

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

Test Booklet Series

TEST BOOKLET

Subject : Test 15 – INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Answer Key



Time Allowed : Two Hours
Marks : 200

Maximum

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.

1. With reference to **Somaliland**, consider the following statements:

1. Somaliland has been internationally recognised by the United Nations as a sovereign state.
2. It is located along the Gulf of Aden in the Horn of Africa.
3. Berbera Port is strategically significant for landlocked Ethiopia.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: a) 2 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 ❌ Incorrect**
Somaliland is a **self-declared state** (since 1991) but is **not internationally recognised** by the United Nations.
- **Statement 2 ✅ Correct**
It is located along the **Gulf of Aden** in the **Horn of Africa**.
- **Statement 3 ✅ Correct**
Berbera Port is strategically important, especially for **landlocked Ethiopia** for trade access.

2. With reference to the **United States military operation in Venezuela (2026)**, consider the following statements:

1. The operation resulted in the capture of President Nicolás Maduro and his wife.
2. The United States obtained explicit authorization from the United Nations Security Council for its military action.
3. The operation was conducted under the name **Operation Absolute Resolve**.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: c) 1 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 ✅ Correct**
The U.S. operation **captured President Nicolás Maduro and his wife** during the 2026 intervention.

- **Statement 2 ❌ Incorrect**

There was **no explicit authorization from the UN Security Council** for the operation (widely criticized internationally).

- **Statement 3 ✅ Correct**

The operation was conducted under the name **Operation Absolute Resolve**.

3. With reference to Head of State immunity under international law, consider the following statements:

1. A sitting head of state enjoys absolute immunity from foreign criminal jurisdiction under customary international law.
2. The International Criminal Court can prosecute a sitting head of state without regard to immunity under domestic or foreign law.
3. Functional immunity continues to protect former leaders for all acts performed during their tenures.

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: a) 1 and 2 only

- Statement 1 ✅ Correct**

A **sitting head of state** enjoys **immunity *ratione personae* (personal immunity)** under customary international law, protecting them from foreign criminal jurisdiction while in office.

- Statement 2 ✅ Correct**

The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** can prosecute sitting heads of state; **Article 27 of the Rome Statute** removes immunity for international crimes.

- Statement 3 ❌ Incorrect**

Functional immunity (*ratione materiae*) for former leaders applies only to **official acts, not all acts**—and does not cover serious international crimes (e.g., genocide, war crimes).

4. With reference to **India–U.S. institutional collaborations**, consider the following statements:

1. INDUS-X focuses on co-development and co-production in defence technologies.
2. The TRUST Framework upgraded the iCET to strengthen cooperation in semiconductors and AI.
3. SeaVision integration enhances India's maritime domain awareness in the Indo-Pacific.

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: d) 1, 2 and 3

Statement 1  **Correct**

INDUS-X (India–U.S. Defence Acceleration Ecosystem) focuses on **co-development and co-production** of defence technologies, especially involving startups and private sector innovation.

Statement 2  **Correct**

The **TRUST Framework** builds upon and upgrades **iCET (Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies)** to deepen cooperation in areas like **semiconductors, AI, and critical technologies**.

Statement 3  **Correct**

SeaVision integration improves India's **Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA)** in the Indo-Pacific by enabling real-time information sharing on maritime activities.

5. With reference to recent U.S. withdrawals from international bodies, consider the following statements:

1. The U.S. has proposed withdrawal from the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
2. UNCTAD focuses on trade and development issues of developing countries.
3. The International Solar Alliance is a UN-affiliated body headquartered in New York.

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: (a) 1 and 2 only

• **Statement 1**  **Correct**

The U.S. has **proposed withdrawal from the UNFCCC** in 2026 as part of a broader exit from multiple international bodies.

• **Statement 2**  **Correct**

UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) focuses on **trade, investment, and development issues of developing countries** (core mandate — standard fact).

• **Statement 3**  **Incorrect**

The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** is **not a UN-affiliated body headquartered in New York**.

👉 It is an **India-led treaty-based organization headquartered in Gurugram, India**.

6. With reference to Socotra Island, consider the following statements:

1. It is located near the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait in the north-west Indian Ocean.
2. It is part of Oman and lies west of the Horn of Africa.
3. It is recognised as both a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a Ramsar Site.

Which of the statements given above are correct?


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

Correct Answer: a) 1 and 3 only

Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

• **Statement 1**  **Correct**

Socotra Island lies in the **north-west Indian Ocean near the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait**, a strategically important maritime region.

• **Statement 2**  **Incorrect**

Socotra is **part of Yemen**, not Oman (though it lies **east of the Horn of Africa**).

- **Statement 3** **Correct**
It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** (rich biodiversity) and also has **Ramsar-designated wetlands**.

7. With reference to grasslands and climate policy, consider the following statements:

1. Grasslands store a majority of their carbon in above-ground biomass.
2. The United Nations has declared 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.
3. India's climate plans currently under NDCs largely focus on forests over 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

Answer: b) 2 and 3 only

(1 is incorrect because grassland carbon is largely stored in soil rather than above ground)

8. Which of the following best explains Greenland's exceptional mineral and hydrocarbon wealth?

- a) Exclusive volcanic origin
- b) Only sedimentary basin formation
- c) Convergence of mountain building, rifting, and volcanism
- d) Continuous glaciation preventing erosion

Answer: c) Convergence of mountain building, rifting, and volcanism

Greenland's mineral and hydrocarbon richness is due to a **complex geological history** involving:

- **Orogeny (mountain building)** → formation of mineral belts
- **Rifting** → creation of sedimentary basins (hydrocarbons)
- **Volcanism** → concentration of valuable minerals

✗ Why others are wrong:

- **(a) Exclusive volcanic origin** ✗
Greenland is **not purely volcanic**; multiple processes shaped it.
- **(b) Only sedimentary basin formation** ✗

Hydrocarbons yes, but **minerals require broader tectonic processes**.

- **(d) Continuous glaciation preventing erosion** ✗

Glaciation actually **exposes minerals**; it does not create them.

9. The proposed Gaza 'Board of Peace' primarily aims to:

- a) Monitor ceasefire violations through UN peacekeepers
- b) Supervise elections in Gaza immediately after the war
- c) Manage post-war governance transition and coordinate reconstruction funding
- d) Replace the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)

Answer: c)

Correct Answer: (c) Manage post-war governance transition and coordinate reconstruction funding

- **(c) Correct**
The proposed **Gaza 'Board of Peace'** is intended to:
 - Oversee **post-war governance transition**
 - Coordinate **international reconstruction funds**
 - Ensure administrative stability after the conflict

✗ Why others are wrong:

- **(a) Monitor ceasefire violations** ✗
This is typically the role of **UN peacekeeping or monitoring missions**, not the Board.
- **(b) Supervise elections** ✗
Elections may happen later, but **not the primary mandate**.
- **(d) Replace UNRWA** ✗
UNRWA deals with **refugee welfare**, not governance transition.

10. With reference to the High Seas Treaty (BBNJ), consider the following statements:




1. It is the first legally binding agreement focused on biodiversity conservation in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
2. It enables the creation of Marine Protected Areas in the high seas.
3. It regulates oil and gas exploration within the Exclusive Economic Zones of countries.

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: a) 1 and 2 only

Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1**  **Correct**
The **High Seas Treaty (BBNJ)** is the **first legally binding global agreement** specifically aimed at conserving **biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ)**.
- **Statement 2**  **Correct**
It enables the creation of **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)** in the **high seas**, a major step for global ocean conservation.
- **Statement 3**  **Incorrect**
The treaty **does not regulate activities within EEZs** (Exclusive Economic Zones).
👉 EEZs fall under **national jurisdiction** as per UNCLOS.

11. With reference to ‘small tables diplomacy’, consider the following statements:




1. It prioritises flexible coalitions over universal consensus-based forums.
2. It limits India’s ability to shape global norms due to smaller participation.
3. It can help India de-risk trade and supply chains.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a) 1 and 3 only

Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

- **Statement 1**  **Correct**
Small tables diplomacy focuses on **flexible, issue-based coalitions** (like Quad, I2U2) instead of large, consensus-heavy forums.
- **Statement 2**  **Incorrect**
It **does not necessarily limit India’s influence**; in fact, smaller groups often **enhance India’s ability to shape outcomes** more effectively.
- **Statement 3**  **Correct**
It helps India **de-risk trade and supply chains** through **trusted partnerships and diversification strategies**.

12. The Chagos Archipelago was detached from Mauritius in 1965 primarily to:

- A. Establish an independent state free from colonial rule
- B. Create a strategic airport to support Indian Ocean trade
- C. Form British Indian Ocean Territory for military purposes
- D. Support regional anti-piracy operations

Answer: C — *Form British Indian Ocean Territory for military purposes*

13. With reference to the ‘Carney Doctrine’, consider the following statements:



1. It advocates a third path for middle powers outside rigid U.S.–China alignment.
2. It supports economic diversification to reduce dependency leverage.
3. It endorses isolationism as the safest route to preserve sovereignty.

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

Correct Answer: (A) 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1**  **Correct**
The *Carney Doctrine* promotes a **“third path” for middle powers**, avoiding rigid alignment with either the U.S. or China.
- **Statement 2**  **Correct**
It emphasizes **economic**

diversification to reduce strategic and economic dependence.

- **Statement 3 ❌ Incorrect**
It **does not advocate isolationism**; rather, it supports **active, strategic engagement with multiple partners**.

14. **With reference to Antarctica and polar governance, consider the following statements:**

1. The Antarctic Treaty allows mineral mining for commercial purposes under national laws.
2. National laws are a key instrument through which states implement obligations under the Antarctic Treaty System.
3. India's Antarctic activities are regulated domestically under the Indian Antarctic Act, 2022.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a) 2 and 3 only

- **Statement 1 ❌ Incorrect**
The **Antarctic Treaty System (Madrid Protocol, 1991) prohibits commercial mineral mining** in Antarctica.
- **Statement 2 ✅ Correct**
Countries implement treaty obligations through **national laws**, making domestic legislation a key enforcement tool.
- **Statement 3 ✅ Correct**
India regulates its Antarctic activities under the **Indian Antarctic Act, 2022**.

15. **Consider the following events and match them correctly:**

Event	Country
A. Camp Viking	1. Norway
B. Ream Naval Base	2. Cambodia
C. Redzikowo Missile Site	3. Poland
D. Santa Ana EDCA Site	4. Philippines

Choose the correct match:

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

Answer: (a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4

Explanation: These are all strategic **military or naval bases** involving either the US or UK presence.

16. **Which of the following statements correctly differentiates between QUAD, AUKUS, and IPEF?**

1. QUAD is a strategic dialogue focusing on security and non-military cooperation, while AUKUS is a military technology-sharing pact.
2. IPEF includes a legally binding free trade agreement among its members.
 1. AUKUS aims to provide nuclearpowered submarines to Australia, while IPEF focuses on clean economy and digital trade.
 2. India is a member of both QUAD and IPEF, but not of AUKUS. **Select the correct answer using the code below:**

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

Answer: (b) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:**
 - **QUAD** = strategic dialogue with broad cooperation (vaccines, tech, climate)
 - **AUKUS** = security pact focusing on **military tech**, especially **nuclear submarines**
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:**
 - **IPEF is not a Free Trade Agreement**; it's a **non-binding economic framework**
- **Statement 3 – Correct:**
 - **AUKUS** includes the **submarine**

deal, while **IPEF** has 4 pillars including **clean economy, digital trade**

- **Statement 4 – Correct:**
 - **India is in QUAD and IPEF**, but **not a member of AUKUS**

17. Which of the following countries border Mediterranean sea

1. Spain
2. France
3. Italy
4. Egypt

Select the answer from the codes given below

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

✓ Answer Key (Brief Explanation)

Correct Answer: (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4

- **Spain** ✓ — Western Mediterranean coast
- **France** ✓ — Southern coast (French Riviera)
- **Italy** ✓ — Surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea
- **Egypt** ✓ — Northern coast along the Mediterranean

18. Which of the following rebel groups are matched correctly with reference to the country

1. Houthi rebels – Palestine
2. Hamas rebels – Yemen
3. Taliban rebels – Afghanistan
4. Kurds – Iran & Iraq

Select the answer from the below codes

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

Correct Answer: (a) 3 and 4 only

🔍 Statement-wise Analysis

- **1. Houthi rebels – Palestine** ✗ **Incorrect**
Houthis are based in **Yemen**, not Palestine.
- **2. Hamas rebels – Yemen** ✗ **Incorrect**

Hamas is a **Palestinian organization operating in Gaza**, not Yemen.

- **3. Taliban rebels – Afghanistan** ✓ **Correct**
Taliban is an Islamist group primarily associated with **Afghanistan**.
- **4. Kurds – Iran & Iraq** ✓ **Correct**
Kurds are an ethnic group spread across **Iran, Iraq (also Turkey & Syria)** — so the pairing is correct.

19. Salar de Uyuni (Bolivia) is recently in news for

- a) the largest Lithium deposit
- b) protest against the metro taxation
- c) first place to make all type of public transport free
- d) world frequent volcanic eruption

Correct Answer: (a) the largest Lithium deposit

- **(a)** ✓ **Correct**
Salar de Uyuni (Bolivia) is the **world's largest salt flat** and holds **one of the largest lithium reserves**, making it crucial for **EV batteries and energy storage**.

✗ Why others are wrong:

- **(b) Protest against metro taxation** ✗ — Not related
- **(c) Free public transport** ✗ — No such global record
- **(d) Frequent volcanic eruption** ✗ — Not known for active volcanism

20. Match the following pairs:

Conflict Zone	Country	Description
A. El Geneina	1. Sudan	i. Captured by RSF in April 2023, severe violence
B. Paramaribo	2. Suriname	ii. Protests against rising living expenses
C. Paktika Province	3. Afghanistan	iii. Pakistani airstrikes increased tensions
D. Port of Berbera	4. Somaliland	iv. MoU with Ethiopia caused Somalia's diplomatic concern

Choose the correct match:

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

Answer: (a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4

Explanation: All options match perfectly with their respective country and description.

21. With reference to recent developments in global geopolitics, consider the following statements:

1. Ethiopia recently signed a memorandum of understanding with Somaliland to access the port of Berbera, prompting diplomatic tension with Somalia.
2. The Republic of Artsakh, also known as Nagorno-Karabakh, ceased to exist after Azerbaijan launched a military offensive.
3. Transnistria, a breakaway region of Moldova, has been officially recognized by the United Nations.
4. The city of Lysychansk is situated near the strategic Snake Island in the Black Sea and has been the site of Russian-Ukrainian conflict.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Ethiopia signed an MoU with **Somaliland** (a selfdeclared independent state not recognized internationally) for access to the **Port of Berbera**. This led to **diplomatic tensions with Somalia**, which still claims sovereignty over Somaliland.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The **Republic of Artsakh** (Nagorno-Karabakh), a selfdeclared state mostly populated by ethnic Armenians, **ceased to exist** after Azerbaijan's successful **military offensive**.

- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** While **Transnistria** is a de facto breakaway region of Moldova with its own administration, it **is not recognized by the UN** or any UN member state.

- **Statement 4: Incorrect.** **Lysychansk** is in **eastern Ukraine**, part of the **Donbas region**, whereas **Snake Island (Zmiinyi Island)** is in the **Black Sea**, near the **Danube Delta**. These are **distinct strategic locations**, not adjacent.

22. Which of the following regions has recently seen a constitutional suspension due to military coups or political crises?

1. Niger
 2. Kuwait
 3. Tunisia
 4. Switzerland
- Choose from the below options

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

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation: • Switzerland has had no constitutional crisis.

- Niger, Kuwait, and Tunisia had suspensions of constitutional provisions recently.

23. Consider the following events and match them correctly:

Event	Country
A. Camp Viking	1. Norway
B. Ream Naval Base	2. Cambodia
C. Redzikowo Missile Site	3. Poland
D. Santa Ana EDCA Site	4. Philippines

Choose the correct match:

- (a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4
- (b) A-4, B-1, C-2, D-3
- (e) A-1, B-3, C-2, D-4
- (f) A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3

Answer: (a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4

Explanation: These are all strategic **military or naval bases** involving either the US or UK presence.

24. Consider the following lakes known for their limnic eruptions or potential to release CO₂ suddenly ("exploding lakes"):

1. Lake Nyos
2. Lake Kivu
3. Lake Victoria
4. Lake Ngozi

Which of the above are scientifically recognized as dangerous "exploding lakes"?

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- Lake Nyos (Cameroon), Lake Kivu (Rwanda/DRC), and Lake Ngozi (Tanzania) are known for CO₂ buildup from magma chambers.
- Lake Victoria is not associated with this phenomenon.

25. Which of the following cities was the first district-level capital captured by resistance forces in Myanmar during Operation 1027?

- (a) Myitkyina
- (b) Sagaing
- (c) Kawlin
- (d) Sittwe

Answer: (c) Kawlin

Explanation: In **November 2023**, **Kawlin** was seized by resistance forces, marking a symbolic gain in **Myanmar's anti-junta operations**.

26. Which port city in Mozambique has been a strategic stronghold of Islamist insurgents due to offshore gas reserves?

- (a) Beira
- (b) Nacala
- (c) Maputo
- (d) Mocimboa da Praia

Answer: (d) Mocimboa da Praia

Explanation:

The Cabo Delgado province, particularly Mocimboa da Praia, is at the center of a violent insurgency threatening LNG projects.

27. Which of the following cities in Sudan is located in North Kordofan and saw a prolonged siege by RSF lifted in February 2025?

- (a) El Fasher
- (b) El Obeid
- (c) Babanusa
- (d) Wad Madani

Answer: (b) El Obeid

Explanation: El Obeid was besieged by RSF for months and was only relieved by SAF counteroffensive in early 2025.

28. With reference to global refugee settlements, consider the following statements:

1. Kutupalong-Balukhali Expansion Site is the world's largest refugee camp by population.
2. Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement in Uganda hosts primarily Syrian refugees.
3. Moria Refugee Camp in Greece was destroyed by fire in 2020 after exceeding its capacity.

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:

- Statement 1 is correct – Kutupalong-Balukhali in Bangladesh houses approximately 1 million Rohingyas, making it the world's largest refugee camp.
- Statement 2 is incorrect – Bidi Bidi hosts South Sudanese refugees, not Syrians.
- Statement 3 is correct – Moria Camp in Lesbos, Greece was destroyed by fire in 2020 and replaced by temporary shelters.

29. With reference to the UK-Rwanda asylum agreement, consider the following statements:

1. Under the deal, the UK plans to send certain asylum seekers to Rwanda for processing and potential resettlement.
2. The agreement has been ruled fully constitutional by the UK Supreme Court.
3. The policy has drawn criticism from human rights organizations and international bodies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (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:

- Statement 1 is correct – The UK– Rwanda Migration Partnership involves sending irregular asylum seekers to Rwanda, where their claims will be processed.
- Statement 2 is incorrect – In November 2023, the UK Supreme Court ruled that Rwanda is not a safe third country for deportation, raising legal barriers.
- Statement 3 is correct – The deal has been heavily criticized by the UNHCR, Amnesty International, and other groups for potential violation of refugee rights and international norms.

30. Which of the following statements correctly differentiates between QUAD, AUKUS, and IPEF?

1. QUAD is a strategic dialogue focusing on security and non-military cooperation, while AUKUS is a military technology-sharing pact.
2. IPEF includes a legally binding free trade agreement among its members.
3. AUKUS aims to provide nuclearpowered submarines to Australia, while IPEF focuses on clean economy and digital trade.
4. India is a member of both QUAD and IPEF, but not of AUKUS.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: (b) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

Statement 1 – Correct:

- o QUAD = strategic dialogue with broad cooperation (vaccines, tech, climate)
- o AUKUS = security pact focusing on military tech, especially nuclear submarines

Statement 2 – Incorrect:

- o IPEF is not a Free Trade Agreement; it's a non-binding economic framework

Statement 3 – Correct:

- o AUKUS includes the submarine deal, while IPEF has 4 pillars including clean economy, digital trade

Statement 4 – Correct:

- o India is in QUAD and IPEF, but not a member of AUKUS

31. Which of the following countries border Mediterranean sea

1. Spain
2. France
3. Italy
4. Egypt

Select the answer from the codes given below

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

Answer: b) 1, 2, 3 and 4

32. Which of the following rebel groups are matched correctly with reference to the country

1. Houthi rebels – Palestine
2. Hamas rebels – Yemen
3. Taliban rebels – Afghanistan
4. Kurds – Iran & Iraq

Select the answer from the below codes

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

Answer (a) **3 and 4 only**

33. Salar de Uyuni (Bolivia) is recently in news for

- a) **the largest Lithium deposit**
- b) protest against the metro taxation
- c) first place to make all type of public transport free
- d) world frequent volcanic eruption

Answer : (a) **the largest Lithium deposit**

34. Consider the following statements:

1. The Groningen gas field in the Netherlands is being shut down due to concerns about seismic activity.
2. Lake Kivu, located in Tanzania, is one of the "exploding lakes" identified due to CO₂ emissions from Earth's mantle.
3. Lake Nyos in Cameroon is a known site of CO₂-related lake explosions.

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct – The Dutch Senate approved a law to shut down the Groningen gas field by 2024 due to seismic risk.
- Statement 2 is incorrect – Lake Kivu lies on the border of Rwanda and the DRC, not in Tanzania.
- Statement 3 is correct – Lake Nyos is in Cameroon and is known for a deadly limnic eruption in 1986.

35. Match the following pairs:

Conflict Zone	Country	Description
A. El Geneina	1. Sudan	i. Captured by RSF in April 2023, severe violence
B. Paramaribo	2. Suriname	ii. Protests against rising living expenses
C. Paktika Province	3. Afghanistan	iii. Pakistani airstrikes increased tensions
D. Port of Berbera	4. Somaliland	iv. MoU with Ethiopia caused Somalia's diplomatic concern

Choose the correct match:

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

Answer: (a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4

Explanation: All options match perfectly with their respective country and description.

36. Which of the following countries recently withdrew from OPEC?

- (a) Nigeria
- (b) Libya
- (c) Angola
- (d) Algeria

Answer: (c) Angola

Explanation:

Angola withdrew from OPEC effective January 1, 2024, over disagreements on production quotas.

37. Which of the following countries had constitutional suspensions or dissolutions of parliament in 2024–25?

- 1. Syria
- 2. Gabon
- 3. Kuwait
- 4. Tunisia

Select the answer from the below options

- (a) 1 and 2 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

Explanation:

Each country experienced a **suspension of constitutional order** either due to military coups (e.g., **Gabon, Syria**) or internal political crises (**Kuwait, Tunisia**).

38. Which of the following countries faced economic crisis due to winding down of a dual-currency system?

- (a) Cuba
- (b) Syria
- (c) Lebanon
- (d) Myanmar

Answer: (a) Cuba

Explanation:

Cuba ended its dual-currency system in **2020**, triggering shortages, inflation, and hardship.

39. Match the following rebel groups with the country they are active in:

Group	Country
A. Fano	1. Ethiopia
B. Arakan Army (AA)	2. Myanmar
C. SPLM-North	3. Sudan
D. M23 Rebels	4. DR Congo

Choose the correct match:

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

Answer: (a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4

Explanation: Each group is involved in regional insurgencies:

- **Fano** – Ethiopia (Amhara region)
- **AA** – Myanmar (Rakhine)
- **SPLM-N** – Sudan (Darfur/Kordofan)
- **M23** – DRC (North Kivu)

40. Which of the following regions is the strategic exclave of Azerbaijan bordering Armenia, Iran, and Turkey?

- (a) Lachin Corridor
- (b) Syunik Province
- (c) Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic
- (d) Zangezur Corridor

Answer: (c) Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic

Explanation:

Nakhchivan is a landlocked exclave of **Azerbaijan**, playing a key role in regional logistics and border politics.

41. Which of the following countries announced suspension of contributions or withdrawal from major international organizations like WHO, UNHRC, and UNESCO in recent years?

- (a) Russia
- (b) United States
- (c) India
- (d) Iran

Answer: (b) United States

Explanation:

The **U.S.** either **withdrew or suspended funding** to multiple global institutions during past administrations, citing concerns over bias and governance.

42. Which of the following pipeline projects is designed to transport oil or gas across multiple West African countries into Europe?

- (a) Nord Stream 2
- (b) EastMed Gas Pipeline
- (c) West African Gas Pipeline Extension
- (d) Trans-Mediterranean Gas Pipeline

Answer: (c) West African Gas Pipeline Extension

Explanation:

The **WAGPE** connects **Nigeria to Morocco** and aims to feed into **European energy networks**, boosting integration and diversification.

43. In which of the following regions did an earthquake occur in 2025, compounding an already tense political and resistance environment?

- (a) Kachin State, Myanmar
- (b) Mandalay Region, Myanmar
- (c) Shan State, Myanmar
- (d) Chin State, Myanmar

Answer: (b) Mandalay Region, Myanmar

Explanation:

A **7.7 magnitude earthquake** struck **Mandalay** in March 2025, worsening the situation in an already unstable country.

44. With reference to the AUKUS security partnership, consider the following statements:

1. AUKUS is a trilateral defense alliance between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

2. One of the key components of AUKUS is to provide Australia with nuclearpowered submarines.

3. AUKUS replaces the existing Five Eyes intelligence-sharing alliance.

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: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct – AUKUS is a strategic security partnership announced in September 2021 among Australia, the UK, and the US, focusing on Indo-Pacific stability.
- Statement 2 is correct – A key feature is the technology transfer of nuclearpowered (not nuclear-armed) submarines to Australia.
- Statement 3 is incorrect – AUKUS does not replace the Five Eyes alliance, which is a broader intelligence-sharing arrangement among USA, UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

45. Interbank Local Currency Credit Line Agreement in news is associated with

- a) BIMSTEC
- b) BRICS
- c) IMF
- d) ADB

Answer : (b) BRICS

46. Recently 5 Littoral states signed a *Convention on Legal Status of Caspian Sea* which of the following country is not part of Littoral state in Caspian sea

1. Russia, Iran, Azerbaijan,
2. Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan
3. Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan
4. Uzbekistan and Ukraine

Select the answer from the below codes

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

Answer : (b) 2 and 4 only

47. Which of the following countries share boundary with all the South American country except Ecuador?

- a) Argentina
- b) Venezuela
- c) Brazil
- d) Colombia

Answer : (c) Brazil

48. Although Amazon rainforest (lungs of the planet) is spread across Equador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. However the large part of it spread across four countries. Arrange the following four in the descending order of Amazon forest area

- a) Brazil -- Peru -- Columbia -- Venezeula
- b) Brazil -- Venezeula -- Columbia -- Peru
- c) Venezeula -- Brazil -- Peru -- Columbia
- d) Peru -- Columbia -- Venezeula -- Brazil

Answer (a) Brazil -- Peru -- Columbia -- Venezeula

49. Which of the following correctly explains the significance of Snake Island in the Russia-Ukraine war?

- (a) It is a large oil-producing island in Crimea.
- (b) It hosts Ukraine's only aircraft carrier base.
- (c) It is strategically located in the Black Sea and defines territorial waters.
- (d) It was the launch site for NATO operations.

Answer: (c) It is strategically located in the Black Sea and defines territorial waters.

Explanation: Snake Island (Zmiinyi Island) lies near the Danube Delta and has strategic maritime importance for territorial claims in the Black Sea.

50. Consider the following statements about recent insurgencies:

1. The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has targeted Pakistani military and paramilitary forces.

2. The M23 rebel group in DR Congo is reportedly backed by Uganda.

3. The Arakan Army in Myanmar seeks greater autonomy for the Rakhine people.

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: Statement 2 is incorrect – The M23 rebel group is allegedly supported by Rwanda, not Uganda.

51. The Galápagos yellow warbler was recently studied for its reaction to:

- (a) Illegal fishing
- (b) Oil spills
- (c) Plastic ingestion
- (d) Traffic noise

Answer: (d) Traffic noise

Explanation: Male Galápagos yellow warblers displayed heightened aggression due to traffic noise, which affects their territorial song communication.

52. Consider the following disputed maritime areas and their respective countries:

Disputed Area	Countries Involved
1. South China Sea	China and Philippines
2. Second Thomas Shoal	Philippines and China
3. Berbera Port Access	Ethiopia and Somaliland
4. Strait of Hormuz	Iran and Qatar

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Strait of Hormuz is a global chokepoint but not disputed by Iran and Qatar.
- The other three are all current hot spots for diplomatic or military friction.

53. Which pipeline project is also known as Petroline and connects Abqaiq to the Red Sea port of Yanbu?

- (a) Sumed Pipeline
- (b) East-West Crude Oil Pipeline
- (c) TAP Pipeline
- (d) TransMed Pipeline

Answer: (b) East-West Crude Oil Pipeline

Explanation: Also called Petroline, the East-West Crude Oil Pipeline transports oil from Abqaiq to Yanbu in Saudi Arabia, bypassing the Strait of Hormuz.

54. Which of the following cities was the scene of a violent jailbreak in DR Congo in 2024, leading to over 120 deaths?

- (a) Kananga
- (b) Kinshasa
- (c) Bukavu
- (d) Bunia

Answer: (b) Kinshasa

Explanation:

A mass jailbreak at Makala Central Prison in Kinshasa exposed severe issues in prison overcrowding and security.

55. Which Sudanese city near the Nile was seized by RSF in November 2023 and is a key strategic crossing point?

- (a) Bahri
- (b) Jebel Aulia Dam
- (c) Gedaref
- (d) Nyala

Answer: (b) Jebel Aulia Dam

Explanation:

The Jebel Aulia Dam is a critical Nile crossing and was captured by RSF, adding strategic pressure in Khartoum State.

56. Which of the following refugee camps are correctly matched with their host countries and major refugee populations?

Refugee Camp	Host Country	Major Refugee Group
1. Zaatari Refugee Camp	Jordan	Syrians
2. Dadaab Refugee Complex	Ethiopia	South Sudanese
3. Nyarugusu Refugee Camp	Tanzania	Congolese and Burundians
4. Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement	Uganda	South Sudanese

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: (b) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

•Statement 1 is correct – Zaatari in Jordan houses Syrian refugees.

•Statement 2 is incorrect – Dadaab is in Kenya, not Ethiopia, and primarily hosts Somalis, not South Sudanese.

•Statements 3 and 4 are correct – o Nyarugusu is in Tanzania and hosts Congolese and Burundians.

o Bidi Bidi is in Uganda, primarily for South Sudanese refugees

57. With reference to the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), consider the following statements:

1. QUAD is a formal military alliance with a collective defense clause similar to NATO's Article 5.

2. QUAD countries conduct joint naval exercises under the Malabar Exercise framework.

3. The QUAD has launched initiatives in areas like vaccine distribution, critical technologies, and climate change.

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: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect – QUAD is not a formal military alliance; it is an informal strategic forum with no mutual defense obligation like NATO.

Statement 2 is correct – India, the US, Japan, and Australia regularly participate in the Malabar Naval Exercise, which predates QUAD but now complements it.

Statement 3 is correct – QUAD has diversified into non-military areas:

Vaccine diplomacy (QUAD

Vaccine Partnership) o Semiconductors and critical tech cooperation

Climate working group initiatives.

58. Consider the following places: Cox's Bazaar, Rakhine Province, Kuttapalong and Nayapara. These are all places associated with

- Rohingya Crisis**
- Zimbabwe Crisis
- North Korea Crisis
- Afghanistan Crisis

Answer : (a) Rohingya Crisis

59. Which of the following pipeline projects does NOT involve Russia?

- Nord Stream
- Caspian Pipeline Consortium
- Power of Siberia 2
- TAPI Pipeline

Answer: (d) TAPI Pipeline

Explanation:

- TAPI (Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan–India) does not involve Russia.
- Nord Stream and Power of Siberia 2 are Russian-origin pipelines.
- CPC connects Kazakhstan oil via Russia to the Black Sea.

60. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Region	Conflict/Crisis
1. Transnistria	Border tensions involving Moldova and Ukraine
2. Essequibo	Territorial claims by Brazil over Guyana
3. Chagos Archipelago	Sovereignty dispute between UK and Mauritius

Select from the below options

- 1 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Brazil is not involved in the Essequibo dispute; it's between Guyana and Venezuela.

61. Which of the following countries recently withdrew from both the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)?

- Mali
- Niger
- Burkina Faso
- Senegal

Select the correct answer using the code

below: (a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1, 2 and 3 only

(c) 1, 3 and 4 only

(d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso withdrew from

ECOWAS in January 2024 and from OIF in 2025, citing sovereignty issues and opposition to foreign intervention.

62. Which of the following countries has recently witnessed violent inter-agency conflict between the police, military, and paramilitary forces?

- Ethiopia
- Kosovo
- Pakistan
- Turkey

Select the answer from the below options

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only

(b) 1 and 4 only

(c) 2 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only Explanation:

•Ethiopia (Amhara region), Kosovo (Banjska attack), and Pakistan (Balochistan insurgency) all saw conflict between various uniformed forces.

•Turkey is not listed among recent such internal security clashes.

63. Match the following coups with the leader or group involved: Coup

Country	Leader/Group Involved
A. Niger	1. General Abdourahamane Tchiani
B. Gabon	2. General Brice Oligui Nguema
C. Guinea	3. Colonel Mamady Doumbouya
D. Chad	4. Mahamat Idriss Déby

Choose the correct match:

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

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

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

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

Answer: (a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4

Explanation:

Each coup leader listed assumed power in their respective countries following military takeovers

64. Which of the following South American countries faced protests after the death of a former controversial leader?

- (a) Bolivia
- (b) Venezuela
- (c) Suriname
- (d) Colombia

Answer: (c) Suriname

Explanation:

In Paramaribo, Suriname, protests erupted after the death of Desi Bouterse, marking the end of a polarizing political era.

65. In which African country did the Senate approve the shutdown of a major gas field due to seismic risk?

- (a) Nigeria
- (b) Algeria
- (c) Netherlands
- (d) Cameroon

Answer: (c) Netherlands

Explanation:

The Groningen gas field is located in the Netherlands and is being closed permanently by October 2024 to avoid earthquake risks.

66. Why has the Sahel region recently drawn significant international attention in 2024–25?

- (a) Withdrawal of Sahel countries from the Francophonie and rejection of French military presence
- (b) Rising tensions over water-sharing in the Niger River basin
- (c) Russian and Chinese naval bases being built in Mali
- (d) Discovery of rare earth elements in Mauritania

Answer: (a) Withdrawal of Sahel countries from the Francophonie and rejection of French military presence

Explanation:

- In early 2025, Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso withdrew from the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), accusing it of selective sanctions and neocolonial attitudes.
- They also expelled French troops and pivoted to self-reliant or Russia-aligned security strategies, fueling geopolitical realignment in West Africa.

67. With reference to NATO, consider the following statements:

1. Finland and Sweden formally became members of NATO in 2023.
 2. NATO operates on the principle of collective defense as per Article 5 of the Washington Treaty.
 3. Ukraine is a founding member of NATO.
- 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: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is partially correct – Finland joined NATO in 2023, while Sweden joined in 2024 after delays caused by Turkey and Hungary.
- Statement 2 is correct – Article 5 is the foundation of NATO: an attack on one is considered an attack on all.
- Statement 3 is incorrect – Ukraine is not a NATO member, though it has aspirations and extensive cooperation.

68. Recently the term “One country, two systems” is government system associated with

- a) Israel and Palestine
- b) Britain and Ireland
- c) China and Hongkong
- d) United States and Alaska

Answer : c) China and Hongkong

69. Which of the following countries border Black sea

1. Romania
2. Bulgaria
3. Moldova
4. Russia

Select the answer from the codes given below

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

Answer : c) 1, 2 and 4

70. "Panmunjom declaration" recently in news was very popular which ended a war as well as a conflict between two nations. Panmunjom is a village located nearest to the

- a) Durand Line
- b) **38th Parallel Line**
- c) 48th Parallel Line
- d) 17th Parallel Line

Answer : (b) **38th Parallel Line**

71. Regional Anti- Terrorist Structure (RATS) is a committee associated with which of the following international organization.

- a) Interpol
- b) Financial Action Task Force
- c) Shanghai Cooperation Organization
- d) Nuclear Supplier Group

Answer : c) Shanghai Cooperation Organization

72. Which of the following cities were seized or heavily targeted by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in the Sudan conflict?

- 1. El Geneina
- 2. Nyala
- 3. Wad Madani
- 4. Addis Ababa

Select answer from below codes

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

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- All three Sudanese cities were key RSF targets.
- Addis Ababa is in Ethiopia, not related to Sudan conflict zones.

73. Which of the following statements about Gaza's Netzarim Corridor is/are correct?

- 1. It bisects the Gaza Strip and has been used by Israel for tactical separation of territories.
- 2. Hamas has supported Israeli proposals to retain control over this corridor.
- 3. It has been a critical point of contention in ceasefire negotiations.

Select the answer from the below options

- (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:

- Hamas opposes Israeli control over the corridor.
- The Netzarim Corridor is a narrow route that divides Gaza and holds strategic military value.

74. Which of the following locations has recently been at the epicenter of a rare mosque discovery dating back 1,200 years?

- (a) Mecca, Saudi Arabia
- (b) Isfahan, Iran
- (c) Negev, Israel
- (d) Cairo, Egypt

Answer: (c) Negev, Israel

Explanation: In Negev, Israeli archaeologists discovered an ancient mosque from over 1,200 years ago.

75. Which one of the following correctly describes the significance of the Kerch Strait?

- (a) It connects the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea.
- (b) It links the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov and is a site of conflict.
- (c) It forms the maritime border between Greece and Turkey.
- (d) It is the narrow passage near the Strait of Hormuz used by Russian oil ships.

Answer: (b) It links the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov and is a site of conflict.

Explanation: The Kerch Strait is strategically vital, especially for access to Crimea. It was attacked using Ukraine's marine drones in December 2023.

76. The city of Khan Yunis, often in the news, is located in:

- (a) Southern West Bank
- (b) Northern Israel
- (c) Southern Gaza Strip
- (d) Sinai Peninsula

Answer: (c) Southern Gaza Strip

Explanation: Khan Yunis is a Hamas stronghold in southern Gaza and has been the site of recent intense fighting.

77. Which of the following cities fell to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) during the 2023–25 Sudan conflict?

1. Wad Madani
2. El Fasher
3. El Obeid
4. Khartoum

Select answer from the below options

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation: All four were strategic targets or scenes of fierce RSF–SAF battles. Some, like Wad Madani and El Fasher, changed hands multiple times.

78. The Xinjiang–Guangdong Pipeline is a strategic project within China to:

- (a) Transfer oil from Russia to China
- (b) Transmit coal via rail corridors
- (c) Supply synthetic natural gas to eastern China
- (d) Divert floodwaters from the Yangtze River

Answer: (c) Supply synthetic natural gas to eastern China

Explanation: The pipeline is meant to transport synthetic natural gas from Xinjiang (Western China) to eastern provinces, supporting energy security.

79. Which region in DR Congo is a hotspot of ethnic conflict between the Hema and Lendu communities?

- (a) Ituri
- (b) Katanga
- (c) Tanganyika
- (d) Bas-Congo

Answer: (a) Ituri

Explanation: Ituri Province has seen violent clashes between Hema and Lendu ethnic groups, aggravated by control over gold mines and militia activity.

80. Which of the following countries are part of the newly formed "Alliance of Sahel States (AES)"?

1. Mali
2. Niger
3. Burkina Faso
4. Senegal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation: In September 2023, Mali, Niger, and Burkina

Faso formed the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) as a mutual defense pact and later withdrew from ECOWAS, rejecting external pressure and reasserting sovereignty.

81. With reference to the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), consider the following statements:

1. IPEF is a formal free trade agreement (FTA) among the Quad countries and ASEAN.
 2. India is a founding member of IPEF but opted out of its trade pillar.
 3. IPEF includes cooperation in clean energy, supply chain resilience, and digital economy.
- 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: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect – IPEF is not a traditional Free Trade Agreement. It is a flexible, non-binding economic framework, not aimed at tariff reduction.
- Statement 2 is correct – India is a founding member, but in September 2022, it opted out of the trade pillar, citing concerns over potential commitments.
- Statement 3 is correct – IPEF has four pillars:
 1. Trade
 2. Supply Chains
 3. Clean Economy
 4. Fair Economy (anti-corruption & tax standards)

82. The term Novichok Agent was recently associated with

- a) Binary chemical warfare
- b) Herbicide warfare
- c) Biological warfare agent
- d) Radio-active warfare

Answer : a) Binary chemical warfare

83. Which among the following countries have experienced multiple military coups between 2020 and 2025?

- 1. Burkina Faso
- 2. Mali
- 3. Zimbabwe
- 4. Nigeria

Select answer from below options

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

Answer: (c) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Burkina Faso and Mali had coups between 2020 and 2023.
- Zimbabwe saw a coup in 2017, not within the 2020–2025 period, but was still relevant in international coverage.
- Nigeria has not had a military coup recently.

84. Consider the following pairs regarding energy pipelines and their respective routes:

Pipeline	Origin & Destination
1. Sumed Pipeline	Red Sea → Mediterranean Sea
2. Trans Adriatic Pipeline	Russia → Italy via Balkans
3. East African Crude Oil	Uganda → Tanzania → Indian Ocean Port

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (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: Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) transports gas from **Caspian region, not Russia**, via **Greece and Albania** to Italy.

- Sumed and East African pipelines are correctly matched.

85. Which of the following explains the significance of the Lachin Corridor in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict?

- (a) Oil transit route from Azerbaijan to Iran
- (b) Major Russian military base in the Caucasus
- (c) Mountain pass connecting Armenia with Nagorno-Karabakh
- (d) Fertile agricultural basin contested between Georgia and Armenia

Answer: (c) Mountain pass connecting Armenia with Nagorno-Karabakh

Explanation: The Lachin Corridor is vital for connecting Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh, essential for movement and supplies to ethnic Armenians.

86. Which conflict-ridden region saw an offensive by the Southern Transitional Council (STC) seeking secession from the North?

- (a) Tigray, Ethiopia
- (b) Southern Governorates, Yemen
- (c) Balochistan, Pakistan
- (d) Eastern Libya

Answer: (b) Southern Governorates, Yemen

Explanation: The STC has reignited tensions in Yemen's south, pushing for independence from the North despite the ongoing Houthi conflict.

87. Which of the following cities has historically served as the capital of the self-proclaimed Republic of Artsakh (NagornoKarabakh)?

- (a) Shusha (Shushi)
- (b) Martuni
- (c) Stepanakert (Khankendi)
- (d) Lachin

Answer: (c) Stepanakert (Khankendi)

Explanation: Stepanakert, also known as Khankendi, was the administrative capital of the nowdissolved Republic of Artsakh.

88. The strategic Philadelphi Corridor is located along the border between:

- (a) Israel and Lebanon
- (b) Egypt and Gaza Strip
- (c) Israel and Syria
- (d) Gaza Strip and Jordan

Answer: (b) Egypt and Gaza Strip

Explanation: The Philadelphi Corridor is a narrow strip between Egypt and Gaza, significant for controlling smuggling routes and border security.

89. Which of the following districts was recaptured by SAF in 2025 during a counteroffensive in Sudan's Gezira state?

- (a) Gedaref
- (b) Jebel Aulia Dam
- (c) Haj-Abdallah
- (d) Omdurman

Answer: (c) Haj-Abdallah

Explanation: Haj-Abdallah, in Gezira State, was one of the few areas recaptured by Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) in 2025.

90. Which two districts in Azerbaijan near the Iranian border were recaptured during the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh conflict?

- (a) Martakert and Hadrut
- (b) Lachin and Shusha
- (c) Zangilan and Gubadli
- (d) Stepanakert and Kalbajar

Answer: (c) Zangilan and Gubadli

Explanation: Zangilan and Gubadli, located along the Azerbaijan-Iran border, were major territorial gains in 2020.

91. Which of the following are correct with reference to BRICS initiatives and institutions?

- 1. The BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) aims to provide support to members facing balance-of-payment pressures.
 - 2. The New Development Bank (NDB) only funds infrastructure projects in BRICS countries.
 - 3. BRICS launched the BRICS Pay initiative to explore a unified digital payment system.
- Select the answer from the below options

- (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:

Statement 1 is correct – The CRA provides a safety net for BRICS members facing BOP or liquidity pressures.

Statement 2 is incorrect – The New Development Bank (NDB) also lends to non-BRICS countries, especially developing nations.

Statement 3 is correct – The BRICS Pay initiative is under discussion to enable interoperable digital payments among BRICS countries.

92. Which of the following places in news are correctly matched with the country

- 1. Ghouta - Iran
- 2. Mashhad - Syria
- 3. Crimea - Ukraine
- 4. Marawi – Philippines

Select the answer from the below codes

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

Answer options : a) 3 and 4 only

93. Which of the following ports was central to an MoU between Somaliland and Ethiopia, providing Ethiopia with access to the Red Sea?

- (a) Port of Merca
- (b) Port of Djibouti
- (c) Port of Berbera
- (d) Port of Assab

Answer: (c) Port of Berbera

Explanation: The Port of Berbera, located in Somaliland, was the subject of a January 2024 MoU granting Ethiopia port access.

94. The Sahel region stretches across Africa from west to east. Which of the following geographical features define or border the Sahel region?

- 1. Sahara Desert to the north
- 2. Ethiopian Highlands to the south
- 3. Sudanian Savanna to the south
- 4. Red Sea to the west

Select the answer from the below codes

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

•The Sahel is a transitional zone between the Sahara Desert (north) and Sudanian Savanna (south).

•It spans from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to Eritrea and Chad in the east— not the Red Sea or Ethiopian Highlands directly.

•It's prone to desertification, drought, and conflict.

95. Which of the following statements are true with reference to CDRI (Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure)

1. CDRI was launched by Indian Prime Minister in 2019 UN Climate Action Summit.
2. CDRI focusses on disaster-resilience in ecological, social, and economic infrastructure
3. CDRI is a coalition of countries, organizations, private sector and academic institutions.

Which of the above statements are true

- (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

96. Which region in Myanmar saw the TNLA rebel group attack junta positions in 2024, especially at Tawngkhkam village?

- (a) Chin State
- (b) Kachin State
- (c) Shan State
- (d) Rakhine State

Answer: (c) Shan State

Explanation: The Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) launched attacks in Shan State, particularly near Tawngkhkam, home to a military artillery HQ.

97. Which of the following explains the reason behind Zimbabwe's past extreme inflation and economic collapse?

- (a) Collapse of diamond exports
- (b) Military occupation of mines
- (c) Land reforms and mismanagement
- (d) Sanctions over nuclear testing

Answer: (c) Land reforms and mismanagement

Explanation: Zimbabwe's inflation crisis was largely due to controversial land reforms, agricultural collapse, and poor governance.

98. Which one of the following is a disputed territory claimed by Venezuela and recently the center of heightened tensions?

- (a) Falkland Islands
- (b) Essequibo region
- (c) Golan Heights
- (d) South Ossetia

Answer: (b) Essequibo region

Explanation: In 2023, Venezuela renewed its claim over the Essequibo region, which is administered by Guyana, leading to serious diplomatic tensions.

99. "Asian Premium" a term which was recently in news associated with Energy sector is

- a) The quality of solar panels sold to Asian countries
- b) Extra charge being collected by OPEC from Asian countries while selling oil.
- c) Premium gasoline used in flights while flying in Asian continent
- d) A tariff provided for selling electricity from India to its Asian neighbors.

Answer : (b) **Extra charge being collected by OPEC from Asian countries while selling oil**

100. Which of the following cities in Ukraine is home to Europe's largest nuclear power plant and a focal point of safety concerns during the war?

- (a) Kherson
 - (b) Zaporizhzhia
 - (c) Luhansk
 - (d) Mykolaiv
- Answer: (b) Zaporizhzhia**

Explanation:

The **Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant** is the **largest in Europe** and lies in contested territory between Russian and Ukrainian forces.