

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

Test Booklet Series

TEST BOOKLET

Subject : Test 21 – GS Full Test 1
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. Consider the following statements regarding the Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution:

1. It deals with the administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in all states except the states of the Northeast
2. The Governor has the power to declare an area as a Scheduled Area under the Fifth Schedule
3. The Constitution mandates that the President shall appoint a Tribes Advisory Council in each Scheduled Area

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

✓ **Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

✦ **Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Fifth Schedule applies to Scheduled Areas and Tribes in all states except Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram (i.e., Northeast states). ✓
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Governor recommends but President declares a Scheduled Area. ✓
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Tribes Advisory Council is set up by the Governor, not directly by the President. ✗

2. Which of the following statements is correct with reference to the Constitutional Principles in India?

1. The Union List, State List, and Concurrent List under the Seventh Schedule represent "Division of Powers" between different levels of government.
2. Legislative, Executive, and Judicial functions assigned to separate organs represent "Separation of Powers" among different branches of government.

Select the correct answer:

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

✓ **Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2**

✦ **Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:**
 - Division of Powers means distribution of legislative subjects between Centre and States, as in Union List, State List, Concurrent List. ✓
- **Statement 2 is correct:**
 - Separation of Powers refers to different organs (Legislature, Executive, Judiciary) having distinct and independent functions, though in India it is not absolute. ✓

3. Consider the following statements about the 105th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2021:

1. It restored the power of states to identify and notify Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs).
2. It amended Article 342A of the Constitution.
3. It inserted new Fundamental Duties related to backward classes' welfare.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

✓ **Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

✦ **Explanation:**

- The 105th Amendment restored state power to notify SEBCs. ✓
- It amended Article 342A. ✓
- No new Fundamental Duties were added. ✗

4. Consider the following statements regarding Portuguese presence in India:

1. Afonso de Albuquerque captured Goa from the Bijapur Sultanate during the reign of Sikandar Lodi.
2. The Cartaz system introduced by the Portuguese allowed free naval trade in the Arabian Sea without licenses.
3. The Portuguese shifted their Indian capital from Cochin to Goa under Nino da Cunha.

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:**

- **Afonso de Albuquerque** captured Goa (1510) during Sikandar Lodi's reign. ✔
- **Cartaz system** was a strict license system, NOT free trade. ✘
- **Nino da Cunha** shifted the Portuguese capital from Cochin to Goa. ✔

5. Which Article of the Constitution declares India as a "Union of States"?

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

✔ **Answer: (a) Article 1**

✦ **Explanation:**

- **Article 1 states** — "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States."

6. Consider the following statements regarding Scheduled Tribes in India:

1. The list of Scheduled Tribes is the same across all States and Union Territories.
2. Odisha has the largest number of notified Scheduled Tribes among Indian states.
3. The criteria for Scheduled Tribe notification were laid down clearly in the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

✔ **Answer: (b) 2 only**

✦ **Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** ST list is state-specific, not common across India. ✘
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Odisha has the highest number (62 STs). ✔
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Constitution does not explicitly define ST criteria; it evolved by convention (Lokur Committee). ✘

7. Consider the following statements regarding Harsha's administration:

1. Harsha's administration was highly centralized and bureaucratic like that of the Mauryas.
2. Harsha's officers received land grants called Skandhavaras instead of regular salaries.
3. The primary source of revenue was trade and maritime customs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

✔ **Answer: (b) 2 only**

✦ **Explanation:**

- Harsha's administration was feudal and decentralized, unlike the Mauryas. ✘

- Skandhavaras were land grants given instead of salary. ✓
- Agricultural land tax (like Bhaga) was the primary source of revenue, not trade. ✗

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Anti-Defection Law:

1. The Tenth Schedule was added to the Constitution by the 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985.
2. The law disqualifies a member if he/she voluntarily gives up membership of the party or votes against party directions.
3. The decision of disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law is subject to judicial review even before the Speaker's decision.

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:**

- Judicial review is allowed **after** the Speaker's decision, not before (Kihoto Hollohan case, 1992). ✗
- 52nd Amendment inserted the Tenth Schedule. ✓
- Disqualification applies if a member voluntarily gives up membership or defies party whip. ✓

9. Consider the following statements regarding the powers of the Governor:

1. The Governor can grant pardon for offenses against state laws and can also pardon death sentences.
2. The Governor is bound by the advice of the Council of Ministers in all cases, including discretionary powers.
3. The Governor appoints the Advocate General, who holds office during the pleasure of the Governor.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

✓ **Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only**

✦ **Explanation:**

- Governor can grant remission and commutation, but **cannot pardon death sentences** (only President can). ✗
- The Governor exercises some discretionary powers (e.g., reserving bills). ✗
- Governor appoints the Advocate General who holds office during his pleasure. ✓

10. Consider the following statements regarding the distribution of legislative powers in India:

1. The residuary powers of legislation are vested in the States in India.
2. India follows the Canadian model for the division of legislative powers where residuary powers are with the Centre.
3. In the Government of India Act, 1935, the residuary powers were given to the Governor-General.

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**

✦ **Explanation:**

- In India, residuary powers are with the **Centre**, not the States. ✗
- India follows the **Canadian model** (residuary powers with Centre). ✓
- Under the **Government of India Act, 1935**, residuary powers were with the Governor-General. ✓

11. Consider the following statements regarding the Partition of Bengal (1905):

1. The official reason given for the partition was administrative convenience.
2. The real motive was to curb the rising political nationalism in Bengal.
3. Eastern Bengal was carved out to form a Muslim-majority province.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

✔ **Answer: (c) 1, 2 and 3**

✦ **Explanation:**

- Official reason = Administrative convenience ✔
- Real motive = Divide and Rule; weaken nationalism ✔
- Eastern Bengal and Assam had a Muslim-majority population ✔

12. Consider the following statements regarding the Partition of Bengal (1905):

1. The official reason given by the British was administrative convenience.
2. The real motive was to divide the nationalist sentiment growing in Bengal.
3. The partition led to the creation of separate civil services for Eastern Bengal and Assam.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

✔ **Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3**

✦ **Explanation:**

- Administrative convenience was cited officially ✔
- Real motive was "Divide and Rule" ✔
- Eastern Bengal and Assam had a muslim majority population ✔

13. Consider the following statements regarding the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments:

1. Both amendments added Part IX and Part IXA to the Constitution, respectively.
2. Both amendments made it mandatory to hold regular elections to local bodies.
3. Both amendments were applicable to all states including Jammu and Kashmir at the time of enactment.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

✔ **Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

✦ **Explanation:**

- Part IX (Panchayats) and Part IXA (Municipalities) were added ✔
- Regular 5-year elections made mandatory ✔
- Jammu and Kashmir was excluded before Article 370 abrogation ✘

14. Consider the following statements regarding the election of the President of India:

1. The President is elected by the elected members of Parliament and the elected members of State Legislative Assemblies.
2. Nominated members of both Parliament and State Assemblies participate in the election.
3. The system used is proportional representation by means of single transferable vote.

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:**

- Only **elected members** participate; nominated members are excluded ❌
- **PR-STV system** is followed ✅

15. Which inscription site first revealed Ashoka's personal name explicitly as "Ashoka"?

- (a) Girnar
- (b) Maski
- (c) Kalsi
- (d) Dhauri

✅ **Answer: (b) Maski**

✦ **Explanation:**

- The Minor Rock Edict at Maski in Karnataka mentions the personal name "Ashoka" for the first time.

16. Consider the following statements about Ashokan inscriptions:

1. Ashokan inscriptions were primarily religious messages to the Buddhist Sangha.
2. Ashokan inscriptions served administrative, political, and moral purposes.
3. Ashoka's inscriptions used only Prakrit language and Brahmi script throughout India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 2 only

Explanation:

- Ashoka's inscriptions were political and administrative instruments, spreading Dhamma.

- Not solely Buddhist religious messages.
- Ashoka used Greek, Aramaic, Kharosthi, and Prakrit — not only Prakrit and Brahmi.

17. Which of the following statements regarding Mauryan pillars is/are correct?

1. Mauryan pillars were monolithic and highly polished.
2. They were often used as structural support within palaces.
3. The bell-shaped capital shows Achaemenian influence.

Select the correct answer:

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

✅ **Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only**

✦ **Explanation:**

- Pillars were monolithic and polished ✅
- They were free-standing, not used as palace supports ❌
- Bell-shaped capitals show Achaemenian influence ✅

18. Which of the following is/are not Fundamental Right(s) under the Constitution of India?

1. Right to education
2. Right to work
3. Right to form associations
4. Right to practice any profession

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: C

19. Which of the following statements are incorrect?

1. The Right to Private Property was removed from the Constitution by the 42nd Amendment.
2. The Right to Private Property which was granted by the original Constitution has been made more sacrosanct by the 44th Amendment.
3. The Right to Property was never a Fundamental Right under the Indian Constitution.
4. The Right to Private Property was granted by the original Constitution but it has since been removed from the list of Fundamental Rights.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: A

20. Consider the following statements regarding CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team):

1. CERT-In is a statutory body under the Information Technology Act, 2000.
2. It is responsible for monitoring cyber security incidents and issuing guidelines for private sector compliance.
3. CERT-In can take penal action directly against cybercrime perpetrators under the IT Act.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- CERT-In → statutory body under Section 70B of IT Act, 2000
- It monitors and issues guidelines, but does not directly prosecute — law enforcement does.

21. Consider the following statements regarding Anushilan Samiti:

1. It was founded by P. Mitra and Aurobindo Ghosh in Bengal.
2. It had a major branch operating independently from Dhaka founded by Pulin Behari Das.
3. The group derived inspiration primarily from the Russian Revolution.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Anushilan Samiti was founded by Mitra, Aurobindo Ghosh (and Barindra Ghosh, Bhupendra Dutta).
- Dhaka branch independently operated under Pulin Behari Das.
- Russian Revolution inspired later groups, not the Anushilan Samiti in its inception.

22. Consider the following statements about the Ghadar Movement:

1. It was primarily organized by Indian immigrants in North America.
2. The main aim was to overthrow British rule in India through armed revolution.
3. The Ghadar Party received direct military assistance from Germany during World War I.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (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:

- Ghadar Party → formed by Indian diaspora (especially Punjabis) in USA and Canada
- Aim → armed revolution
- Germany tried to aid during WWI ("Hindu-German Conspiracy")

23. With reference to Parliamentary Privileges in India, consider the following statements:

1. Members cannot be arrested in criminal cases during the session of Parliament.
2. The privilege of freedom from arrest is available 40 days before and after a session, but only in civil cases.
3. Courts are prohibited from inquiring into proceedings of Parliament.

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

24. With reference to the Permanent Settlement of 1793, consider the following statements:

1. It was introduced in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa by Lord Cornwallis.
2. The Zamindars were made hereditary owners of land, responsible for revenue collection.
3. Revenue demand was permanently fixed and was not subject to future revision.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- Lord Cornwallis introduced the Permanent Settlement in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa.
- Zamindars were recognized as hereditary owners, responsible for paying a fixed amount of land revenue.
- The revenue was permanently frozen, regardless of future increase or decrease in agricultural productivity.

25. With reference to the Paika Rebellion of 1817, consider the following statements:

1. The Paikas were a landed aristocracy of Odisha who rendered military service in peace time.
2. The rebellion was led by Buxi Jagabandhu Bidyadhara.
3. The Paikas revolted against the imposition of British revenue settlements and cultural suppression.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- Paikas were traditional peasant-militia under the Gajapati kings of Odisha.
- Buxi Jagabandhu led the revolt in 1817.
- The British revenue policies and interference in the Jagannath temple administration led to mass resentment.

26. With reference to Direct and Indirect Taxes in India, consider the following statements:

1. Direct taxes are levied and collected from the same person, whereas indirect taxes are passed on to others.
2. Corporate Tax, Income Tax, and Securities Transaction Tax are examples of direct taxes.
3. GST, Customs Duty, and Excise Duty are examples of indirect taxes.

Which of the above statements 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:

- Direct taxes are borne by the assessee (e.g., Income Tax), while indirect taxes are paid by consumers via sellers (e.g., GST).
- All examples mentioned are correctly categorized.

27. With reference to mutualistic interactions, consider the following statements:

1. In obligate mutualism, both species are completely dependent on each other for survival and reproduction.
2. Lichens, formed by fungi and cyanobacteria, represent an example of facultative mutualism.
3. Leafcutter ants cultivating fungi represent a case of trophic mutualism.

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:

- Lichens are obligate mutualism, not facultative.
- Leafcutter ants and fungi = Trophic Mutualism (exchange of energy/nutrients).

28. With reference to the Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986, consider the following statements:

1. It was enacted to give effect to decisions taken at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, 1972.
2. EPA empowers only State Governments to issue directions regarding closure or regulation of industries.
3. EPA defines "Environment" to include air, water, land, and the inter-relationship among them and living beings.

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:

- EPA was enacted after Stockholm 1972.
- Central Government (not State) is primarily empowered.
- Definition of environment is broad: air, water, land, interrelations with living beings.

29. With reference to Greenhouse Gases (GHGs), consider the following statements:

1. Water vapor is the most abundant greenhouse gas, but its concentration is not significantly impacted by human activities.
2. Methane has a greater global warming potential than carbon dioxide but is less abundant in the atmosphere.
3. Tropospheric ozone acts as a major greenhouse gas and significantly contributes to global warming on a planetary scale.

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 — Correct: Water vapor is indeed the most abundant GHG, but humans don't directly emit it significantly — it amplifies warming indirectly.
- Statement 2 — Correct: Methane has ~28–36 times more GWP than CO₂ over 100 years but is less abundant.
- Statement 3 — Incorrect: Tropospheric ozone does contribute to warming, but on a regional, not dominant planetary, scale.

30. Match the National Missions under NAPCC with their primary focus:

Mission	Focus Area
A. National Solar Mission	1. Promotion of renewable energy
B. National Mission on Sustainable Habitat	2. Energy efficiency in urban sectors
C. National Water Mission	3. Conservation of water resources
D. National Mission on Strategic Knowledge	4. Research on climate change

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-3, B-2, C-1, D-4

✔ Answer: (a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4

✦ Explanation:

- Solar Mission = Promote solar/renewable energy

- Sustainable Habitat = Urban energy efficiency
- Water Mission = Water conservation
- Strategic Knowledge = Climate change research

31. With reference to the structure of the Earth's interior, consider the following statements:

1. The continental crust is primarily composed of granite-type rocks rich in silica and aluminum.
2. The mantle is composed mostly of ultramafic silicate rocks rich in magnesium and iron.
3. The outer core is in a solid state, while the inner core is liquid due to immense pressure.

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:

- Continental crust = SiAl (Silica-Aluminum) → Granite-like
- Mantle = SiMa (Silica-Magnesium) → Peridotite
- Outer core = Liquid; Inner core = Solid due to pressure.

32. With reference to the structure of the Earth, consider the following statements:

1. The Conrad discontinuity separates the outer and inner layers of the Earth's core.
2. The Gutenberg-Wiechert discontinuity marks the boundary between the Earth's mantle and outer core.
3. The lithosphere includes both the entire crust and the rigid uppermost part of the mantle.

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:

- Conrad discontinuity separates upper and lower crust, not core.
- Gutenberg-Wiechert marks mantle-core boundary.
- Lithosphere = crust + uppermost solid mantle.

33. With reference to ocean relief, consider the following statements:

1. Continental shelf is steeper and narrower on the western coast of India compared to the eastern coast.
2. Continental slope represents the true boundary of the continents.
3. Abyssal plains are the most rugged parts of the ocean floor with frequent volcanic activity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- East coast = wide shelf; West coast = narrow, steep shelf .
- Continental slope = edge of continents .
- Abyssal plains are flattest, not rugged .

34. Consider the following statements regarding Mesosphere and Thermosphere:

1. Mesosphere is the coldest layer of the atmosphere primarily because of enhanced absorption of solar radiation by rarefied gases.
2. In the Thermosphere, although temperature rises sharply with altitude, the "felt" temperature remains low due to sparse molecular density.
3. Noctilucent clouds form primarily in the lower part of the Thermosphere.
4. The upper Mesosphere forms part of the D layer of the Ionosphere, active during both day and night.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: The Mesosphere is cold because of very little solar radiation absorption, not enhanced absorption.
- Statement 2 is correct: In Thermosphere, molecules are far apart, so despite high kinetic temperature, it does not feel hot.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: Noctilucent clouds form at the top of Mesosphere, not in Thermosphere.
- Statement 4 is incorrect: D-layer exists only during day (sunlight required); not active both day and night.

35. Arrange the following states in order from North to South as per their extreme latitudinal points:

1. Mizoram
2. Rajasthan
3. West Bengal
4. Maharashtra

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: (a) 2-3-4-1

Explanation:

- Rajasthan is far north (~30°N).
- West Bengal is slightly lower (~27°N).
- Maharashtra is further south (~22°N).
- Mizoram is the southernmost among these (~21°N in some parts).

36. Consider the following about Deva Raya II of Vijayanagar Empire:

1. He authored both Kannada and Sanskrit literary works during his reign.
2. He was known by the title "Gajabetegara" meaning "Hunter of Elephants".
3. He imposed a strict ban on the recruitment of Muslim horsemen in his army.

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: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Deva Raya II authored Kannada (Sobagina Sone, Amaruka) and Sanskrit (Mahanataka Sudhanidhi).
- He earned the title "Gajabetegara."
- He did recruit Muslim horsemen actively; no ban was imposed.

37. With reference to the Bhakti Movement, consider the following statements:

1. The Alvars and Nayanars rejected the rigidities of caste and upheld personal devotion as the means to salvation.
2. The Bhakti movement in Tamil Nadu flourished under the patronage of Pallava rulers exclusively.
3. The principle of Universal Brotherhood was a key feature of the Bhakti movement.

Which of the above statements 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:

- Alvars and Nayanars stressed personal devotion and rejected caste rigidity.
- Bhakti flourished not only under Pallavas but also under Cholas and Pandyas.
- Universal Brotherhood was a salient feature of Bhakti reformers.

38. 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 Shariah observance, opposed sama, ziyarat.
- Hence both assertion and reason are correct and R explains A.

39. Match the Bhakti Saints with their

Philosophy/Contribution:

Saint	Philosophy / Contribution
A. Vallabhacharya	1. Shuddhadvaita (Pure Monism)
B. Ramanuja	2. Vishishtadvaita (Qualified Monism)
C. Madhvacharya	3. Dvaita (Dualism)
D. Nimbarka	4. Dvaita-Advaita (Dualistic-Non-Dualism)

Choose the correct matching code:

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

✔ **Answer: (b) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4**

✦ Explanation:

- Vallabhacharya → Shuddhadvaita
- Ramanuja → Vishishtadvaita
- Madhvacharya → Dvaita
- Nimbarka → Dvaita-Advaita

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

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

Select the correct answer:

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

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

Explanation:

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

41. Match the Bhakti saints with their major literary works:

Saint	Work
A. Surdas	1. Sur Sagar
B. Tulsidas	2. Ramcharitmanas
C. Jnaneshwar	3. Bhavartha Dipika
D. Kabir	4. Bijak

Choose the correct matching 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-1, C-3, D-2

✔ **Answer: (a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4**

✦ Explanation:

- Surdas → Sur Sagar
- Tulsidas → Ramcharitmanas
- Jnaneshwar → Bhavartha Dipika (Jnaneshwari)
- Kabir → Bijak

42. With reference to Harshavardhana's administration, consider the following statements:

1. Harsha shifted his capital from Thanesar to Kannauj after consolidating North India.

2. Harsha introduced a centralized system of taxation where most taxes were collected directly by the king's officials.

3. Harsha organized a religious assembly at Prayag every twelve years.

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:

- Harsha moved capital to Kannauj after uniting north India.
- His administration was feudal and decentralized, not centralized taxation.
- Prayag Assembly held every five years (not twelve years as Kumbh), but important religious gathering at Prayag is noted.

43. Assertion (A): The Reserve Bank of India acts as the custodian of the country's foreign exchange reserves.

Reason (R): The RBI manages the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to facilitate external trade and payments.

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:

Assertion is true: The RBI indeed acts as the custodian of India's foreign exchange reserves.

Reason is false:

The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) is primarily enforced by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), not RBI.

RBI regulates foreign exchange transactions under FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act), not PMLA.

Thus, A is true but R is false → Answer = (c).

44. Consider the following statements regarding Iltutmish:

1. He was formally recognized by the Khalifa of Baghdad and assumed the title of Sultan-i-Azam.
2. He established the tradition of hereditary succession in the Delhi Sultanate.
3. He faced serious threats from Yaldoz, Kabacha, and Ali Mardan Khan during his reign.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only

Explanation: Iltutmish was recognized by the Khalifa and faced threats from rivals like Yaldoz and Kabacha. However, hereditary succession was not firmly established as seen in the succession struggles after his death.

45. Consider the following statements regarding Babur's career:

1. Babur won the Battle of Kanwah against Rana Sanga of Mewar.
2. Babur constructed the Jama Masjid at Agra, one of the oldest surviving Mughal structures.
3. Babur's Memoirs (Tuzuk-i-Baburi) were originally written in Persian.

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: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

Babur defeated Rana Sanga at the Battle of Kanwah (1527).

His mosque at Panipat (Kabul Bagh) survives, not Jama Masjid at Agra.

His Memoirs were written originally in Turki, not Persian.

46. With reference to the PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme launched in 2024, consider the following statements:

1. It provides interest-free loans to students for foreign education.
2. It covers students admitted to the top 860 institutions in India.
3. The scheme is administered by the Ministry of Finance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

It provides low-interest loans, not interest-free loans.

It covers top 860 Indian institutions .

It is managed primarily under Ministry of Education, not Finance.

47. Which of the following features characterize the Directive Principles of State Policy in India?

1. They are enforceable by courts if violated by the government.
2. They aim to establish social and economic democracy in the country.
3. They are fundamental to the governance of the country.

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: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- DPSPs are non-justiciable, i.e., not enforceable by courts .
- They promote social and economic democracy and are fundamental to governance

48. Consider the following statements about the powers of the Supreme Court of India:

1. The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in disputes between the Government of India and one or more states.
2. The Supreme Court cannot issue writs for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights.
3. The Supreme Court has the power of judicial review.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Supreme Court has original jurisdiction under Article 131 in Union-State disputes.
- It can issue writs for enforcement of Fundamental Rights under Article 32.
- Judicial Review is an inherent power under Articles 13, 32, 136, 141, 142.

49. Consider the following statements regarding the powers of High Courts in India:

1. Every High Court has the power under Article 226 to issue writs for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights as well as for the enforcement of other legal rights.
2. High Courts possess original jurisdiction specifically in matters such as election petitions and writ petitions.
3. High Courts exercise appellate jurisdiction in both civil and criminal cases arising from subordinate courts.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Updated Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: Under Article 226, High Courts can issue writs both for Fundamental Rights enforcement and for any other legal rights.
 - Statement 2 is correct: High Courts have original jurisdiction over election petitions (under Representation of the People Act) and writ petitions (under Art. 226).
 - Statement 3 is correct: High Courts have civil and criminal appellate jurisdiction over lower courts in the state.
- Thus, all three statements are correct.

50. Consider the following statements about the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution:

1. The original Constitution included 14 languages in the Eighth Schedule.
2. As of 2024, the Eighth Schedule contains 22 languages.
3. English is included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Originally, 14 languages were listed in the Eighth Schedule.

- Today, there are 22 scheduled languages.
- English is *not* a scheduled language; it is an associate official language under Article 343, but not in Eighth Schedule.

51. The Manjampatti Valley, recently highlighted for its rich biodiversity, is a core zone of which National Park?

- (a) Anamalai Tiger Reserve
- (b) Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park
- (c) Silent Valley National Park
- (d) Periyar National Park

Answer: (b) Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park Explanation: Manjampatti Valley is a protected area within the Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park in Tamil Nadu, known for its pristine shola forests and montane rainforests.

52. Which Biosphere Reserve, located in the Western Ghats, encompasses the Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary and is known for the Karamana River originating from its highest peak?

- (a) Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
- (b) Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve
- (c) Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve
- (d) Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve

Answer: (b) Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve Explanation: The Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve, situated at the southern end of the Western Ghats, includes the Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary. The Karamana River originates from Chemmunjimottai, the tallest peak within the sanctuary.

53. What is the name of the facility recently established in Darjeeling, India, aimed at preserving the genetic material of endangered Himalayan species like the red panda and snow leopard?

- (a) Himalayan Gene Bank
- (b) Eastern Himalayan Biodiversity Repository
- (c) Frozen Zoo
- (d) CryoConserve India

Answer: (c) Frozen Zoo

Explanation: The "Frozen Zoo" in Darjeeling Zoo, West Bengal, is a newly established facility dedicated to preserving the DNA of

endangered species such as red pandas, snow leopards, and Himalayan black bears. This initiative aims to support future conservation and potential assisted reproduction efforts.

54. The Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary, India's first protected area for which endangered aquatic mammal, is located along which river?

- (a) Brahmaputra River
- (b) Yamuna River
- (c) Ganges River
- (d) Godavari River

Answer: (c) Ganges River

Explanation: The Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary in Bihar is dedicated to the conservation of the endangered Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*), India's national aquatic animal. The sanctuary spans a 60-kilometer stretch of the Ganges River.

55. Which of the following statements correctly reflects a provision introduced by the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022?

- (a) The amendment introduced a new schedule exclusively for invasive alien species.
- (b) It reduced the number of schedules from six to four, removing the schedule for vermin species.
- (c) The amendment allowed commercial trade in all Schedule I animals.
- (d) It abolished the role of the Chief Wildlife Warden in managing sanctuaries.

Answer: (b) It reduced the number of schedules from six to four, removing the schedule for vermin species.

Explanation: The 2022 amendment to the Wild Life (Protection) Act streamlined the schedules by reducing them from six to four. Schedule V, which listed vermin species, was removed, and a new Schedule IV was introduced for specimens listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

56. According to ISFR, what percentage of India's total geographical area is covered by forest and tree cover combined?

- (a) 21.71%
- (b) 22.83%
- (c) 24.62%
- (d) 26.33%

Answer: (c) 24.62%

Explanation: The total forest and tree cover of India is 80.9 million hectares, which constitutes 24.62% of the country's geographical area

57. Which of the following big cats is known for its social behavior, living in groups called prides, unlike the typically solitary nature of other big cats?

- (a) Tiger
- (b) Leopard
- (c) Lion
- (d) Jaguar

Answer: (c) Lion

Explanation: Lions are unique among big cats for their social structure, living in groups called prides. This social behavior contrasts with the solitary nature of other big cats like tigers and leopards.

58. Which of the following animals is correctly classified as *nocturnal*, i.e., active primarily during the night?

- (a) Hanuman Langur
- (b) Indian Flying Fox
- (c) Gaur (Indian Bison)
- (d) Chinkara (Indian Gazelle)

Answer: (b) Indian Flying Fox

Explanation: The Indian Flying Fox is a large fruit bat that is active at night, searching for ripe fruits. It roosts during the day and forages after sunset, making it a classic example of a nocturnal mammal.

59. Which of the following best explains the dual role of ozone in Earth's atmosphere?

- (a) It causes greenhouse warming in both troposphere and stratosphere.
- (b) It acts as a pollutant in the stratosphere and a coolant in the troposphere.
- (c) It protects life from UV radiation in the stratosphere but contributes to smog in the troposphere.

(d) It absorbs CO₂ in the troposphere and releases it in the stratosphere.

Answer: (c) It protects life from UV radiation in the stratosphere but contributes to smog in the troposphere.

Explanation: Stratospheric ozone (the “good ozone”) absorbs harmful ultraviolet radiation. Tropospheric ozone (the “bad ozone”) forms due to photochemical reactions and acts as a harmful air pollutant, causing respiratory and ecological damage.

60. As per Article 280 of the Indian Constitution, the Finance Commission is constituted by:

- (a) Prime Minister
- (b) President of India
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) Parliament through a Finance Bill

Answer: (b) President of India **Explanation:** Article 280(1) mandates that the President of India shall constitute a Finance Commission every five years or earlier, as deemed necessary.

61. Which of the following statements best reflects the significance of the term "We, the People of India" as used in the Preamble?

- (a) It signifies the constitutional supremacy over parliamentary supremacy.
- (b) It establishes the sovereignty of the Indian State over its territory.
- (c) It implies that the Constitution derives its authority from the people.
- (d) It refers to the will of the Constituent Assembly alone.

Answer: (c) It implies that the Constitution derives its authority from the people.

Explanation: The phrase “We, the People of India” underscores the doctrine of popular sovereignty. It means that the source of the Constitution's authority is the people themselves, not any external power or ruler.

62. Which of the following situations does not attract disqualification under the Anti-Defection Law?

- (a) An elected member voluntarily gives up the membership of the party on whose ticket he was elected.
- (b) A member votes contrary to the party whip in a confidence motion.
- (c) A nominated member joins a political party within six months of nomination.
- (d) An independent member joins a political party after election.

Answer: (c) A nominated member joins a political party within six months of nomination
Explanation: A nominated member can join a political party within six months of being nominated. After six months, joining a party leads to disqualification.

63. Which of the following Acts introduced the element of representative governance in British India for the first time?

- (a) Indian Councils Act, 1861
- (b) Government of India Act, 1858
- (c) Indian Councils Act, 1892
- (d) Indian Councils Act, 1909

Answer: (c) Indian Councils Act, 1892
Explanation: The Indian Councils Act of 1892 introduced indirect elections through nomination by provincial bodies, thereby marking the beginning of representative institutions, although limited in scope.

64. Which of the following natural sources contribute to atmospheric pollution?

- 1. Volcanic eruptions
- 2. Forest fires
- 3. Sea spray
- 4. Agricultural residue burning

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, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
Explanation: Volcanic eruptions release SO₂ and particulates, forest fires release CO₂ and NO_x, and sea spray emits salt particles into the atmosphere. Agricultural residue burning is a man-made (anthropogenic) source of pollution, not natural.

65. Consider the following pairs:

River	Plateau/ Plain it primarily drains
1. Yamuna	Malwa Plateau
2. Gandak	Gangetic Plain
3. Jhelum	Kashmir Valley
4. Teesta	Deccan Plateau

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

✔ **Answer: (a) 2 and 3 only**

✦ **Explanation:**

- Yamuna primarily drains the **Gangetic Plain**, not Malwa Plateau ✗
- Gandak drains the **Gangetic Plain (Bihar)** ✔
- Jhelum drains the **Kashmir Valley** ✔
- Teesta drains **Sikkim & North Bengal hills**, not Deccan Plateau ✗

66. Consider the following pairs:

River	Plateau/Physical Feature it crosses
1. Godavari	Deccan Plateau
2. Krishna	Malwa Plateau
3. Kaveri	Mysore Plateau
4. Narmada	Satpura Range

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (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:**

- Godavari flows through the **Deccan Plateau** ✔
- Krishna originates from **Western Ghats**, not Malwa Plateau ✗
- Kaveri flows across the **Mysore Plateau (Karnataka)** ✔
- Narmada flows between the **Satpura and Vindhya ranges** ✔

- Several parts (e.g., Agasthyamalai, Nilgiri Biosphere) are UNESCO heritage sites.

67. Consider the following pairs:

Himalayan Range	Distinctive Feature
1. Trans-Himalayas	Composed mostly of sedimentary rocks
2. Greater Himalayas	Highest peaks and glaciers
3. Shiwalik Hills	Oldest formation among the three ranges

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (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:**

- Trans-Himalayas (e.g., Karakoram) are formed of sedimentary rocks ✓
- Greater Himalayas (Himadri) host Mount Everest, Kanchenjunga, glaciers ✓
- Shiwaliks are the youngest and most fragile part of the Himalayas, not the oldest ✗

68. Consider the following statements about the Western Ghats:

1. They are continuous and run without major gaps from Gujarat to Kerala.
2. They are the source of rivers like Godavari, Krishna, and Kaveri.
3. They have been declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in certain segments.

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:

- Western Ghats have gaps (notably Palghat Gap between Kerala and Tamil Nadu).
- Rivers like Godavari, Krishna, and Kaveri originate in Western Ghats.

69. Which of the following statements accurately describe the Modernization of Command Area Development and Water Management (M-CADWM) sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)?

1. It aims to modernize the irrigation water supply network using underground pressurized piped systems.
2. The scheme is implemented across 78 pilot projects covering approximately 80,000 farmers.
3. It focuses solely on the construction of new canals without utilizing existing water sources.

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: The M-CADWM sub-scheme under PMKSY is designed to modernize existing irrigation infrastructure by implementing underground pressurized piped systems to efficiently deliver water from established sources directly to farms. It is being piloted across 78 projects, benefiting around 80,000 farmers. The scheme does not focus solely on constructing new canals but emphasizes utilizing and upgrading existing water sources.

70. Which of the following are considered straight fertilizers?

1. Urea
2. Diammonium Phosphate (DAP)
3. Ammonium Sulphate
4. Potassium Chloride

Select the correct answer:

- (a) 1 and 2 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: Straight fertilizers are those that supply only one primary plant nutrient. Urea and Ammonium Sulphate provide Nitrogen,

while Potassium Chloride supplies Potassium. Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) is a complex fertilizer as it provides both Nitrogen and Phosphorus.

71. The 'One Nation, One Fertilizer' (ONOF) initiative introduced by the Government mandates what major change in fertilizer marketing?

- (a) Uniform pricing of fertilizers across states
- (b) Uniform branding and packaging of fertilizers across manufacturers
- (c) Uniform nutrient content in all fertilizer brands
- (d) Single point of subsidy release to farmers directly

Answer: (b) Uniform branding and packaging of fertilizers across manufacturers

Explanation:

- Under ONOF, fertilizers (Urea, DAP, etc.) must be sold under a single brand name "Bharat" across the country, regardless of manufacturer.
- The idea is to prevent brand differentiation and ensure price uniformity. (Source: Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers 2023)

72. Match the following fertilizer innovations/techniques with their correct descriptions:

Innovation / Technique	Description
A. Urea Deep Placement (UDP)	1. Embedding concentrated urea briquettes deep into the soil to reduce nitrogen loss.
B. Green Ammonia Synthesis	2. Producing ammonia using renewable energy sources such as solar or wind power.
C. Plasma Fixed Nitrogen (PFN)	3. Using plasma technology to synthesize plant-available nitrogen with minimal emissions.
D. Geochemical 'Fingerprinting'	4. Applying isotopic techniques to trace fertilizer origin and contaminants.

Select the correct code:

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

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

73. Which of the following conditions are ideal for the cultivation of Rice in India?

- 1. High temperature above 20°C during growth.
- 2. Annual rainfall between 100–200 cm.
- 3. Well-drained sandy soil is best suited for rice.

for rice.

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:

- Rice requires high temperature (>20°C) and high humidity.
- Heavy rainfall (100–200 cm) is ideal.
- Clayey, water-retentive soil, not sandy, suits rice.

74. With reference to the major sources of air pollutants, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Thermal power plants are a major source of both sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}).
- 2. Vehicular emissions contribute significantly to nitrogen oxides (NO_x) but not carbon monoxide (CO).
- 3. Diesel engines emit higher amounts of particulate matter compared to petrol engines.

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: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Power plants emit SO₂ and fine particulates.
- Vehicles emit both NO_x and CO — so Statement 2 is wrong.
- Diesel engines emit more PM than petrol ones.

75. Ground-level ozone is classified as:

- (a) A primary pollutant formed directly from sources like vehicles and industries
- (b) A secondary pollutant formed due to reaction between nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in sunlight
- (c) A naturally occurring greenhouse gas with no anthropogenic impact
- (d) A by-product of CFC breakdown in the stratosphere

Answer: (b) A secondary pollutant formed due to reaction between NO_x and VOCs in sunlight

Explanation:

- Ozone at ground level = secondary pollutant (photochemical smog component).
- Reaction: NO_x + VOCs + Sunlight → Ozone (O₃).

76. With reference to *Cross-Chain Bridges* in blockchain technology, consider the following statements:

1. Cross-Chain Bridges enable the transfer of tokens and data between two blockchain networks that operate on different consensus mechanisms.
2. They eliminate the need for centralized exchanges in token swapping.
3. Bridges are inherently secure and do not face any interoperability challenges.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: Cross-chain bridges allow interoperability across blockchains like Ethereum and Solana.
- Statement 2 is correct: They help users avoid centralized exchanges for asset transfers.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: Cross-chain bridges are often targeted in hacks and face security vulnerabilities.

77. With reference to the 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) of WTO, consider the following statements:

1. It extended the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions until 2030.
2. It achieved consensus on banning all harmful fisheries subsidies.
3. Comoros and Timor-Leste were admitted as WTO members during MC13.
4. A roadmap was drawn to reform the WTO's dispute settlement system

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: The moratorium on e-transmissions is extended only until March 2026, not 2030.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Fisheries talks stalled; no final deal was reached.
- Statements 3 and 4 are correct.

78. With reference to the lending mechanisms of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), consider the following statements:

1. IMF lends only to low-income countries and primarily through concessional loans.
2. Stand-By Arrangements (SBA) and Extended Fund Facility (EFF) are tools available to all members facing balance of payment problems.
3. IMF loans are financed through member quotas and not from direct international capital markets.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect: IMF lends to both low-income and middle-income countries. Statements 2 and 3 are correct: SBA and EFF are general tools; IMF lending is funded from quotas, not market borrowing.

79. Which of the following statements regarding BRICS are correct?

1. BRICS was originally coined by an economist from Goldman Sachs.
2. The New Development Bank (NDB) established by BRICS is headquartered in Brazil.
3. BRICS has launched a Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) for liquidity support.
4. All BRICS members are also members of the G7 group.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: "BRIC" was coined by Jim O'Neill of Goldman Sachs.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: NDB is headquartered in Shanghai, China.
- Statement 3 is correct: CRA is a BRICS mechanism for financial crisis support.
- Statement 4 is incorrect: None of the BRICS members are in G7.

80. With reference to foreign banks operating in India, consider the following statements:

1. The branch model is a separate legal entity registered under Indian law.
2. WOS model mandates 40% Priority Sector Lending (PSL) compliance.
3. Branch model allows unrestricted branch expansion across India.
4. WOS model banks are insured under DICGC.

Which of the statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: Branch model is not a separate legal entity—it is an extension of the parent bank.
- Statement 2 is correct: WOS must meet 40% PSL.

- Statement 3 is incorrect: Branch model has restricted expansion.
- Statement 4 is correct: WOS is DICGC insured.

81. With reference to the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) and India Debt Resolution Company Limited (IDRCL), consider the following statements:

1. NARCL is a government-owned asset reconstruction company that acquires stressed assets from banks.
 2. IDRCL is a private company that manages the resolution process of acquired assets.
 3. Both NARCL and IDRCL are under the regulatory supervision of the Reserve Bank of India.
 4. NARCL pays 100% of the asset value upfront to the bank while acquiring NPAs.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 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 are correct: NARCL acquires NPAs; IDRCL resolves them.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: RBI licenses NARCL, but IDRCL is not an RBI-regulated entity.
- Statement 4 is incorrect: NARCL pays 15% upfront and the rest via Security Receipts (SRs) backed by government guarantee.

82. With reference to Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) in India, consider the following statements:

1. CRR is the portion of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) that banks must keep with RBI in the form of cash.
2. RBI pays interest on the CRR maintained by banks.
3. Incremental CRR is a temporary tool used to absorb excess liquidity.
4. CRR and Incremental CRR are counted under the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) requirements.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

(c) 2, 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Answer: (a) Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct
- Statement 2: Incorrect – RBI does not pay interest on CRR.
- Statement 3: Correct – Incremental CRR (e.g., post ₹2000 note withdrawal) is temporary.
- Statement 4: Incorrect – CRR and SLR are distinct tools; CRR is not counted under SLR.

83. Which of the following correctly matches the type of inflation with its cause?

Type of Inflation	Cause
A. Demand Pull Inflation	Excess demand and expanding money supply
B. Cost Push Inflation	Increase in input costs like wages, fuel, and indirect taxes
C. Structural Inflation	Bottlenecks in agriculture, infrastructure, and supply systems
D. Skewflation	General increase in prices across all sectors

Choose the correct pairs:

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

Answer: (a)

✦ **Explanation:**

- A, B, C are correct.
- D is incorrect: Skewflation is price rise of a few commodities, not all.

84. Which of the following would most likely lead to depreciation of the Indian Rupee (INR) against the US Dollar?

1. Increase in Foreign Portfolio Investment inflows
2. Fall in global crude oil prices
3. Increase in India's current account deficit
4. Hike in Repo Rate by RBI

Options:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 4 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (c) 3 only

Explanation: A rising current account deficit increases demand for foreign currency, weakening INR. The other factors would strengthen or stabilize INR.

85. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) repatriated over 200 tonnes of gold from the UK. Which of the following reasons best explain this move?

1. To enhance domestic control over gold reserves amid global geopolitical uncertainties.
2. To reduce the risk of foreign sanctions affecting India's gold assets held abroad.
3. To utilize the repatriated gold for domestic monetary policy operations.
4. To increase the share of gold in India's foreign exchange reserves.

Options:

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

Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: The RBI's decision to bring back gold reserves was primarily to ensure greater security and control over its assets in light of global geopolitical tensions and the precedent of foreign sanctions affecting other nations' overseas assets. While the repatriated gold strengthens domestic reserves, its primary purpose isn't for immediate monetary policy operations or to alter the composition of foreign exchange reserves.

86. Consider the following statements regarding All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) in India:

1. AIFIs are regulated and supervised by the Reserve Bank of India under a separate regulatory framework distinct from commercial banks.
2. All AIFIs are owned entirely by the Government of India.
3. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and Export-Import Bank of India are classified as AIFIs.
4. AIFIs primarily provide long-term finance for specific sectors rather than retail banking services.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

✔ Answer: (a) 1, 3 and 4 only

✦ Explanation

- **Statement 1 – Correct** ✔
AIFIs are regulated by the RBI under a separate framework (Chapter IIIB of RBI Act, 1934). They are not treated exactly like commercial banks.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect** ✖ (UPSC Trap)
Not all AIFIs are fully government-owned. Many have mixed ownership (Govt + RBI + others).
- **Statement 3 – Correct** ✔
Key AIFIs include:
 - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
 - Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
 - National Housing Bank (NHB)
 - Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank)
 - National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)

• **Statement 4 – Correct** ✔

AIFIs are development finance institutions (DFIs) focusing on:

- Agriculture, MSMEs, Housing, Exports, ✦ Not typical deposit-taking retail banks

87. Which of the following is NOT included in the calculation of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at market prices?

- (a) Net Indirect Taxes
(b) Value of Intermediate Goods
(c) Consumption Expenditure
(d) Gross Fixed Capital Formation

Answer: (b) Value of Intermediate Goods

Explanation: Intermediate goods are excluded to avoid double counting; only final goods and services are counted.

88. With reference to Separate Trading of Registered Interest and Principal of Securities (STRIPS), consider the following statements:

1. STRIPS are zero-coupon bonds created by separating the interest and principal components of government securities.
2. They are issued through RBI auctions just like Treasury Bills.
3. All fixed coupon G-Secs are eligible for stripping if they are SLR-eligible and transferable.

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: STRIPS are not issued via auctions; they are created from existing securities. Only SLR-eligible, transferable G-Secs are eligible

89. Consider the following statements about Planning in India:

1. The first Five-Year Plan in India was based on the Harrod-Domar model and focused on agriculture and irrigation.

2. The 12th Five-Year Plan (2012–17) was the last officially adopted plan before the dissolution of the Planning Commission.

3. The Gadgil Formula was used to allocate central assistance among states during the 10th Plan only.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Gadgil formula was used from the Fourth Plan onward, not just the 10th Plan.

90. Consider the following statements about poverty estimation in India:

1. The Tendulkar Committee used monthly per capita consumption expenditure to define the poverty line.

2. The Rangarajan Committee recommended higher poverty lines than the Tendulkar Committee.

3. India currently uses the Rangarajan methodology for official poverty estimation.

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: The government still uses the Tendulkar methodology for official purposes; Rangarajan's recommendations have not been adopted.

91. Consider the following statements regarding Ayushman Arogya Mandirs in India:

1. Ayushman Arogya Mandirs are upgraded versions of Sub-Health Centres and Primary Health Centres aimed at delivering comprehensive primary healthcare.

2. These centres are designed to provide not just curative but also preventive, promotive, palliative, and rehabilitative services.

3. Only rural areas are eligible to host Ayushman Arogya Mandirs under the scheme.

4. The initiative is part of the Ayushman Bharat programme under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the above statements are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1, 2 and 4 only

(c) 2, 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

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

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: The Mandirs are transformed SHCs and PHCs.
- Statement 2 is correct: Services span preventive to rehabilitative care.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: The initiative covers both rural and urban areas.
- Statement 4 is correct: It is part of the Ayushman Bharat programme under MoHFW.

92. Consider the following statements about coal trade in India:

1. India is among the top three importers of coal globally despite having the fifth-largest coal reserves.

2. India imports coking coal primarily due to insufficient domestic reserves of this grade.

3. India is a net exporter of thermal coal.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: India imports coking coal (used in steel) due to quality issues, and imports more coal than it exports, especially thermal coal.

93. Consider the following statements regarding India's crude oil imports in Previous year.

1. Russia was the top supplier of crude oil to India for the third consecutive year.
2. The share of OPEC countries in India's oil imports increased due to higher imports from Iraq and Saudi Arabia.
3. India's total crude oil imports averaged approximately 4.88 million barrels per day during this period.

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: Russia remained India's top crude oil supplier for the third consecutive year, with imports rising 7.3% to 1.76 million barrels per day (bpd).
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Imports from traditional suppliers like Iraq and Saudi Arabia declined, leading to OPEC's share in India's oil imports falling to a record low of 48.5%.
- Statement 3 is correct: India's oil imports grew by 5% to average 4.88 million bpd in fiscal year 2024–25.

94. *With reference to the Mineral Security Partnership (MSP), consider the following statements:*

1. It is an international alliance launched to secure sustainable critical mineral supply chains.
2. India is a founding member of this partnership.
3. The MSP focuses exclusively on rare earth elements and excludes other critical minerals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a) 1 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: MSP is an initiative of countries like the US, Australia, Japan, and others to ensure resilient and sustainable supply chains for critical minerals.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: India is not a founding member but has shown interest in collaborating.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: MSP includes a wide range of critical minerals, not just rare earth elements.

95. *With reference to Article 110 of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements regarding a Money Bill:*

1. It can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha, not in the Rajya Sabha.
2. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha decides whether a bill is a Money Bill, and this decision is final.
3. The Rajya Sabha can suggest amendments to a Money Bill, but the Lok Sabha is not bound to accept them.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation: All three statements are correct. Article 110 defines a Money Bill and lays down the procedural limitations for the Rajya Sabha and the finality of the Speaker's decision.

96. *Consider the following statements about agricultural practices during the Harappan Civilization:*

1. Archaeological evidence of ploughed fields with intersecting furrows was found at Kalibangan.
2. Millet was the most commonly cultivated grain in all major Harappan settlements.
3. The use of toy-model ploughs and terracotta implements has been reported from sites like Banawali.
4. Rice cultivation was common and found across all Indus Valley settlements.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (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: Millet was found mostly in Gujarat sites, and rice is relatively rare in Harappan sites. Kalibangan shows ploughed fields; Banawali yielded toy plough models.

97. Consider the following statements regarding the political changes from Early to Later Vedic Period:

1. The role of Sabha and Samiti evolved from inclusive participatory bodies to elitist assemblies.

2. The Rajan, initially chosen by the people, gradually became a hereditary monarch with elaborate rituals.

3. The institution of Senani and Purohita disappeared in the Later Vedic period due to rise of monarchy.

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)

Explanation: Statement 3 is incorrect. Senani and Purohita became more important; Purohita's status was elevated due to royal yajnas like Rajasuya and Ashvamedha.

98. The Ajivika sect, contemporaneous with Jainism and Buddhism, is known for its distinctive worldview. Which of the following correctly describes it?

1. It emphasized *Niyati* (fate), asserting that everything is predetermined.

2. It believed in karma and rebirth but negated the role of human effort.

3. Ajivikas had monastic organization and even received patronage from Mauryan rulers.

4. They accepted the Vedic scriptures as authoritative.

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

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

Explanation: Ajivikas were fatalists who denied the role of free will (*Niyati*). They believed in rebirth but not personal agency. They had corporate institutions and were patronized by kings like Ashoka. They did not accept Vedic authority.

99. With reference to *Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)* in India, consider the following statements:

1. It is a legal tender issued by the central bank in a digital form.

2. CBDC can be used without the need for a bank account.

3. It will appear as a liability on the central bank's balance sheet.

4. CBDC is not convertible into physical currency or bank deposits.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only

(b) 1 and 4 only

(c) 2 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct. CBDC is fungible legal tender, available to users without bank accounts, and is recorded as a central bank liability. Statement 4 is incorrect—CBDC is convertible into bank money and cash.

100. Which of the following countries share a border with both the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden?

(a) Eritrea and Djibouti

(b) Sudan and Somalia

(c) Eritrea and Yemen

(d) Djibouti and Saudi Arabia

Answer: (a) Eritrea and Djibouti

Explanation: Eritrea borders the Red Sea and Djibouti lies between the Red Sea (Bab-el-Mandeb) and Gulf of Aden. Yemen borders both too but was not paired correctly.