

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

Test Booklet Series

TEST BOOKLET

**Subject : Test 22 – GS Full Test 2**  
**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. Match the following events with the correct rulers involved:**

Event	King
A. Defeat of Pulakesin II and destruction of Vatapi	1. Narasimhavarman I
B. Foundation of Mahabalipuram as a port city	2. Narasimhavarman I
C. Construction of rock-cut shrines at Mahendravadi	3. Mahendravarman I

**Select the correct matching code:**

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

✓ **Answer:** (a) A-1, B-2, C-3

**Explanation:**

- Narasimhavarman I (Mahamalla) destroyed Vatapi and founded Mahabalipuram.
- Mahendravarman I constructed rock-cut temples.

**2. Assertion (A):** The decision of the Speaker or Chairman regarding disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law is final.

**Reason (R):** Article 122 and 212 bar courts from inquiring into proceedings of the Parliament and State Legislatures.

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

**Explanation:**

- Speaker's decision is final but subject to judicial review on grounds of mala fides, violation of constitutional mandate.
- Article 122/212 bar inquiry into legislative proceedings, but not constitutional violations.

**3. Consider the following statements:**

1. A Bill passed by a State Legislature can become a law only after the Governor's assent.
2. The Governor can withhold assent or reserve certain Bills for the consideration of the President.
3. If the President withholds assent to a state bill, the state legislature can override it with a two-thirds majority.

**Which of the statements is/are correct?**

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

✓ **Answer:** (a) 1 and 2 only

**Explanation:**

- State legislature cannot override the President's withholding of assent. ✗

**4. Assertion (A):** The Governor can reserve certain bills for the consideration of the President.

**Reason (R):** The President enjoys only a suspensive veto and must assent to the reserved bills within six months.

**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:**

- President has an absolute veto over reserved State Bills, and there is no time limit like six months. ✗

**5. Assertion (A):** The Swadeshi Movement marked the beginning of organized mass nationalism in India.

**Reason (R):** The movement heavily relied on constitutional methods like petitions and prayers.

**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:**

- Swadeshi was about mass participation, boycott, national education, self-reliance — not just constitutional means. ✗

**6. Assertion (A):** The partition of Bengal acted as a major catalyst for the rise of extremism in Indian politics.

**Reason (R):** Extremists were influenced by the moderate belief in constitutional agitation and petitions.

**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:**

- Extremists rejected moderate methods and sought direct mass action. ✓
- Extremism grew as a reaction against ineffective moderate politics. ✓

**7. Assertion (A):** The 73rd and 74th Amendments provided automatic devolution of funds, functions, and functionaries to local bodies.

**Reason (R):** The 11th and 12th Schedules list subjects where Panchayats and Municipalities can make decisions.

**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:** (d) A is false, but R is true

**Explanation:**

- Devolution is discretionary — States decide actual transfer of powers.
- 11th and 12th Schedules list subjects, but States control implementation.

**8. Assertion (A):** The President of India has the power to keep a bill pending indefinitely without any action.

**Reason (R):** The Constitution prescribes a fixed time limit within which the President must act on a bill.

**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:**

- Pocket veto is possible because the Constitution does not specify any time limit.

**9. The buff-coloured sandstone and quartzite used in Ashokan pillar construction were primarily sourced from which site?**

- (a) Mathura
- (b) Amravati
- (c) Chunar
- (d) Sarnath

✓ **Answer:** (b) Amravati

**Explanation:**

- Mathura provided spotted white sandstone.
- Amravati provided buff sandstone and quartzite.

**10. Match the following features observed by Megasthenes with their descriptions:**

Feature	Description
A. Sannidhata	1. Chief treasurer and tax collector
B. Samaharta	2. Head of the revenue administration
C. Dhamma Mahamatta	3. Officers propagating Dhamma

**Select the correct code:**

- (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:** (b) A-2, B-1, C-3

**Explanation:**

- Sannidhata → Revenue administration head

- Samaharta → Chief tax officer ✓
- Dhamma Mahamatta → Ashoka's officers to propagate Dhamma ✓

**11. Match the sites with their associated features:**

Site	Feature
A. Barabar Hills	1. Rock-cut caves patronized by Ashoka
B. Besnagar	2. Heliodorus pillar
C. Kanganahalli	3. Stone portrait inscription of Ashoka

**Select the correct match:**

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

✓ **Answer:** (a) A-1, B-2, C-3

**Explanation:**

- Barabar Hills → Rock-cut caves of Ashoka ✓
- Besnagar → Heliodorus pillar ✓
- Kanganahalli → Stone portrait of Ashoka

**12. Freedom of Speech under the Indian Constitution is subject to reasonable restrictions on the grounds of protection of:**

1. sovereignty and integrity of the country
2. the dignity of the Office of the Prime Minister
3. the dignity of the Council of Ministers

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**Answer:** (d) Only 1

**13. Freedom of the Press in India is**

- (a) available to the people under the law of the Parliament
- (b) specifically provided in the Constitution
- (c) implied in the right of freedom of expression
- (d) available to the people of India under executive power

**Answer:** (c)

**14. Assertion (A):** Cyber crime is included under the Schedule of offenses under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

**Reason (R):** Money laundering can involve proceeds generated from cybercrimes.

**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:**

- Cyber fraud, phishing, etc., if linked to monetary gain, come under PMLA Schedule (especially post-2019 amendment). ✓

**15. Match the following revolutionary events with the associated personalities:**

Event	Personality
A. Nasik Conspiracy Case	1. Anant Laxman Kanhere
B. Muzaffarpur Conspiracy Case	2. Khudiram Bose
C. Delhi Conspiracy Case (Lord Hardinge)	3. Rash Behari Bose

**Select the correct match:**

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

✓ **Answer:** (a) A-1, B-2, C-3

**Explanation:**

- Anant Laxman Kanhere → Nasik Conspiracy
- Khudiram Bose → Muzaffarpur Conspiracy
- Rash Behari Bose → Delhi Conspiracy (Lord Hardinge attack)

**16. Assertion (A):** Revolutionary movements helped to popularize the idea that political freedom could not be achieved merely by constitutional methods.

**Reason (R):** Early moderates and constitutionalists achieved rapid success in convincing British authorities about Indian demands.

**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:**

- Moderates failed to achieve major success quickly.
- Revolutionaries stressed more militant and urgent action.

**17. Which of the following devices allows a member to bring to the notice of the House a definite matter of urgent public importance and requires the support of 50 members for admission?**

- (a) Adjournment Motion
- (b) Calling Attention Motion
- (c) No-Confidence Motion
- (d) Privilege Motion

✔ **Answer:** (a) Adjournment Motion

**18. Under the Ryotwari System, which of the following features is/are correct?**

1. Revenue was collected directly from the cultivators (ryots).
2. The system was introduced mainly in Madras, Bombay, and parts of Assam.
3. Revenue rates were permanently fixed.

**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:**

- Under the Ryotwari system, the government collected revenue directly from the ryots (cultivators).
- Implemented mainly in Madras, Bombay, and parts of Assam.

- Revenue was **not permanently fixed**; it was subject to periodic revisions based on land productivity.

**19. Which of the following correctly describes the Moplah Rebellion (1921) in Malabar?**

- (a) A purely agrarian revolt against high British land taxes.
- (b) A communal clash between Hindus and Muslims with little political dimension.
- (c) A religious, anti-feudal and anti-British uprising by Muslim peasants against Hindu landlords and British authorities.
- (d) A movement inspired by Gandhian non-violence and civil disobedience.

✔ **Answer:** (c) A religious, anti-feudal and anti-British uprising by Muslim peasants against Hindu landlords and British authorities.

● **Explanation:**

- Moplahs (Muslim peasants) rose against Hindu landlords (Janmis) and British rule, influenced partly by the Khilafat movement.
- Though it had communal overtones, the core issue was agrarian oppression and religious repression.

**20. Consider the following about the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India:**

1. GST is a destination-based, value-added tax levied at every stage of the supply chain.
2. Petroleum products and electricity are included under GST.
3. GST is governed by the GST Council established under Article 279A of the Constitution.

**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:**

- GST is a destination-based tax, and Article 279A established the GST Council.

- Petroleum products and electricity are currently excluded from GST.

**21. Which of the following was not a pillar of the Anti-Partition Movement launched in Bengal in 1905?**

- (a) Boycott of foreign goods
- (b) Advocacy for universal adult franchise
- (c) Promotion of Swadeshi goods
- (d) National education movement

✔ **Answer:** (b) Advocacy for universal adult franchise

● **Explanation:**

- The Anti-Partition Movement revolved around Swadeshi, Boycott, Swaraj, and National Education.
- Universal adult franchise was not a focus during this early phase (introduced later in the 1930s).

**22. Which of the following services is NOT included under Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)?**

- (a) Free diet during stay in hospital
- (b) Free ambulance services
- (c) Free surgical implants for neonatal heart defects
- (d) Free blood provision for mothers

✔ **Answer:** (c) Free surgical implants for neonatal heart defects

● **Explanation:**

- JSSK provides free diet, transport, drugs, diagnostics, and blood for pregnant women and neonates.
- Expensive specialized surgeries like neonatal heart implants are not covered under JSSK.

**23. Match the following aircraft with their type and country of origin:**

Aircraft	Type	Country of Origin
A. Tejas Mk1	1. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle	a. India
B. IAI Heron	2. Multirole Fighter Jet	b. USA
C. Rafale	3. Carrier-based Fighter Jet	c. Israel
D. MiG-29K	4. Light Combat Aircraft	d. France

**Choose the correct match:**

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

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

● **Explanation:**

Aircraft	Type	Origin
Tejas Mk1	Light Combat Aircraft	India
IAI Heron	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle	Israel
Rafale	Multirole Fighter Jet	France
MiG-29K	Carrier-based Fighter Jet	Russia

**24. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was launched:**

- (a) At the COP-21 Summit in Paris to promote solar energy globally
- (b) At the World Economic Forum to promote clean energy in Europe
- (c) By BRICS nations to fund solar projects in Africa
- (d) By IRENA and UNDP to phase out fossil fuels

✔ **Answer:** (a)

● **Explanation:**

- ISA was launched by India and France at COP-21 in 2015, to promote solar deployment in sunshine-rich tropical countries.

**25. The term “Green Hydrogen” refers to hydrogen produced using:**

- (a) Electrolysis powered by renewable energy sources
- (b) Natural gas reforming
- (c) Coal gasification
- (d) Nuclear fusion

✔ **Answer:** (a)

● **Explanation:**

- Green Hydrogen is generated by electrolysis of water using renewable electricity (like solar/wind) and is emissions-free.

## 26. Match the Following — Global Warming Potential (GWP)

Match the following Greenhouse Gases with their approximate Global Warming Potential (GWP):

Greenhouse Gas	GWP (approx.)
A. Carbon Dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> )	1. 1
B. Methane (CH <sub>4</sub> )	2. 21
C. Nitrous Oxide (N <sub>2</sub> O)	3. 310
D. Sulphur Hexafluoride (SF <sub>6</sub> )	4. 23,900

**Select the correct code:**

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

✓ **Answer:** (a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4

**Explanation:**

Gas GWP:

- CO<sub>2</sub>: 1 (baseline)
- CH<sub>4</sub>: ~21–25
- N<sub>2</sub>O: ~310
- SF<sub>6</sub>: ~23,900

## 27. With reference to Carbon Sequestration, consider the following:

1. Solubility trapping involves dissolving CO<sub>2</sub> in underground water bodies.
2. Mineral carbonation involves reacting CO<sub>2</sub> with metal oxides to form stable carbonates.
3. Ocean fertilization by iron addition is a type of terrestrial carbon sequestration.

**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:**

- Solubility trapping: CO<sub>2</sub> dissolves into underground saline water.
- Mineral carbonation: CO<sub>2</sub> reacts with minerals like MgO to form stable carbonates.
- Ocean fertilization: Adding iron to oceans (plankton growth) → marine, not terrestrial sequestration.

## 28. Match the following seismic waves with their characteristics:

Seismic Wave	Characteristic
A. P-Waves	1. Can travel through solids, liquids, and gases
B. S-Waves	2. Travel only through solids
C. Surface Waves	3. Cause maximum damage during earthquakes

**Select the correct code:**

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

✓ **Answer:** (a) A-1, B-2, C-3

👉 **Explanation:**

- P-waves: Primary, travel through all media ✓
- S-waves: Secondary, only solids ✓
- Surface waves: Cause maximum destruction ✓

## 29. Match the seismic waves with their properties:

Type of Wave	Property
A. P-waves	1. Travel through solids, liquids, and gases
B. S-waves	2. Travel only through solids
C. Surface Waves	3. Most destructive, low frequency, long wavelength

**Select the correct match:**

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

✓ **Answer:** (a) A-1, B-2, C-3

## 30. Match the ocean trenches with their oceanic location:

Trench	Ocean
A. Mariana Trench	1. Atlantic Ocean
B. Java Trench	2. Indian Ocean
C. Puerto Rico Trench	3. Mediterranean Sea
D. Kermadec Trench	4. Pacific Ocean

**Select the correct code:**

- (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-4

✓ **Answer:** (d) A-4, B-2, C-1, D-4

**31. Assertion (A):** In the Tropopause region, the temperature becomes nearly constant despite being at higher altitude.

**Reason (R):** Strong horizontal jet streams pass through the Tropopause inhibiting vertical temperature variation.

**Select the correct answer:**

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

**Explanation:**

- Assertion is correct: Tropopause is a thermal boundary where temperature becomes almost constant.
- Reason is correct: Jet streams occur near the tropopause.
- However, jet streams are not the main reason for temperature constancy; it is due to the end of vertical convection.

**32. You are traveling in a straight line along the 23.5° N latitude (Tropic of Cancer) across India from west to east. Which of the following states will you cross in correct sequence?**

- (a) Gujarat → Rajasthan → Madhya Pradesh → Chhattisgarh → Jharkhand → West Bengal
- (b) Gujarat → Madhya Pradesh → Rajasthan → Chhattisgarh → Jharkhand → West Bengal
- (c) Gujarat → Rajasthan → Chhattisgarh → Jharkhand → Odisha
- (d) Gujarat → Maharashtra → Chhattisgarh → Jharkhand → West Bengal

✓ **Answer:** (a) Gujarat → Rajasthan → Madhya Pradesh → Chhattisgarh → Jharkhand → West Bengal

**Explanation:**

- Tropic of Cancer cuts Gujarat (Diu), Rajasthan (southern tip), Madhya Pradesh (central), Chhattisgarh (north), Jharkhand (north), West Bengal (south part).

**33. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched regarding travelers and rulers during Vijayanagar Empire?**

Traveler	Ruler under whom he visited
Ibn Battuta	Harihara I
Nicolo de Conti	Deva Raya I
Abdur Razzak	Deva Raya II
Fernao Nuniz	Achyuta Raya

**Select the correct answer:**

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

✓ **Answer:** (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Explanation:**

All matches are correct based on timelines of visits:

- Ibn Battuta → Harihara I
- Nicolo de Conti → Deva Raya I
- Abdur Razzak → Deva Raya II
- Fernao Nuniz → Achyuta Raya

**34. Assertion (A):** The Naqshbandi Sufi order strongly opposed the practice of visiting tombs (ziyarat) and listening to sama (music gatherings).

**Reason (R):** The Naqshbandi order sought to purify Islam by strictly adhering to the Shariat and orthodox practices.

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

- (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:**

- Naqshbandis were orthodox; stressed on strict Sharia observance, opposed sama, ziyarat.
- Hence both assertion and reason are correct and R explains A.

**35. Assertion (A):** Pulakesin II's victory over Harshavardhana is glorified in the Aihole inscription composed by Ravikirti.

**Reason (R):** Pulakesin II's strong military leadership led to his successful defense of the Deccan against Harsha's expansionist ambitions.

**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:**

- Assertion is true: The **Aihole inscription** composed by Ravikirti glorifies Pulakesin II's victory over Harshavardhana on the banks of the Narmada. ✔
- Reason is also true: Pulakesin II's strong military leadership and resistance successfully defended the Deccan from Harsha's attempted expansion. ✔
- And Reason correctly explains Assertion: Because Pulakesin's military success was the real basis for Ravikirti's celebration of his victories in inscriptions.

Thus, (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A is the correct answer.

**36. Assertion (A):** The Reserve Bank of India acts as the lender of last resort.

**Reason (R):** The RBI provides emergency financial assistance to commercial banks facing liquidity crises to prevent systemic failure.

**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:**

Lender of last resort involves providing emergency funding to banks to maintain financial stability.

**37. With reference to Balban's policy of governance, consider the following statements:**

1. He propagated the concept of Kingship as 'Niyabat-i-Khudai' (vicegerent of God).
2. He emphasized racial exclusivity, preferring Turkish officials over Indian Muslims.
3. His reign witnessed minimal Mongol threats due to his strong frontier policy.

**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:** (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Explanation:**

Balban considered kingship as divine, maintained racial exclusivity, and strengthened frontier defenses which discouraged Mongol invasions.

**38. Assertion (A):** Akbar promulgated the Din-i-Ilahi to promote religious harmony.

**Reason (R):** Akbar invited Jesuit priests to his court to learn about Christianity.

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

**Explanation:**

Akbar invited Jesuits for religious dialogue, but Din-i-Ilahi was his personal eclectic order, not directly because of Jesuit teachings.

**39. Which of the following features is/are associated with PM SHRI Schools?**

1. Emphasis on green infrastructure and sustainability practices
2. Exclusive private sector ownership and management
3. STEM labs and digital libraries are integral components

**Select the correct answer:**

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

✔ **Answer:** (a) 1 and 3 only

**Explanation:**

- PM SHRI Schools are public government schools, not private ✘
- They focus on green practices, smart classrooms, STEM labs ✔

**40. Which of the following features is/are associated with PM SHRI Schools?**

4. Emphasis on green infrastructure and sustainability practices
5. Exclusive private sector ownership and management
6. STEM labs and digital libraries are integral components

**Select the correct answer:**

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

✔ **Answer:** (a) 1 and 3 only

**Explanation:**

- PM SHRI Schools are public government schools, not private ✘
- They focus on green practices, smart classrooms, STEM labs ✔

**41. Assertion (A):** The Constitution of India mandates the State to organize village Panchayats and endow them with powers.

**Reason (R):** The Directive Principles reflect Gandhian principles of decentralized democracy.

**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:**

- Article 40 of DPSP directs establishment of village panchayats.
- This reflects Gandhian philosophy of decentralization.

**42. Assertion (A):** The Chief Justice of India (CJI) is appointed by the President based on seniority among Supreme Court judges.

**Reason (R):** The Constitution mandates that the CJI must be the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court.

**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:**

- By convention, the senior-most judge is appointed as CJI ✔
- Constitution (Article 124) does not mandate seniority; it only says "appointed by the President after consultation" ✘

**43. Assertion (A):** The District Judge is the highest judicial authority in a district.

**Reason (R):** The appointment, posting, and promotion of District Judges are done by the Governor in consultation with the High Court.

**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:**

- Article 233 provides that Governor appoints District Judges in consultation with High Court.
- District Judge is the highest authority in the district judiciary.

**44. Consider the following statements regarding Classical Languages in India:**

- All classical languages recognized by the Government of India are listed as Scheduled Languages under the Eighth Schedule.
- Tamil was the first language to be declared a Classical Language.
- Sanskrit is the only Classical Language that is the official language of a state.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

✓ **Correct Answer:** (a) 2 only

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is incorrect:** While languages like Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia, Marathi, Bengali, and Assamese are both Classical and Scheduled, **Pali and Prakrit** were recognized as Classical in 2024 but are not in the Eighth Schedule yet. Hence, not all Classical Languages are Scheduled Languages.
- Statement 2 is correct:** Tamil was the first language declared Classical by the Government of India in 2004. ✓
- Statement 3 is incorrect:** Sanskrit is an official language of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, but other Classical Languages like Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia, Marathi, Bengali, and Assamese are also official state languages. Hence, Sanskrit is not the only one.

**45. Assertion (A):** The Governor of a state under the Fifth Schedule can make regulations passed and good governance of the Scheduled Areas, including prohibition or restriction of land transfer.

**Reason (R):** Such regulations made by the Governor require the prior assent of the President of India.

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

✦ **Explanation:**

- Governor can make regulations regarding land, business, administration in Scheduled Areas. ✓
- However, Governor's regulations require the assent of the President after they are made, not "prior assent" before making regulations. ✓

**46. With reference to the concept of Secularism as outlined in the Indian Constitution, consider the following strategies:**

- Strategy of principled distancing between the State and religion.
- Strategy of non-interference, allowing religious communities autonomy in personal matters unless it violates fundamental rights.
- Strategy of positive intervention to reform certain social practices like untouchability.
- Strategy of promoting communal identity through official recognition and patronage.

**Which of the above strategies are in line with Indian Constitutional Secularism?**

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

✓ **Answer:** (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

**Explanation:**

Strategy	In Line with Indian Secularism?	Notes
1. Distancing	✓	"Principled distance" from religion (not complete separation like Western model)
2. Non-interference	✓	Religious practices allowed unless violating constitutional morality
3. Intervention	✓	Positive intervention to abolish practices like untouchability, gender discrimination
4. Promoting communal identity	✗	Against secular ideals; Constitution prohibits discrimination based on religion

Thus, strategy of communalism or promoting communal identities is NOT a strategy under Indian secularism.

**47. Assertion (A):** During a National Emergency under Article 352, the federal structure of India becomes unitary in nature.

**Reason (R):** Parliament gets the power to legislate on State List subjects and the term of Lok Sabha may be extended beyond 5 years.

**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

**48. Match the European power with their first factory/settlement in India:**

European Power	Settlement
A. Portuguese	1. Calicut
B. Dutch	2. Masulipatnam
C. British	3. Surat
D. Danes	4. Tranquebar

**Select the correct code:**

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

✓ **Answer:** (a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4

**Explanation:**

- Portuguese first at Calicut (1498)
- Dutch first factory at Masulipatnam (1605)
- British first permanent factory at Surat (1613)
- Danes at Tranquebar

**49. Consider the following statements:**

1. Parliament has the authority to admit new states into the Union of India.
2. Parliament can create new states even from territories not forming part of India.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

✓ **Answer:** (c) Both 1 and 2

**Explanation:**

- Article 2 empowers Parliament to admit or establish new states even outside existing territory (e.g., Sikkim).

**50. According to the Forest Rights Act 2006 (FRA), who is eligible for land title rights?**

1. Only those Scheduled Tribes who resided on forest land before 13 December 2005.
2. Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) must prove residence for three generations before 13 December 2005.
3. The Gram Sabha is the primary authority to initiate the process of recognizing rights.

**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:**

- STs must show residence before 13 December 2005.
- OTFDs must show residence for 75 years (3 generations).
- Gram Sabha initiates recognition of rights.

**51. The Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve is significant for being the source of which major river system?**

- (a) Godavari River
- (b) Krishna River
- (c) Narmada River
- (d) Mahanadi River

✓ **Answer:** (c) Narmada River

**Explanation:**

The Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve, spanning Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, is the origin point for the Narmada River, as well as the Johilla and Son rivers.

**52. In which Indian state have villagers been recognized for their harmonious coexistence with the endangered hoolock gibbons, leading to community-driven conservation efforts?**

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Assam
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) Nagaland

✓ **Answer:** (b) Assam

**Explanation:**

In the village of Barekuri, Assam, locals have fostered a unique relationship with the endangered hoolock gibbons, treating them as part of their community. This coexistence has been highlighted in conservation narratives, emphasizing the role of community involvement in wildlife protection.

**53. Which critically endangered reptile, known for its long, narrow snout adapted for catching fish, has seen its population decline due to habitat loss and pollution in Indian rivers?**

- (a) Mugger Crocodile
- (b) Saltwater Crocodile
- (c) Gharial
- (d) Marsh Crocodile

✓ **Answer:** (c) Gharial

**Explanation:**

The Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) is a fish-eating crocodilian native to the Indian subcontinent. Its population has declined significantly due to habitat destruction, dam construction, and pollution in river systems like the Ganges.

**54. Under the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023, which of the following types of land is exempted from the Act's provisions?**

- (a) Land within 50 km of India's border used for national security projects.
- (b) Land converted to non-forest use before December 12, 1996.
- (c) All private plantations regardless of their location.
- (d) Land recorded as forest in government records after October 25, 1980.

✓ **Answer:** (b) Land converted to non-forest use before December 12, 1996.

**Explanation:**

The 2023 amendment to the Forest (Conservation) Act exempts certain categories of land from its purview, including land that was converted to non-forest use on or before December 12, 1996, by any authority authorized by a state or union territory.

**55. Which state has the highest forest cover in terms of area, as per ISFR 2021?**

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Chhattisgarh
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Odisha

✓ **Answer:** (c) Madhya Pradesh

**Explanation:**

Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in India, followed by Arunachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

**56. Elephants are known to exhibit complex emotional behaviours. Which of the following behaviours has been observed in elephants, indicating their empathetic nature?**

- (a) Ignoring injured herd members
- (b) Displaying aggression towards their own calves
- (c) Comforting distressed individuals through physical contact and vocalizations
- (d) Isolating sick members from the herd

✓ **Answer:** (c) Comforting distressed individuals through physical contact and vocalizations

**Explanation:**

Elephants have been observed comforting one another when distressed, using physical

contact and vocal sounds, demonstrating their empathetic and complex social behaviors.

**57. Which of the following animals displays crepuscular behavior, being most active during dawn and dusk?**

- (a) Striped Hyena
- (b) Barn Owl
- (c) Nilgai
- (d) Bengal Tiger

✔ **Answer:** (a) Striped Hyena

**Explanation:** Striped Hyenas are typically crepuscular, foraging mostly during twilight hours.

**58. Which of the following pollutants contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone?**

- 1. Nitrogen oxides (NOx)
- 2. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)
- 3. Methane
- 4. Particulate Matter (PM2.5)

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

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

✔ **Answer:** (b) 1, 2 and 3 only

**Explanation:**

Tropospheric ozone forms when NOx and VOCs react in sunlight. Methane is also a precursor in long-range ozone formation. PM2.5, although harmful, does not directly contribute to ozone formation.

**59. Which of the following are functions explicitly listed under Article 280(3) of the Indian Constitution?**

- 1. Distribution of net proceeds of taxes between the Centre and States
- 2. Determination of principles for grants-in-aid of revenues to states
- 3. Measures to augment the resources of Panchayats and Municipalities
- 4. Recommending fiscal policy for inflation control

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

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

✔ **Answer:** (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

**Explanation:**

Article 280(3) lists the first two functions and empowers Parliament to add more. The 73rd and 74th Amendments added the third function (for local bodies). Recommending fiscal policy for inflation is not within the Finance Commission's remit.

**60. Arrange the following ideals mentioned in the Preamble in the order of their appearance:**

- 1. Equality
- 2. Justice
- 3. Fraternity
- 4. Liberty

**Select the answer from the below codes:**

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

✔ **Answer:** (a) 2 – 1 – 4 – 3

**Explanation:**

The Preamble mentions the following sequence: Justice (social, economic, political) → Liberty → Equality → Fraternity, but when listing the ideals, the order is Justice, Equality, Liberty, Fraternity.

**61. Under the Anti-Defection Law, the final authority to decide on questions of disqualification is:**

- (a) President of India
- (b) Governor
- (c) Election Commission of India
- (d) Speaker or Chairman of the House

✔ **Answer:** (d) Speaker or Chairman of the House

**Explanation:**

As per the Tenth Schedule, the Speaker (Lok Sabha) or Chairman (Rajya Sabha) is the deciding authority in defection cases. However, their decision is subject to judicial review (*Kihoto Hollohan case, 1992*).

**62. Which of the following Acts made the first attempt to establish a federal structure in India?**

- (a) Indian Councils Act, 1909
- (b) Government of India Act, 1919
- (c) Government of India Act, 1935
- (d) Indian Independence Act, 1947

✔ **Answer:** (c) Government of India Act, 1935

**Explanation:**

The 1935 Act provided for an All-India Federation, including both British Indian provinces and princely states. Although the federation never fully materialized, it was the first federal attempt.

**63. Arrange the following tributaries of the Indus River from north to south in India:**

- 1. Zaskar
- 2. Jhelum
- 3. Chenab
- 4. Ravi

**Select the correct order:**

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

✔ **Answer:** (b) 1-2-3-4

**Explanation:**

- Zaskar originates in Ladakh (northernmost among these).
- Jhelum flows through Kashmir Valley.
- Chenab comes from Himachal Pradesh into J&K.
- Ravi flows further south into Punjab.

**64. Which of the following rivers form estuaries rather than deltas?**

- 1. Narmada
- 2. Tapi
- 3. Mahanadi
- 4. Sabarmati

**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:** (c) 1, 2 and 4 only

**Explanation:**

- Narmada, Tapi, and Sabarmati form estuaries.
- Mahanadi forms a large delta in Odisha.

**65. Which of the following rivers is NOT antecedent to the Himalayas?**

- (a) Indus
- (b) Brahmaputra
- (c) Ganga
- (d) Sutlej

✔ **Answer:** (c) Ganga

**Explanation:**

- Indus, Brahmaputra, and Sutlej are antecedent rivers — they existed before the Himalayas rose and cut through them.
- Ganga is a consequent river, formed after the Himalayas rose, collecting tributaries from the hills.

**66. Which of the following rivers form estuaries along the Western Coastal Plains?**

- 1. Narmada
- 2. Mahi
- 3. Sharavati
- 4. Bharathapuzha

**Select the correct answer:**

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

✔ **Answer:** (b) 1, 2 and 4 only

**Explanation:**

- Narmada and Mahi form estuaries.
- Bharathapuzha river in Kerala also shows estuarine characteristics.
- Sharavati forms waterfalls (Jog Falls) but not a prominent estuary.

**67. The PM-KUSUM scheme includes which of the following components?**

- 1. Installation of grid-connected solar power plants up to 2 MW.
- 2. Installation of standalone solar agriculture pumps.
- 3. Solarization of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps.

**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:**

The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha

evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) scheme comprises three components:

- Component A: Installation of grid-connected solar power plants up to 2 MW.
- Component B: Installation of standalone solar agriculture pumps.
- Component C: Solarization of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps.

**68. India faces challenges in fertilizer imports. Which of the following statements are correct regarding fertilizer import scenario?**

1. India imports 100% of its Muriate of Potash (MOP) requirements.
2. Approximately 50–60% of India's Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) demand is met through imports.
3. India is self-sufficient in Urea production and does not rely on imports.

**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:**

India is entirely dependent on imports for Muriate of Potash (MOP) and meets about 50–60% of its Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) demand through imports. However, India still imports around 20% of its Urea requirements, indicating that it is not fully self-sufficient in Urea production.

**69. Which of the following fertilizer types is correctly matched with its primary nutrient composition?**

Fertilizer	Main Nutrient(s)
1. Urea	Nitrogen
2. Single Super Phosphate (SSP)	Phosphorus
3. Muriate of Potash (MOP)	Potassium

**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:** (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Explanation:**

- Urea provides mainly nitrogen (N).
- SSP provides phosphorus (P) and some sulfur.
- MOP provides potassium (K).

**70. Match the following biofertilizers with their primary functions:**

Biofertilizer	Primary Function
A. Rhizobium	1. Nitrogen fixation in symbiotic association
B. Phosphobacteria (e.g., <i>Bacillus megaterium</i> )	2. Phosphate solubilization
C. Frateuria aurantia	3. Potassium mobilization
D. Mycorrhiza	4. Phosphorus uptake and enhanced water absorption through fungal association

**Choose the correct code:**

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

✔ **Answer:** (a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4

**71. Sugarcane crop in India requires:**

- (a) Tropical climate with temperature between 20–26°C and low rainfall
- (b) Subtropical to tropical climate with annual rainfall between 75–150 cm and abundant sunshine
- (c) Temperate climate with low water requirement
- (d) High-altitude cool climate with minimal irrigation needs

✔ **Answer:** (b) Subtropical to tropical climate with annual rainfall between 75–150 cm and abundant sunshine

👉 **Explanation:**

- Sugarcane prefers hot and humid climate, plenty of sunlight, and ample water.
- Grows well in tropical and subtropical regions (e.g., Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra).

**72. Which of the following activities contribute directly to eutrophication of water bodies?**

1. Agricultural runoff containing nitrogenous fertilizers
2. Discharge of untreated municipal sewage
3. Thermal pollution from power plants
4. Heavy metal discharge from mining operations

**Select the correct answer:**

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

✔ **Answer:** (a) 1 and 2 only

👉 **Explanation:**

- Eutrophication = excess nutrients (N and P), causing algal blooms → agricultural runoff and sewage cause it.
- Thermal pollution heats water but does not add nutrients.
- Heavy metals pollute but don't cause eutrophication.

**73. Which of the following are major anthropogenic sources of mercury pollution?**

1. Coal combustion in power plants
2. Small-scale gold mining activities
3. Release from decomposing municipal organic waste
4. Manufacture of fluorescent light bulbs

**Select the correct answer:**

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

✔ **Answer:** (b) 1, 2 and 4 only

👉 **Explanation:**

- Coal burning, gold mining, and light bulb manufacturing release mercury.
- Decomposing organic waste mostly produces methane, not mercury.

**74. Match the parasites with their respective typical host and impact:**

Parasite	Host	Impact
A. Tapeworm ( <i>Taenia spp.</i> )	1. Humans, cattle	I. Nutrient absorption, weight loss
B. Liver Fluke ( <i>Fasciola hepatica</i> )	2. Livestock	II. Liver damage
C. Plasmodium (malaria parasite)	3. Humans	III. RBC destruction, fever

**Select the correct code:**

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

✔ **Answer:** (a) A-1-I, B-2-II, C-3-III

**75. Which of the following are true regarding the National Green Tribunal (NGT)?**

1. NGT is bound by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, in its procedures.
2. Only a sitting judge of the Supreme Court can become Chairperson of the NGT.
3. The Tribunal aims to dispose of cases within 6 months of their filing.

**Select the correct answer:**

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

✔ **Answer:** (c) 3 only

👉 **Explanation:**

- NGT is not bound by the Code of Civil Procedure; it follows principles of natural justice.
- Chairperson can be either a sitting or retired Supreme Court Judge or Chief Justice of a High Court.
- Tribunal aims for 6-month disposal of cases.

76. Consider the following features often associated with the term *Digital Fort Knox*:

Feature	Description
A	End-to-end encryption and data residency enforcement
B	Tamper-proof audit trails and zero-trust architecture
C	Exclusive use in crypto mining operations
D	Real-time detection and rollback of data breaches

Which of the above features can be associated with a *Digital Fort Knox* architecture?

- (a) A, B and D only
- (b) A and C only
- (c) B and C only
- (d) A, B, C and D

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:**

Digital Fort Knox refers to ultra-secure digital infrastructure. It emphasizes encryption (A), tamper-proof logging (B), and rapid response to breaches (D). Option C is incorrect—it's not exclusive to crypto mining.

77. Consider the following outcomes of the WTO MC13 (Abu Dhabi, 2024):

Initiative	Description
A. E-Commerce	Moratorium extended on customs duties till March 2026
B. Investment Facilitation	Over 120 countries agreed on simplified rules for foreign investment
C. Fisheries Subsidy	Comprehensive agreement finalized to ban all IUU fishing subsidies
D. LDC Graduation Support	Countries graduating from LDC status given extended support and transition

Which of the above initiatives are correctly matched?

- (a) A, B and D only
- (b) A and C only
- (c) B, C and D only
- (d) A, B, C and D

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:**

C is incorrect because no final deal was reached on fisheries subsidies. A, B, and D reflect actual outcomes of MC13.

78. Consider the following features of IMF's Stabilized Arrangement under the exchange rate classification:

1. It is characterized by a de facto commitment to keep exchange rate fluctuations within a narrow margin of a single currency or a basket.
2. The country under this arrangement must legally announce the peg publicly.
3. India currently follows a stabilized arrangement with respect to the US Dollar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:**

Stabilized Arrangement is de facto, not de jure, so public legal announcement is not required (2 is incorrect). India follows a managed floating system, not stabilized (3 is incorrect).

79. Consider the following features regarding the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

1. SCO was formed with a primary objective of promoting economic integration among Central Asian nations.
2. India and Pakistan became full members of SCO at the same summit.
3. The SCO has a permanent secretariat based in Moscow.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is partially true but oversimplified; the primary focus was regional security and counterterrorism.
- Statement 2 is correct: India and Pakistan joined in 2017.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: SCO Secretariat is in Beijing, not Moscow.

**80. Which of the following are valid reasons cited for the consolidation of public sector banks in India?**

1. To create stronger and globally competitive banks
2. To reduce NPAs by merging weaker banks into stronger ones
3. To ensure wider branch outreach and overlapping networks
4. To privatize all government-held banks

**Select the correct answer using the code 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)

**Explanation:**

Privatization is not the primary goal of consolidation (statement 4 incorrect). Other points reflect policy objectives behind anchor bank consolidation.

**81. Consider the following statements about the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC):**

1. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India.
2. It insures all types of bank deposits, including inter-bank deposits and foreign currency deposits.
3. The maximum insurance coverage per depositor per bank is ₹5 lakh.
4. Cooperative banks are excluded from DICGC coverage.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is correct: DICGC is RBI-owned.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Inter-bank and foreign currency deposits are not covered.
- Statement 3 is correct: Current limit is ₹5 lakh.

- Statement 4 is incorrect: Eligible cooperative banks are covered under DICGC

**82. Which of the following assets are eligible for maintenance under SLR norms?**

1. Cash
2. Gold
3. Government-approved securities
4. Commercial papers

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

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

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:**

SLR includes cash, gold, and approved G-Secs. Commercial papers are not eligible under SLR.

**83. With reference to Consumer Price Index (CPI), consider the following statements:**

1. Headline CPI includes all categories including food and fuel.
2. Core CPI excludes food and fuel components to reflect underlying inflation.
3. Core CPI is more volatile than Headline CPI due to frequent food price shocks.
4. Refined Core Inflation also excludes vehicle fuel components in addition to food and fuel.

**Which of the statements are correct?**

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

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:**

- Statement 3 is incorrect: Headline CPI is more volatile due to food and fuel.
- Refined Core also excludes petrol, diesel, and vehicle fuels.

84. Consider the following statements regarding currency appreciation:

1. Appreciation of INR makes Indian exports more competitive globally.
2. It reduces the burden of external debt repayment in local currency.
3. It encourages foreign travellers to visit India as it becomes cheaper.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

✔ **Correct Answer:** (b) 2 only

**Explanation:**

Appreciation makes exports costlier (not competitive), but lowers external debt in rupee terms. It discourages tourism as India becomes costlier for foreigners.

85. Considering the recent surge in gold prices in India, which of the following are potential economic implications?

1. Widening of the current account deficit due to increased gold imports.
2. Rise in household savings as gold becomes a more attractive investment.
3. Increased cost pressures on the jewellery industry, potentially reducing exports.
4. Enhanced purchasing power of consumers leading to higher consumption.

**Options:**

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

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

**Explanation:**

Rising gold prices can lead to a higher import bill, exacerbating the current account deficit. Additionally, the jewellery industry may face increased costs, potentially making exports less competitive. While gold is traditionally seen as a savings instrument, exorbitant prices might deter purchases, and higher gold prices don't directly enhance consumer purchasing power.

86. India is ranked third in global GDP by Purchasing Power Parity (PPP). What is the core principle behind PPP as a comparative economic indicator?

- (a) It compares GDP at current exchange rates  
 (b) It ignores inflation and focuses on real interest rates  
 (c) It reflects relative cost of living and inflation rates  
 (d) It only compares manufacturing output

✔ **Answer:** (c) It reflects relative cost of living and inflation rates

**Explanation:**

PPP adjusts GDP figures to reflect the domestic purchasing power of currencies.

87. Match the following features with the correct type of bond:

Feature	Type of Bond
A. High coupon, risk of early exit	1. Callable Bond
B. Favorable when interest rates rise	2. Puttable Bond
C. Right with the investor	3. Puttable Bond
D. Lower coupon, exit flexibility	4. Puttable Bond

**Choose the correct code:**

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

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

**Explanation:**

Callable bonds have higher coupon but pose risk of early redemption by issuer. Puttable bonds allow investor exit when interest rates rise.

88. Which of the following is NOT a function of NITI Aayog?

- (a) Providing strategic and technical advice to the Centre and States  
 (b) Allocating financial resources to States and Ministries  
 (c) Designing frameworks for cooperative federalism  
 (d) Monitoring implementation of flagship programs

✔ **Answer:** (b) Allocating financial resources to States and Ministries

**Explanation:**

Resource allocation powers were with the Planning Commission, not with NITI Aayog.

**89. Match the following types of unemployment with their correct characteristics:**

Type of Unemployment	Characteristic
A. Structural Unemployment	1. Marginal productivity is zero
B. Disguised Unemployment	2. Due to voluntary job transitions
C. Seasonal Unemployment	3. Due to mismatch of skills with job demands
D. Frictional Unemployment	4. Common in agriculture and construction sectors

**Select the correct match:**

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

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

**Explanation:**

- Structural Unemployment (A-3): Due to mismatch between skills and job demands
- Disguised Unemployment (B-1): Occurs when marginal productivity is zero
- Seasonal Unemployment (C-4): Seen in seasonal sectors like agriculture and construction
- Frictional Unemployment (D-2): Happens during voluntary job changes or transitions

**90. With reference to Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), consider the following statements:**

1. PM-JAY provides health insurance coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
2. As of October 2024, the scheme was expanded to include all senior citizens above 70 years, irrespective of their income or socio-economic status.
3. The scheme is entirely funded by the Central Government and implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

4. PM-JAY can be availed only in public hospitals and not in empanelled private hospitals.

**Which of the statements given above 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:** (a) 1 and 2 only

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is correct: The scheme offers ₹5 lakh per family per year for hospitalization expenses.
- Statement 2 is correct: In October 2024, PM-JAY was extended to all citizens aged 70+, regardless of income.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: PM-JAY is a centrally sponsored scheme, not fully funded by the Centre—states share implementation and funding.
- Statement 4 is incorrect: Beneficiaries can access services in both public and empanelled private hospitals.

**91. Which of the following statements correctly describes the history of coal sector nationalisation in India?**

- (a) Coal sector was never nationalised and has always allowed private participation
- (b) The coal sector was fully nationalised in the 1970s and was re-opened for private mining in the 1990s
- (c) Coal India Ltd was formed during the nationalisation in 1973
- (d) The nationalisation occurred post-liberalisation under the New Economic Policy of 1991

✓ **Answer:** (c) Coal India Ltd was formed during the nationalisation in 1973

**Explanation:**

The coal sector was nationalised in two phases (1971 for coking coal, 1973 for non-coking coal), and Coal India Ltd was established in 1975.

**92. Which of the following are key features of the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024?**

1. Expansion of the definition of "mineral oils" to include coal bed methane and shale gas.
2. Introduction of a "petroleum lease" replacing the earlier "mining lease" for hydrocarbon exploration.
3. Provision for a single license covering all hydrocarbon resources.
4. Exclusion of natural gas from the scope of the Act.

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

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

✔ **Answer:** (b) 1, 2 and 3 only

**Explanation:**

- Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct: The Amendment Bill broadens the definition of mineral oils to include hydrocarbons such as coal bed methane and shale gas, introduces a "petroleum lease" to replace the "mining lease," and provides for a single license covering all hydrocarbon resources.
- Statement 4 is incorrect: Natural gas is included within the scope of the Act.

**93. With reference to Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a joint venture company promoted by NALCO, HCL, and MECL.
2. Its objective is to ensure supply security of critical and strategic minerals to the Indian domestic market.
3. KABIL is primarily involved in exploration and mining activities only within Indian territory.

**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: KABIL is a joint venture of NALCO, HCL, and MECL.
- Statement 2 is correct: It was established to identify and acquire strategic mineral assets abroad to ensure critical mineral security for India.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: KABIL focuses on mineral acquisition in foreign countries, not just within India.

**94. Match the following Articles of the Constitution with their subject matter:**

Article	Subject
A. 109	1. Annual Financial Statement (Budget)
B. 110	2. Procedure in Financial Matters
C. 112	3. Money Bills
D. 113	4. Demands for Grants

**Codes:**

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

✔ **Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:**

- Article 109: Procedure in financial matters (especially Money Bills in Parliament)
- Article 110: Money Bill definition
- Article 112: Annual Financial Statement (Budget)
- Article 113: Demands for Grants

**95. Match the following Chalcolithic cultures with their notable characteristics:**

Culture	Characteristics
A. Ahar	1. Red buff ware with chocolate designs
B. Malwa	2. Glossy surface derived from Harappan pottery
C. Kayatha	3. White-painted black-and-red ware
D. Jorwe	4. Matt painted black-on-red ware

**Codes:**

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

✔ **Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:**

Based on pottery features provided in the document.

**96. Match the following Later Vedic sacrifices with their associated symbolic purpose:**

Yajna	Purpose
A. Rajasuya	1. Claim to political paramourty
B. Vajapeya	2. Royal consecration and assertion of king's cosmic role
C. Ashvamedha	3. Attainment of power and prosperity

**Codes:**

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

✔ **Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:**

- Rajasuya: Consecration
- Vajapeya: Power and prosperity
- Ashvamedha: Political supremacy

**97. Match the following Buddhist Councils with their key details:**

Council	Presiding Monk	Patron King	Location
A. First Council	1. Mahakashyapa	a. Ajatashatru	i. Rajagriha
B. Second Council	2. Revatstavira / Sabkama	b. Kalashoka	ii. Vaishali
C. Third Council	3. Moggaliputta Tissa	c. Ashoka	iii. Pataliputra
D. Fourth Council	4. Vasumitra	d. Kanishka	iv. Kashmir

**Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

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

✔ **Correct Answer:** (a)

**Explanation:**

Each council was presided over by a different monk and under a different patron king. These pairings are well documented in Buddhist canonical history.

**98. Consider the following facts about the withdrawal of ₹2000 denomination banknotes in India:**

1. The note remained legal tender even after being withdrawn from circulation.
2. RBI cited clean note policy and limited usage of ₹2000 notes in daily transactions.
3. Public could deposit ₹2000 notes without limits until the deadline.
4. The note was originally introduced post-demonetization in 2016.

**Which of the statements are correct?**

- (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)

**Explanation:**

Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. ₹2000 note remained legal tender but was withdrawn from circulation. It was introduced in 2016. Statement 3 is incorrect—there were limits on exchange and deposit for operational reasons.

**99. The Caspian Sea is bordered by five countries. Which of the following lists all of them correctly?**

- (a) Russia, Georgia, Iran, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan
- (b) Turkmenistan, Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan
- (c) Turkey, Turkmenistan, Iran, Armenia, Russia
- (d) Georgia, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Iran, Azerbaijan

✔ **Answer:** (b) Turkmenistan, Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan

**Explanation:**

The Caspian Sea is an enclosed inland water body shared by these five nations; Georgia and Armenia do not border it.

**100. Which river flows through the Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Assam?**

- (a) Teesta River
- (b) Brahmaputra River
- (c) Manas River
- (d) Subansiri River

**✔ Answer:** (b) Brahmaputra River

**Explanation:**

The Brahmaputra River flows through Kaziranga National Park, supporting its vast floodplains and rich biodiversity.