of illicit proceeds
- Integration → reintroduction into economy
- Structuring is a method under Placement, not a stage itself. ✔

13. Consider the following about the early Labour Movements in India:

- 1. The first factory act was passed in 1853 under Dalhousie's Railway Minute.
- 2. The Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association was founded in 1918 with Gandhiji's involvement.
- 3. The first organized working-class strike in India was the GIP Railway strike of 1899.

Which of the statements are correct?

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

✔ **Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only**

Explanation:

- Dalhousie's Railway Minute (1853) relates to the railways, not factory legislation.
- Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association founded by Gandhi, Anasuya Sarabhai (1918).
- 1899 → GIP Railway Strike — first organized worker strike.

14. Which of the following were objectives of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)?

- 1. Overthrow of British colonial rule.
- 2. Establishment of a federal republic of India.
- 3. Promotion of communal identities among Indians.

Select the correct answer:

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

✔ **Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

Explanation:

- HSRA → wanted overthrow of British and secular, federal republic ✔
- It opposed communalism. ✘

15. The device of Zero Hour in Indian Parliament:

- (a) Is mentioned under Rules of Procedure.
- (b) Can be used by members without prior notice.
- (c) Is scheduled immediately after Lunch Break.
- (d) Is a practice borrowed from British Parliament.

✔ **Answer: (b) Can be used by members without prior notice.**

16. Which of the following correctly describes the Mahalwari Settlement introduced by the British?

- (a) Revenue was permanently fixed with Zamindars.
- (b) Entire villages (Mahals) were held collectively responsible for payment of revenue.
- (c) Revenue was collected from individual peasants periodically.
- (d) The Mahalwari system was introduced only in South India.

✔ **Answer: (b) Entire villages (Mahals) were held collectively responsible for payment of revenue.**

● **Explanation:**

- Under the Mahalwari System, started by Holt Mackenzie and expanded by Lord William Bentinck, the village or Mahal was collectively responsible.
 - Revenue was revised periodically, not permanently fixed.
-

17. Consider the following statements about the Santhal Rebellion (1855–56):

1. It led to the creation of a separate administrative unit called Santhal Parganas.
2. The Santhals revolted against excessive taxation and exploitative moneylenders.
3. The rebellion was inspired by the teachings of Sayyid Ahmad Bareilvi.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

✔ **Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

● **Explanation:**

- Sidhu and Kanhu led the Santhal revolt against land dispossession, oppressive revenue collection, and moneylenders/Dikus.
- The rebellion resulted in the creation of Santhal Parganas, a special district.
- Sayyid Ahmad Bareilvi was not associated with this tribal movement.

18. The term “TDS on Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs)”, recently seen in news, refers to which of the following?

- (a) Deduction of GST on NFTs and digital artwork at source.
- (b) A provision requiring deduction of 30% tax on capital gains from digital assets.
- (c) A 1% Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) on the transfer of cryptocurrencies.
- (d) Annual reporting obligation of crypto transactions to CBDT.

✔ **Answer: (c) A 1% Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) on the transfer of cryptocurrencies.**

● **Explanation:**

- Budget 2022-23 introduced 1% TDS on transfer of VDAs like cryptocurrencies and NFTs to track transactions and prevent tax evasion.
-

19. Which of the following was a direct cultural impact of the Swadeshi Movement?

- (a) The founding of the Indian National Congress
- (b) The establishment of Indian Institute of Science
- (c) The emergence of the Bengal School of Art led by Abanindranath Tagore
- (d) The creation of the Khilafat Committee

✔ **Answer: (c) The emergence of the Bengal School of Art led by Abanindranath Tagore**

● **Explanation:**

- Swadeshi Movement led to a cultural revival, with Abanindranath Tagore rejecting western art styles and promoting Indian traditional styles, e.g., Bharat Mata in wash technique.
-

20. Mission Indradhanush aims to:

- (a) Cover only polio vaccination in low-performing districts
- (b) Achieve full immunization coverage for all children and pregnant women
- (c) Replace UIP — Universal Immunization Programme — completely
- (d) Focus solely on urban slums

✓ **Answer: (b) Achieve full immunization coverage for all children and pregnant women**

● **Explanation:**

- Launched in 2014, Mission Indradhanush aims to accelerate immunization coverage for all children and pregnant women, targeting diseases like measles, diphtheria, tetanus, etc.

21. The Australia Group is primarily associated with:

- (a) Control of nuclear fuel enrichment technology
- (b) Export controls related to dual-use chemicals and biological agents
- (c) Naval cooperation among Indo-Pacific democracies
- (d) Humanitarian aid coordination during disasters

✓ **Answer: (b) Export controls related to dual-use chemicals and biological agents**

● **Explanation:**

- The Australia Group, established in 1985, works to ensure that exports do not contribute to chemical or biological weapons development.

22. The PM-KUSUM scheme aims to:

- (a) Provide rooftop solar to private corporate buildings
- (b) Promote solar pumps and grid-connected solar installations for farmers
- (c) Set up bio-refineries in agriculture-intensive states
- (d) Fund solar car manufacturing in India

✓ **Answer: (b)**

● **Explanation:**

- PM-KUSUM (Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) promotes solarization of agriculture via standalone pumps, grid-connected solar, and decentralized solar power for farmers.

23. What is “Dark Oxygen”, recently in scientific discussion?

- (a) Oxygen released by aquatic microbes in absence of light
- (b) A new form of unstable isotope of oxygen
- (c) Oxygen derived from hydrogen-rich black shale
- (d) High-pressure oxygen produced in volcanic systems

✓ **Answer: (a)**

● **Explanation:**

- Dark Oxygen is a term for oxygen produced by microbes in dark, oxygen-poor environments—challenging the assumption that oxygen is always a byproduct of photosynthesis.

24. The PM e-Drive Scheme, primarily aims to:

- (a) Develop electric rail freight corridors
- (b) Promote domestic manufacturing and adoption of electric vehicles
- (c) Digitize vehicle registration systems
- (d) Subsidize solar-powered tractors

✓ **Answer: (b)**

● **Explanation:**

The PM e-Drive Scheme incentivizes EV manufacturing, charging infrastructure, and adoption under FAME Phase II, targeting both public transport and private users to promote green mobility.

25. Which of the following statement are correct with reference to Sahajayana?

1. Sahajayana path taught by mahasiddha Saraha opposed rituals and mantras.
2. Sahajayana emphasized direct instruction by a guru rejected complex philosophy and devotional worship.
3. Sahajayana taught that liberation was possible while living a worldly life.
4. Sahajiya sect was especially influential in Bengal.

Select the answer from the below codes

- (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) 1, 2, 3 and 4

26. Which of the following mechanisms were introduced under the Kyoto Protocol?

1. Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
2. Joint Implementation (JI)
3. Carbon Offset Credit Trading
4. Loss and Damage Mechanism (LDM)

Select the correct answer:

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

✔ **Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only**

Explanation:

- CDM: Developed country funds project in developing country and earns credit.
- Joint Implementation: Projects between developed countries.
- Carbon trading: Market-based emission reduction.
- Loss and Damage Mechanism (LDM) belongs to Paris Agreement, Warsaw Mechanism, not Kyoto.

27. Match the following COP Summits with their important outcomes:

Summit	Key Outcome
A. COP 21 (Paris)	1. Paris Agreement adopted
B. COP 16 (Cancun)	2. Green Climate Fund established
C. COP 15 (Copenhagen)	3. Copenhagen Accord
D. COP 17 (Durban)	4. Launched second commitment period of Kyoto Protocol

Select the correct code:

- (a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4
- (b) A-1, B-3, C-2, D-4
- (c) A-4, B-2, C-3, D-1
- (d) A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4

✔ **Answer: (a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4**

Explanation:

Summit Key Outcome

COP 21 Paris Agreement

COP 16 Green Climate Fund

COP 15 Copenhagen Accord

COP 17 2nd Kyoto Period

28. Match the following volcanoes with their locations:

Volcano	Location
A. Mount Vesuvius	1. Italy
B. Mount St. Helens	2. USA
C. Krakatoa	3. Indonesia
D. Mauna Loa	4. Hawaii (USA)

Select the correct code:

- (a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4
- (b) A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3
- (c) A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2
- (d) A-4, B-3, C-2, D-1

✔ **Answer: (a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4**

29. With reference to Plate Tectonics, consider the following statements:

1. Divergent boundaries are associated with the formation of new oceanic crust.
2. Convergent boundaries always result in the formation of fold mountains.
3. Transform boundaries are associated with neither creation nor destruction of lithosphere.

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

✔ **Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only**

 **Explanation:**

- Divergent = Mid-ocean ridges = New crust formation (✔).
- Convergent = May form trenches, volcanic arcs too, not just fold mountains (✘).
- Transform = Horizontal slip = No crust creation/destruction (✔).

30. With reference to ocean currents, consider the following statements:

1. The Labrador Current is a cold current that merges with the warm Gulf Stream near Newfoundland.
2. The Brazilian Current is a cold current that flows southward along the Brazilian coast.
3. Upwelling zones are typically associated with rich fisheries and nutrient supply.

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

✔ **Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only**

👉 Explanation:

- Labrador = cold, merges with Gulf Stream (✔).
- Brazilian Current = warm, not cold (✘).
- Upwelling = rich nutrients → fisheries (✔).

31. With reference to Temperature Anomaly, consider:

1. A positive temperature anomaly at a place implies that the location is colder compared to the mean temperature of its parallel.
2. Urban areas, due to heat island effects, usually exhibit larger positive temperature anomalies than rural areas.
3. Temperature anomalies directly determine the location of isotherms across latitudes.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

✔ **Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only**

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: Positive anomaly means warmer than reference, not colder.

- Statement 2 is correct: Urban heat islands cause larger positive anomalies.
- Statement 3 is correct: Isotherms depend on temperature variations/anomalies.

32. You start from Punjab and move towards Arunachal Pradesh covering the minimum number of states. Assuming only land borders, what is the minimum number of states you must cross including start and destination?

- (a) 6
(b) 7
(c) 8
(d) 9

✔ **Answer: (b) 7**

Explanation:

Possible route:

Punjab → Haryana → Uttar Pradesh → Bihar → West Bengal → Assam → Arunachal Pradesh

- Total = 7 states, start and end included.

33. With reference to Krishnadevaraya's reign, consider the following statements:

1. Krishnadevaraya allowed the Portuguese to build a fort at Bhatkal during his reign.
2. He captured Raichur Doab from Bijapur Sultanate and restored it permanently to Vijayanagar rule.
3. His famous literary work *Amuktamalyada* is written in Sanskrit.

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

✔ **Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

Explanation:

- Krishnadevaraya did grant permission to Portuguese to build a fort at Bhatkal. ✔
- He recaptured Raichur Doab after defeating Ismail Adil Shah in 1520. ✔
- *Amuktamalyada* was authored in Telugu, not Sanskrit. ✘

34. Assertion (A): The Chisti Silsilah in India emphasized simplicity, humility, and love for all.

Reason (R): Chisti saints accepted royal grants and often held high political positions under Delhi Sultanate rulers.

Select the correct answer:

- (a) Both A and R are correct and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are correct but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (c) A is correct but R is incorrect
- (d) A is incorrect but R is correct

✓ **Answer: (c) A is correct but R is incorrect**

Explanation:

- Chistis emphasized simplicity and love. ✓
- BUT they generally avoided state patronage unlike Suhrawardis. ✗

35. Assertion (A): The Reserve Bank of India regulates credit in the economy through monetary policy tools.

Reason (R): The Reserve Bank's primary monetary policy tool is direct government spending to boost demand.

Select the correct answer:

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true

✓ **Answer: (c) A is true, but R is false**

Explanation:

- RBI regulates credit using tools like repo rate, reverse repo rate, CRR, SLR, and Open Market Operations (OMO). ✓
- Direct government spending is a fiscal policy tool, managed by the government, not RBI. ✗

36. Assertion (A): Muhammad bin Tughluq is called an 'unfortunate idealist' by historians.

Reason (R): His ambitious projects like shifting the capital and token currency were sound in planning but flawed in execution.

Select the correct answer:

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the

correct explanation of A

(c) A is true, but R is false

(d) A is false, but R is true

✓ **Answer: (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A**

Explanation:

His policies were progressive but failed due to poor implementation and ground realities.

37. Which of the following best explains why Babur's military tactics at the First Battle of Panipat were revolutionary in the Indian context?

(a) He employed massed elephant charges effectively.

(b) He used matchlocks and movable wagon fortifications.

(c) He relied primarily on cavalry archers.

(d) He focused on siege warfare using large cannons.

✓ **Answer: (b) He used matchlocks and movable wagon fortifications.**

Explanation:

- Babur's effective use of gunpowder firearms and Tulughma tactics — flanking and encirclement — was key.

38. The shift from the 10+2 structure to the 5+3+3+4 system in NEP 2020 primarily seeks to:

(a) Increase the total number of years of schooling.

(b) Align education with the developmental stages of the child.

(c) Focus only on technical education at the secondary level.

(d) Reduce the burden of school curriculum by halving subjects.

✓ **Answer: (b) Align education with the developmental stages of the child.**

Explanation:

- The 5+3+3+4 structure matches foundational, preparatory, middle, and secondary stages of child development.

39. Which of the following Directive Principles were added by later Constitutional Amendments?

1. Promotion of equal justice and free legal aid (Article 39A)
2. Protection and improvement of environment (Article 48A)
3. Participation of workers in management of industries (Article 43A)

Select the correct answer:

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

✔ **Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3**

Explanation:

- All these were inserted by 42nd Amendment Act, 1976.

40. Which of the following statements about the composition of the Supreme Court of India is correct?

- (a) The Constitution originally fixed the strength of Supreme Court judges at 31 including the Chief Justice.
- (b) The present sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court is 34 including the Chief Justice.
- (c) The strength can only be increased by a Constitutional Amendment.
- (d) The strength was increased for the first time after the Kesavananda Bharati case.

✔ **Answer: (b) The present sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court is 34 including the Chief Justice.**

Explanation:

- Originally strength: 8 judges + 1 CJI
- Now increased to 34 after the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2019.
- Change is done by ordinary law, not constitutional amendment.

41. Which of the following are true about Lok Adalats in India?

1. Lok Adalats are statutory bodies under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
2. Lok Adalat decisions are binding and carry the weight of a civil court decree.
3. Parties can appeal against the award of Lok Adalat to the regular courts.

Select the correct answer:

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

✔ **Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

Explanation:

- Lok Adalat awards are binding and final, having the status of a civil court decree. ✔
- No appeal lies against Lok Adalat awards, but dissatisfied parties can initiate litigation afresh. ✘

42. Which of the following Constitutional Amendments added languages to the Eighth Schedule?

1. 21st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1967
2. 71st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992
3. 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003

Select the correct answer:

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

✔ **Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3**

✦ **Explanation:**

Amendment	Language(s) Added
21st Amendment (1967)	Sindhi
71st Amendment (1992)	Konkani, Manipuri, Nepali
92nd Amendment (2003)	Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Santhali

43. Which of the following tribal regions/states have Autonomous District Councils under the Sixth Schedule?

1. Garo Hills in Meghalaya
2. Karbi Anglong in Assam
3. Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council in Ladakh
4. North Cachar Hills in Assam

Select the correct answer:

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

✔ **Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 4 only**

✦ **Explanation:**

- Garo Hills → Sixth Schedule ✔
- Karbi Anglong → Sixth Schedule ✔
- North Cachar Hills, now Dima Hasao → Sixth Schedule ✔
- Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council is governed under a separate law, Jammu and Kashmir.

Reorganisation Act 2019 — not Sixth Schedule

✗

44. With reference to the Indian Constitution, which of the following best describes the concept of “Asymmetric Federalism”?

1. The Constitution provides for different levels of autonomy to different states based on their unique historical, cultural, and political circumstances.
2. Certain states enjoy special status under specific Articles like 371, 371A–371J.
3. It implies that the financial powers of states are equal and uniform across the country.
4. Asymmetric federalism exists only temporarily during the operation of emergency provisions.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

✔ **Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

✦ **Explanation:**

Statement	Status	Reason
1. Different levels of autonomy	Correct	E.g., Nagaland (371A), Mizoram (371G), J&K (Article 370 earlier)
2. Special constitutional provisions	Correct	Articles 371 to 371J grant asymmetric rights to specific states
3. Equal financial powers	Incorrect	Financial powers are not uniform; states like J&K earlier and North-Eastern states have special financial arrangements
4. Only during Emergency	Incorrect	Asymmetric federalism is a permanent structural feature not just during emergency

45. Which of the following Fundamental Rights can be suspended during a National Emergency declared on grounds of war or external aggression?

1. Article 19 — Freedom of Speech and Expression
2. Article 21 — Right to Life and Personal Liberty
3. Article 22 — Protection against arbitrary arrest and detention

Select the correct answer:

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

✔ **Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only**

✦ **Explanation:**

- Article 19 automatically suspended during Emergency due to war/external aggression. ✔

- Article 21 — Right to life — cannot be suspended even during Emergency after 44th Amendment. ❌
- Article 22 — preventive detention — can still be affected. ✅

46. Which one of the following battles conclusively ended French hopes in India?

- (a) Battle of Adyar
- (b) Battle of Ambur
- (c) Battle of Wandiwash
- (d) Battle of Buxar

✅ **Answer: (c) Battle of Wandiwash**

🌟 **Explanation:**

- Battle of Wandiwash (1760) led by Sir Eyre Coote ended effective French influence in India.

47. Assertion (A): A citizen of India enjoys full political rights including voting and contesting elections.

Reason (R): Citizenship in India is based solely on residence without regard to descent or birth.

Select the correct answer:

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true

✅ **Answer: (c) A is true, but R is false**

🌟 **Explanation:**

- Indian citizenship is based on birth, descent, registration, naturalization, and incorporation — not solely on residence.
- Political rights like voting are available only to citizens. ✅

48. Assertion (A): PVTGs are distinguished by pre-agriculture level of technology, stagnant population, and low literacy.

Reason (R): All Scheduled Tribes are automatically classified as PVTGs.

Select the correct answer:

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true

✅ **Answer: (c) A is true, but R is false**

🌟 **Explanation:**

- PVTGs are a subgroup of STs identified based on vulnerability, but not all STs are PVTGs.

49. Consider the following about Vesara style architecture under the Badami Chalukyas:

1. It represents a combination of Nagara and Dravida styles.
2. It used locally available sandstone prominently.
3. All Vesara style temples were exclusively Buddhist.

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) 1 and 2 only**

🌟 **Explanation:**

- Vesara = Fusion of Nagara (north) and Dravida (south) styles. ✅
- Red sandstone of Karnataka used extensively. ✅
- Temples were Hindu — Shaiva, Vaishnava — and Jain, not exclusively Buddhist. ❌

50. Which of the following are exceptions to disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law?

1. If a member voluntarily resigns due to merger of his party with another political party, and at least two-thirds of the members agree to such merger.
2. If a nominated member joins a political party within six months of nomination.
3. If a member votes against party directions due to conscience and public welfare reasons.

Select the correct answer:

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

✔ **Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

✦ **Explanation:**

- No exception for voting against whip even on grounds of “conscience.” ✖

51. Which of the following statements best describe *Flash Loans* and *Ninja Loans*?

1. Flash Loans require no collateral but are settled within the same blockchain transaction.
2. Ninja Loans refer to loans issued without proof of income, job, or assets.
3. Both Flash and Ninja loans involve high traditional credit checks.
4. Both represent high-risk lending in their respective domains—DeFi and traditional finance.

Select the correct answer:

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: Flash loans are unsecured but repaid instantly or the transaction is voided.
- Statement 2 is correct: “No Income, No Job, No Asset” = Ninja loans.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: Neither involves standard credit checks.
- Statement 4 is correct: Both are high-risk in nature.

52. The Doha Round of WTO Negotiations, also called the Doha Development Agenda (DDA), failed to reach a consensus primarily because:

1. Developed countries were unwilling to reduce trade-distorting subsidies in agriculture.
2. Developing countries opposed strict TRIPS enforcement in public health.
3. There was no agreement on reaffirming Doha mandates in later MCs.

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

All statements reflect reasons cited in the DDA deadlock—developed nations' reluctance on subsidies, public health TRIPS flexibilities, and no consensus on reaffirming mandates.

53. Consider the following pairs related to the IMF quota system and voting power:

Component	Explanation
1. Quota Subscriptions	Represent a member's financial commitment and determine voting power
2. Basic Votes	Same for all countries, ensuring equity among members
3. Voting Power	Derived from Basic Votes plus one vote for every SDR 100,000 of quota

Which of the pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

All pairs are correctly matched. Quotas determine a country's influence, and voting combines basic votes — equal share — plus quota-based votes.

54. **With reference to the Arab League, consider the following statements:**

1. It was founded in 1945 to promote political, economic, cultural and social relations among Arab countries.
2. The headquarters of the Arab League is in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
3. All members of the Arab League are in the Arabian Peninsula.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The HQ is in Cairo, Egypt.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: The League includes North African nations like Egypt and Sudan.

55. **With reference to Small Finance Banks (SFBs), consider the following:**

1. The minimum capital required for a new SFB is ₹300 crore.
2. SFBs must maintain 75% of their adjusted net bank credit as PSL.
3. Payments Banks are allowed to convert to SFBs after 3 years of operation.
4. Capital Small Finance Bank was converted from a Local Area Bank.

Which of the above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 3 is incorrect: Payments Banks can convert to SFB after 5 years.
- The rest are correct based on RBI guidelines and recent transitions.

56. **With respect to the Enforcement Directorate (ED), consider the following statements:**

1. The ED enforces provisions under both the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).
2. ED has judicial powers and can pronounce judgments in cases it investigates.
3. The ED functions under the Ministry of Finance.
4. Attachment of property and arrest powers under PMLA require prior judicial approval.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 2 is incorrect: ED has executive powers, not judicial ones.
- Statement 4 is incorrect: ED can attach property and arrest without prior judicial approval, subject to later validation.
- Statements 1 and 3 are correct.

57. **Consider the following features of the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF):**

1. It allows RBI to absorb excess liquidity without collateral.
2. It replaced the reverse repo as the floor of the LAF corridor.
3. The SDF rate is always equal to the Repo Rate.
4. SDF is available only to Scheduled Commercial Banks.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 3 is ✗ incorrect: SDF rate is below repo — it forms the floor.

- Statements 1, 2, 4 are ✓ correct.

58. Which of the following statements are correct regarding Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI)?

1. WPI gives higher weight to manufactured goods while CPI gives higher weight to food.
2. WPI includes services like education and health, while CPI excludes services.
3. Core inflation in WPI and CPI excludes both food and fuel components.
4. RBI uses CPI, not WPI, for inflation targeting under monetary policy.

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Statement 2 is incorrect: CPI includes services, WPI does not.

59. How does a depreciating currency affect inflation in India?

- (a) It reduces inflation due to cheaper imports
- (b) It increases inflation due to costlier imports
- (c) It stabilizes inflation due to balance in trade
- (d) No effect on inflation as RBI neutralizes the impact

✔ **Correct Answer: (b) It increases inflation due to costlier imports**

🧠 **Explanation:** Depreciation makes imports like crude oil, electronic goods, and fertilizers costlier, increasing input costs and inflation.

60. Which of the following statements accurately describe the trends in India's Current Account Balance in recent quarters?

1. India recorded a current account surplus in Q4 FY2023-24 after a gap of ten quarters.
2. The surplus in Q4 FY24 was primarily due to a significant increase in services exports.
3. In Q1 FY2024-25, the CAD widened despite an increase in net services receipts and remittances.
4. The merchandise trade deficit narrowed in Q1 FY2024-25 compared to the previous quarter.

Options:

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

✔ **Correct Answer: (a) 1, 2, and 3 only**

Explanation: India posted a current account surplus of \$5.7 billion (0.6% of GDP) in Q4 FY24, marking the first surplus in ten quarters, primarily due to a narrowing of the merchandise trade deficit and robust services exports. In Q1 FY25, the CAD widened to \$9.7 billion (1.1% of GDP) despite increases in net services receipts and remittances, mainly because the merchandise trade deficit expanded to \$65.1 billion from \$56.7 billion in Q1 FY24.

61. Which of the following can improve India's Gross Savings Rate?

1. Increase in household financial savings
2. Government fiscal deficit
3. Public sector profit reinvestment
4. Fall in real interest rates on savings

Options:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) All of the above

✔ **Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only**

🧠 **Explanation:** Household savings and retained profits improve gross savings. Fiscal deficit and lower real interest may discourage savings.

62. RDG accounts are maintained directly with SEBI.

1. RDG accounts allow only government securities transactions.
2. Demat accounts permit direct access to RBI's NDS-OM platform.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation: RDG is regulated by RBI, not SEBI. Demat doesn't offer direct NDS-OM access.

63. Which of the following reforms are associated with Liberalisation in India?

1. Deregulation of industrial licensing
2. Reduction in corporate tax rates
3. Free convertibility of rupee on current account
4. Disinvestment in public sector undertakings

Choose the correct code:

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

✔ **Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only**

🧠 **Explanation:** Disinvestment falls under privatisation. Tax reforms are fiscal measures, not core liberalisation reforms.

64. With reference to India's demographic dividend, consider the following statements:

1. It refers to the economic growth potential arising from a larger working-age population.
2. It is automatically realized once the working-age population increases.
3. Education, skill development, and job creation are essential for reaping this dividend.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

✔ **Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only**

🧠 **Explanation:** Demographic dividend is not automatic; it requires investments in human capital and enabling policies.

65. With reference to the U-WIN platform launched under India's Universal Immunization Programme (UIP), consider the following statements:

1. U-WIN is a digital platform designed to register and track the immunization status of pregnant women and children up to 16 years of age.
2. It is modeled on the Co-WIN platform used during the COVID-19 vaccination drive.
3. The U-WIN platform is integrated with real-time Aadhaar verification and

generates a digital immunization certificate.

4. As of 2025, the U-WIN platform has been launched only in select aspirational districts for pilot testing.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

✔ **Correct Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 3 only**

🧠 **Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is correct: U-WIN registers immunization data for pregnant women and children up to 16 years.
- Statement 2 is correct: It is modeled after Co-WIN, the COVID-19 vaccination portal.
- Statement 3 is correct: The platform offers Aadhaar-based authentication and digital certificates.
- Statement 4 is incorrect: As of late 2024, U-WIN has been rolled out nationwide, not limited to pilot districts.

66. Match the following:

Type of Coal	Primary Use in India
A. Coking Coal	1. Thermal power generation
B. Non-Coking Coal	2. Steel manufacturing
C. Lignite	3. Electricity and industrial fuel — low grade
D. Anthracite	4. Rarely mined in India, used for domestic heating

Choose the correct match:

- (a) A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4
(b) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4
(c) A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4
(d) A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2

✔ **Answer: (a) A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4**

67. Consider the following statements regarding India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) programme:

Reserve (SPR) programme:

1. Strategic reserves in India are managed by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL), a subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).
2. India currently has underground SPR storage facilities at Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru, and Padur.
3. The SPR is designed to store crude oil for 90 days of consumption to handle external supply shocks.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

✔ **Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only**

🧠 **Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is incorrect: ISPRL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Oil Industry Development Board, not ONGC.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct: SPR sites exist at Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru, and Padur, storing oil sufficient for 90 days of imports including commercial stocks.

68. Which of the following minerals are included in the Seventh Schedule introduced by the MMDR Amendment Act, 2023?

1. Lithium
2. Graphite
3. Potash
4. Uranium

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a) 1, 2, and 3 only

Explanation:

The Seventh Schedule lists 29 critical and deep-seated minerals eligible for exploration licences, including lithium, graphite, and potash. Uranium remains classified as an atomic mineral and is not included in the Seventh Schedule.

69. Which of the following are not essential features of a Money Bill under Article 110?

1. Appropriation of money from the Consolidated Fund of India
2. Imposition or abolition of taxes
3. Regulation of borrowing by the Union Government
4. Imposition of fines or penalties
5. Payment of salaries to members of Parliament

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

✔ **Answer: (c)**

Explanation: Fines/penalties and salaries of MPs are not covered under Article 110's definition of a Money Bill.

70. Match the following Paleolithic sites with key archaeological finds:

Site	Key Feature
A. Bhimbetka	1. Traces of ashes indicating use of fire
B. Kurnool Caves	2. Large number of ostrich eggshells
C. Patne	3. Earliest rock paintings and habitation

Codes:

- (a) A-3, B-1, C-2
(b) A-2, B-3, C-1
(c) A-1, B-2, C-3
(d) A-3, B-2, C-1

✔ **Answer: (a)**

71. Consider the following statements regarding the status of women in Vedic society:

1. In the Early Vedic period, women could choose their grooms and inherit property.
2. Upanayana ceremony and Vedic education were accessible to women in both Early and Later Vedic periods.
3. Later Vedic texts reveal a decline in women's status, with restrictions on widow remarriage and public participation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

✔ **Answer: (a)**

Explanation: Statement 2 is incorrect; upanayana and Vedic learning for women were curtailed in the Later Vedic period.

72. Consider the following pairs of early heterodox thinkers and their core doctrines:

Philosopher	Doctrine
A. Purana Kashyapa	1. Akriyavada — Doctrine of non-action
B. Pakudha Katyayana	2. Asasvatavada — Denial of permanence
C. Ajit Keshkambalin	3. Uchedavada — Annihilationism
D. Sanjaya Belatthiputta	4. Anishchityavada — Agnosticism

Which of the following is the correct match?

- (a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4
- (b) A-4, B-1, C-2, D-3
- (c) A-2, B-4, C-1, D-3
- (d) A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2

✔ **Correct Answer: (a)**

Explanation: Each of these thinkers held specific philosophical positions, which contributed to early Nastika traditions like Charvaka and Ajivika.

73. Consider the following pairs:

Type of Money	Description
1. Fiat Money	Legal tender by law, not backed by physical commodity
2. Fiduciary Money	Accepted on trust, issued without full legal tender backing
3. Commodity Money	Backed by or made of precious metals like gold

Which of the pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

All pairs are correctly matched. Fiat money is declared legal tender; fiduciary money, like

demand drafts, is accepted on trust; commodity money is backed by physical value.

74. Which strait connects the Red Sea to the Arabian Sea via the Gulf of Aden?

- (a) Strait of Gibraltar
- (b) Bab-el-Mandeb
- (c) Strait of Hormuz
- (d) Bosphorus

✔ **Answer: (b) Bab-el-Mandeb**

Explanation: The Bab-el-Mandeb Strait connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, making it a key maritime chokepoint.

75. Which National Park, located in the Satpura Range, is known for its rugged terrain and sandstone peaks?

- (a) Kanha National Park
- (b) Satpura National Park
- (c) Bandhavgarh National Park
- (d) Panna National Park

✔ **Answer: (b) Satpura National Park**

Explanation: Satpura National Park, located in Madhya Pradesh, features rugged terrain with sandstone peaks, narrow gorges, and dense forests, offering a unique central Indian highland ecosystem.

76. The Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve is primarily located in which Indian state and is known for its unique mangrove ecosystem?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Assam
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

✔ **Answer: (c) West Bengal**

Explanation: The Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve, renowned for its extensive mangrove forests and the habitat of the Royal Bengal Tiger, is located in the state of West Bengal.

77. Which endangered primate species, native to the Western Ghats, is threatened by habitat fragmentation and has a distinctive silver-white mane?

- (a) Lion-tailed Macaque
- (b) Nilgiri Langur
- (c) Bonnet Macaque
- (d) Capped Langur

✔ **Answer: (a) Lion-tailed Macaque**

Explanation: The Lion-tailed Macaque (*Macaca silenus*) is endemic to the Western Ghats and is characterized by its unique silver-white mane. Habitat fragmentation due to deforestation poses a significant threat to its survival.

78. Which invasive plant species, originally introduced for ornamental purposes, has overtaken approximately 12% of Haryana's forested areas, leading to significant biodiversity loss?

- (a) *Parthenium hysterophorus*
- (b) *Lantana camara*
- (c) *Prosopis juliflora*
- (d) *Chromolaena odorata*

✔ **Answer: (b) *Lantana camara***

Explanation: *Lantana camara*, introduced by the British for ornamental use, has become a major invasive species in India. In Haryana, it has infested about 89 square kilometres of forested regions, accounting for 12% of the state's forests, and is a leading cause of native biodiversity decline.

79. Which authority is empowered to grant export or import permits for trade of specimens under the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022?

- (a) National Biodiversity Authority
- (b) Central Zoo Authority
- (c) Management Authority designated by the Central Government
- (d) State Forest Department

✔ **Answer: (c) Management Authority designated by the Central Government**

Explanation: The 2022 amendment provides for the Central Government to designate a Management Authority responsible for granting export or import permits for trade of specimens, in alignment with India's obligations under CITES.

80. According to ISFR 2021, which state showed the maximum increase in mangrove cover?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) West Bengal

✔ **Answer: (a) Odisha**

Explanation: The top three states showing mangrove cover increase are Odisha — 8 sq km, followed by Maharashtra — 4 sq km, and Karnataka — 3 sq km.

81. Rhinoceroses have a unique method of thermoregulation and parasite control.

Which

behavior do they commonly exhibit for this purpose?

- (a) Sunbathing on rocks
- (b) Rolling in mud
- (c) Climbing trees
- (d) Swimming in deep water

✔ **Answer: (b) Rolling in mud**

Explanation: Rhinos often wallow in mud, which acts as a natural sunscreen, cools their bodies, and helps remove parasites, serving both thermoregulatory and protective functions.

82. Which of the following diurnal animals is known for its high visual acuity and is typically active during daylight?

- (a) Slender Loris
- (b) Rhesus Macaque
- (c) Slow Loris
- (d) Indian Pangolin

✔ **Answer: (b) Rhesus Macaque**

Explanation: Rhesus Macaques are diurnal primates, active throughout the daylight hours. Their vision is well-adapted for day-time activities, including social interactions and foraging.

83. The largest ozone hole ever recorded was over:

- (a) The Arctic during polar summer
- (b) The Antarctic during polar spring
- (c) The Himalayas during winter
- (d) The Equator during El Niño events

✔ **Answer: (b) The Antarctic during polar spring**

Explanation: Ozone depletion is most severe over Antarctica during spring — September–October — due to the presence of polar stratospheric clouds and extreme cold temperatures that facilitate ozone-depleting reactions.

84. Which of the following best describes the nature of the Finance Commission's recommendations?

- (a) Legally binding
- (b) Enforced through an ordinance
- (c) Advisory in nature
- (d) Ratified through a money bill

✔ **Answer: (c) Advisory in nature**

Explanation: The Finance Commission's recommendations are not binding on the government. They are advisory, although generally respected and implemented to a large extent.

85. The terms "Socialist" and "Secular" were added to the Preamble by which of the following Constitutional Amendments?

- (a) 42nd Amendment Act, 1976
- (b) 44th Amendment Act, 1978
- (c) 52nd Amendment Act, 1985
- (d) 61st Amendment Act, 1989

✔ **Answer: (a) 42nd Amendment Act, 1976**

Explanation:

The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, enacted during the Emergency, added the words "Socialist", "Secular", and changed "unity of the Nation" to "unity and integrity of the Nation".

86. Which of the following provisions were added later to the Tenth Schedule by the 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003?

- 1. Disqualification for defecting even if 1/3rd members break away
- 2. Limiting size of the Council of Ministers
- 3. Disqualification applies to ministers also
- 4. Merger provision requires 2/3rd members

Select the correct answer:

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

✔ **Answer: (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4**

Explanation:

The 91st Amendment strengthened the Anti-Defection Law. It removed the exception for split, added provisions to limit Cabinet size — 15%, made ministers accountable, and clarified merger only if 2/3rd members agree.

87. The Cripps Mission (1942) offered a proposal to India that included which of the following features?

- 1. Dominion Status after the war
- 2. Right of provinces to opt out of Indian Union
- 3. Immediate elections to Constituent Assembly
- 4. Continuation of British military control

Select the correct answer:

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

✔ **Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 4 only**

Explanation:

The Cripps Mission offered Dominion Status post-war, allowed provinces to secede, and promised a future Constituent Assembly, but not immediate elections. The British would retain defense control during the war.

88. Which of the following statements regarding drainage pattern and state association is/are correct?

- 1. The Ganga river system forms a dendritic drainage pattern prominently in Uttar Pradesh.
- 2. The Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh forms a trellis drainage pattern.
- 3. The Indus river in Punjab forms a rectangular drainage pattern.

Select the correct answer:

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

✔ **Answer: (a) 1 only**

Explanation:

- Ganga exhibits a dendritic drainage pattern in Uttar Pradesh.
- Brahmaputra shows mostly dendritic in Arunachal, not trellis.
- Indus and its tributaries follow a dendritic or parallel drainage in Punjab, not rectangular.

89. Which of the following drainage basins are correctly matched with their rivers?

Drainage Basin	Main River
1. Chotanagpur Basin	Subarnarekha
2. Deccan Basin	Krishna
3. Eastern Coastal Basin	Godavari

Select the correct answer:

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

✓ **Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3**

Explanation:

- Subarnarekha drains the Chotanagpur Plateau.
- Krishna drains major parts of the Deccan Plateau.
- Godavari flows towards the Eastern Coastal Plains.

90. Which of the following factors contributes to the high seismicity — earthquake activity — in the Himalayan region?

1. Northward movement of the Indian Plate against Eurasian Plate
2. Presence of multiple thrust faults like Main Boundary Thrust
3. Extensive volcanic activity in the region

Select the correct answer:

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

✓ **Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only**

Explanation:

- The Indian Plate collides with Eurasian Plate, causing huge compressive forces.
- Fault systems like Main Central Thrust, Main Boundary Thrust make it seismically active.
- Volcanic activity is not significant in the Himalayas, unlike the Pacific Ring of Fire.

91. Which of the following differences correctly highlight Eastern Ghats vis-à-vis Western Ghats?

Feature	Eastern Ghats	Western Ghats
1. Continuity	Highly fragmented	Continuous
2. Average Elevation	Higher than Western Ghats	Lower than Eastern Ghats
3. River Cutting	Frequently dissected by rivers	Rarely dissected

Select the correct code:

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

✓ **Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only**

Explanation:

- Eastern Ghats = broken, irregular hills.
- Western Ghats = continuous wall except at Palghat Gap.
- Western Ghats are higher — around 1000–1600 m — than Eastern Ghats — around 600 m.

92. Which of the following correctly match the irrigation type with its distinctive feature?

Type of Irrigation	Feature
1. Sprinkler Irrigation	Water sprayed like artificial rain
2. Drip Irrigation	Water delivered directly to the root zone
3. Surface Irrigation	Involves underground pipes delivering water

Select the correct code:

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

✓ **Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

Explanation:

- Sprinkler irrigation distributes water through overhead pipes, imitating rainfall.
- Drip irrigation delivers water directly to plant roots, conserving water.

- Surface irrigation, such as flood irrigation, involves letting water flow on the field surface, not through underground pipes.

- The ideal N:P:K consumption ratio is 4:2:1, but actual use is skewed towards nitrogen.
- Fertilizer runoff contaminates groundwater and causes nitrate poisoning.

93. Which of the following statements about the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) are correct?

1. IFFCO is the world's largest cooperative by turnover on GDP per capita.
2. IFFCO has a significant market share in both Urea and complex fertilizers in India.
3. IFFCO operates exclusively within India and does not have any international collaborations.

Select the correct answer:

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

✓ **Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

Explanation:

IFFCO is recognized as the world's largest cooperative by turnover on GDP per capita and holds a significant market share in both Urea and complex fertilizers in India. However, IFFCO does have international collaborations and subsidiaries, indicating that it operates beyond India.

94. Which of the following is/are challenges currently associated with fertilizer usage in India?

1. Excessive use of nitrogenous fertilizers leading to soil degradation.
2. Imbalanced NPK ratio affecting soil health.
3. Fertilizer overuse contributing to groundwater contamination.

Select the correct answer:

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

✓ **Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3**

Explanation:

- Nitrogen overuse, e.g., from urea, depletes soil organic carbon and leads to soil health degradation.

95. Which of the following best explains the concept of food subsidy in India?

- (a) It is the difference between the economic cost of food grains and their sale price under the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- (b) It refers to the financial assistance given directly to farmers for growing food crops.
- (c) It is the direct benefit transfer provided to households for purchasing food grains.
- (d) It is the incentive given to private companies for food storage infrastructure.

✓ **Answer: (a) It is the difference between the economic cost of food grains and their sale price under the PDS.**

👉 **Explanation:**

- Food subsidy = Economic cost — procurement + storage + transport — minus PDS selling price.
- India heavily subsidizes wheat and rice under NFSA via this mechanism.

96. For successful cultivation of wheat, the following climatic conditions are favorable:

- (a) High rainfall — above 200 cm — and high temperature — 30°C–35°C — throughout the season.
- (b) Cool growing season and bright sunshine at ripening stage with moderate rainfall — 50–75 cm.
- (c) Hot and dry winds during the entire growth period.
- (d) Heavy irrigation and tropical humid climate throughout.

✓ **Answer: (b) Cool growing season and bright sunshine at ripening stage with moderate rainfall — 50–75 cm.**

👉 **Explanation:**

- Wheat is a rabi crop.
- Needs cool temperatures during growth — 10–15°C — and sunshine during ripening.
- Moderate irrigation required.

97. Which of the following pollutants commonly contaminate agricultural soils through phosphate fertilizers?

1. Cadmium (Cd)
2. Lead (Pb)
3. Mercury (Hg)

Select the correct answer:

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

✔ **Answer: (a) 1 only**

🔥 **Explanation:**

- Cadmium contaminates phosphate fertilizers naturally due to phosphate rock mining.
- Lead and Mercury contamination are more from industrial sources, not fertilizers.

98. Which of the following correctly matches heavy metals with their associated health effects?

Heavy Metal	Major Health Effect
A. Lead (Pb)	1. Neurotoxicity, especially in children
B. Mercury (Hg)	2. Damage to nervous and renal systems
C. Cadmium (Cd)	3. Itai-Itai disease — bone and kidney damage

Select the correct match:

- (a) A-1, B-2, C-3
- (b) A-2, B-1, C-3
- (c) A-3, B-2, C-1
- (d) A-1, B-3, C-2

✔ **Answer: (a) A-1, B-2, C-3**

99. Match the allelopathic species with the major allelochemical produced:

Species	Allelochemical
A. Black Walnut (<i>Juglans nigra</i>)	1. Juglone
B. Rice (<i>Oryza sativa</i>)	2. Phenolic compounds
C. Garlic Mustard (<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>)	3. Glucosinolates

Select the correct code:

- (a) A-1, B-3, C-2
- (b) A-1, B-2, C-3
- (c) A-2, B-1, C-3
- (d) A-3, B-2, C-1

✔ **Answer: (b) A-1, B-2, C-3**

100. With reference to coral bleaching, consider the following statements:

1. It occurs when corals expel the symbiotic zooxanthellae algae.
2. Rise in ocean temperature is a primary trigger for coral bleaching.
3. Only natural factors like volcanic eruptions, not human-induced climate change, cause coral bleaching.

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

✔ **Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**