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Answer Key

**UPSC CSE Prelims 2024:
General Studies Paper 1**

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UPSC CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION (PRELIMINARY) 2024
General Studies Paper - 1
Revised Answer key

1. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

The atmosphere is heated more by incoming solar radiation than by terrestrial radiation.

Statement II:

Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are good absorbers of long-wave radiation.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Answer: (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Explanation:

- Statement I is incorrect because the atmosphere is primarily heated by terrestrial radiation (long-wave radiation emitted by the Earth's surface) rather than incoming solar radiation.

- Statement II is correct as carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are good absorbers of long-wave radiation, contributing to the greenhouse effect.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Greenhouse Effect and Global Warming](#)

2. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

Thickness of the troposphere at the equator is much greater as compared to poles.

Statement II:

At the equator, heat is transported to great heights by strong convectional currents.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Answer: (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I

Explanation:

- Statement I is correct because the troposphere is indeed thicker at the equator due to higher temperatures causing more expansion.
- Statement II is correct because at the equator, intense solar heating leads to strong convectional currents which transport heat to greater heights.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Composition and Structure of the Earth's Atmosphere](#)

3. Consider the following:
1. Pyroclastic debris
 2. Ash and dust
 3. Nitrogen compounds
 4. Sulphur compounds

How many of the above are products of volcanic eruptions?

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

Answer: (d) All four

Explanation:

- Pyroclastic debris, ash and dust, and sulphur compounds are products of volcanic eruptions. Nitrogen compounds are not typically products of volcanic eruptions however Nitrogen compounds, like nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide, can be indirectly affected by volcanic emissions through chemical reactions in the atmosphere.

Reference: [ClearIAS- Volcanoes: Everything You Need To Know](#)

4. Which of the following is/are correct inference/inferences from isothermal maps in the month of January?

1. The isotherms deviate to the north over the continent.
2. The presence of cold ocean currents, Gulf Stream and North Atlantic Ocean colder and the isotherms bend toward the north.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 or 2

Answer: 1 only

Explanation:

- The isotherms deviate to the north over the continent during January due to the presence of warmer land temperatures compared to the surrounding oceans. The second statement is incorrect because the Gulf Stream and North Atlantic Drift make the adjacent areas warmer, not colder.

Reference- [ClearIAS- Distribution of Temperature in the Earth's Atmosphere](#)

5. Which of the following countries are well known as the two largest cocoa producers in the world?

- (a) Algeria and Morocco
- (b) Botswana and Namibia

- (c) Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana
(d) Madagascar and Mozambique

Answer: Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana

Explanation:

- Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana are the two largest cocoa producers in the world, accounting for a significant portion of the global cocoa supply.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Cocoa Cultivation](#)

6. With reference to the Himalayan rivers joining Ganga downstream of Prayagraj from West to East, which one of the following sequences is correct?
- (a) Ghaghara — Gomati — Gandak — Kosi
(b) Gomati — Ghaghara — Gandak — Kosi
(c) Ghaghara — Gomati — Kosi — Gandak
(d) Gomati — Ghaghara — Kosi — Gandak

Answer: (b) Gomati - Ghaghara - Gandak - Kosi

Explanation:

- The correct sequence of Himalayan rivers joining the Ganga downstream of Prayagraj from West to East is: (b) Gomati - Ghaghara - Gandak - Kosi.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Major river systems in India](#)

7. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

Rainfall is one of the reasons for the weathering of rocks.

Statement II:

Rainwater contains carbon dioxide in solution.

Statement III:

Rainwater contains atmospheric oxygen.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
(b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct, but only one of them explains Statement I
(c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
(d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Answer: (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I

Explanation:

- Both statements II and III are correct because rainwater does contain carbon dioxide in solution (which forms carbonic acid, contributing to chemical weathering) and atmospheric oxygen. Both these factors contribute to the weathering of rocks.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Exogenic Forces: Classification](#)

8. Consider the following countries:

1. Finland
2. Germany
3. Norway
4. Russia

How many of the above countries have a border with the North Sea?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three

(d) All four

Answer: Only two

Explanation:

- Germany and Norway have coastlines along the North Sea. Finland and Russia do not have borders with the North Sea.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Marginal seas of the world](#)

9. Consider the following information:

	Waterfall	Region	River
1.	Dhuandhar	Malwa	Narmada
2.	Hundru	Chota Nagpur	Subarnarekha
3.	Gersoppa	Western Ghats	Netravati

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- Dhuandhar Falls on the Narmada River is not associated with the Malwa region.
- Hundru Falls on the Subarnarekha River is correctly matched with the Chota Nagpur Plateau.
- Gersoppa Falls, also known as Jog Falls, is actually on the Sharavathi River, not the Netravati, and is located in the Western Ghats.

10. Consider the following information:

	Region	Name of the mountain range	Type of mountain
1.	Central Asia	Vosges	Fold mountain
2.	Europe	Alps	Block mountain
3.	North America	Appalachians	Fold mountain
4.	South America	Andes	Fold mountain

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Answer: Only two

Explanation:

- The Vosges in Central Asia is incorrectly listed as it is located in Europe and is a block mountain.
- The Alps in Europe are fold mountains, not block mountains.
- The Appalachians in North America are correctly listed as fold mountains.
- The Andes in South America are correctly listed as fold mountains.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Mountains](#)

11. Consider the airports:

1. Donya Polo Airport
2. Kushinagar International Airport
3. Vijayawada International Airport

In the recent past, which of the above have been constructed as Greenfield projects?

- (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:

- Donya Polo Airport (Itanagar) and Kushinagar International Airport have been constructed as Greenfield projects.
- Vijayawada International Airport was initially an existing airport and later upgraded to international status.

12. With reference to “water vapour”, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a gas, the amount of which decreases with altitude.
2. Its percentage is maximum at the poles.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct because water vapour is a gas and its concentration decreases with altitude.
- Statement 2 is incorrect because the percentage of water vapour is not maximum at the poles; it is generally higher in tropical and equatorial regions.

Reference: [ClearIAS: Water In The Atmosphere: Composition and Structure](#)

13. Consider the following description:

1. Annual and daily range of temperatures is low.
2. Precipitation occurs throughout the year.
3. Precipitation varies between 50 cm - 250 cm.

What is this type of climate?

- (a) Equatorial climate
- (b) China type climate
- (c) Humid subtropical climate
- (d) Marine West Coast climate

Answer: (d) Marine West Coast climate

Explanation:

- The Marine West Coast climate is characterized by low annual and daily temperature ranges, precipitation throughout the year, and precipitation levels between 50 cm - and 250 cm.

Reference- [ClearIAS: World Climate: Types and its Characteristics](#)

14. With reference to “Coriolis force”, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It increases with an increase in wind velocity.
2. It is maximum at the poles and is absent at the equator.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct because the Coriolis force increases with an increase in wind velocity.
- Statement 2 is correct because the Coriolis force is maximum at the poles and absent at the equator.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Winds: Classification and types](#)

15. On June 21 every year, which of the following latitude(s) experiences (s) sunlight of more than 12 hours?

1. Equator
2. Tropic of Cancer
3. Tropic of Capricorn
4. Arctic Circle

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d) 2 and 4

Explanation:

- On June 21, the Tropic of Cancer experiences the longest day of the year (summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere), with more than 12 hours of sunlight.
- The Arctic Circle also experiences continuous daylight (midnight sun) on this date, resulting in more than 12 hours of sunlight.
- The Equator experiences approximately 12 hours of daylight year-round, and the Tropic of Capricorn experiences shorter days on this date.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Solstice and Equinox](#)

16. One of the following regions has the world's largest tropical peatland, which holds about three years worth of global carbon emissions from fossil fuels; and the possible destruction of which can exert a detrimental effect on the global climate. Which one of the following denotes that region?

- (a) Amazon Basin
- (b) Congo Basin
- (c) Kikori Basin
- (d) Rio de la Plata Basin

Answer: (b) Congo Basin

Explanation:

- The Congo Basin is known to have the world's largest tropical peatland, which contains significant amounts of carbon. Its destruction could release large quantities of carbon into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Peatlands](#)

17. With reference to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that are used in making many consumer products, consider the following statements:

1. PFAS are found to be widespread in drinking water, food, and food packaging materials.
2. PFAS are not easily degraded in the environment.
3. Persistent exposure to PFAS can lead to bioaccumulation in animal bodies.

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:

- All three statements are correct:
- PFAS are indeed widespread in drinking water, food, and food packaging materials.
- They are known for their persistence and are not easily degraded in the environment.
- Persistent exposure can lead to bioaccumulation in animal bodies, including humans.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Forever Chemicals: What are PFAS?](#)

18. Consider the following:

1. Carabid beetles
2. Centipedes
3. Flies
4. Termites
5. Wasps

Parasitoid species are found in how many of the above kinds of organisms?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All five

Answer: (b) Only three

Explanation:

- Parasitoid species are typically found in flies (e.g., tachinid flies), beetles (some carabid beetles), and wasps (e.g., many wasp species are parasitoids). However, centipedes and termites are not commonly known to have parasitoid species.

19. Consider the following plants:

1. Groundnut
2. Horse-gram
3. Soybean

How many of the above belong to the pea family?

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

Answer: (c) Only three

Explanation:

- All three plants, groundnut (peanut), horse-gram, and soybean, belong to the pea family (Fabaceae or Leguminosae).

20. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

The Indian Flying Fox is placed under the “vermin” category in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Statement II:

The Indian Flying Fox feeds on the blood of other animals.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Answer: (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect

Explanation:

- Statement I is correct as the Indian Flying Fox has been classified as vermin in some parts of India, allowing for control measures due to their perceived impact on fruit crops.
- Statement II is incorrect because the Indian Flying Fox is a frugivore and feeds primarily on fruits, nectar, and flowers, not on the blood of other animals.

21. The organisms “Cicada, Frog hopper, and Pond skater” are:

- (a) Birds
- (b) Fish
- (c) Insects
- (d) Reptiles

Answer: (c) Insects

Explanation:

- Cicada, Frog hopper, and Pond skater are all types of insects.

22. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

Many chewing gums found in the market are considered a source of environmental pollution.

Statement II:

Many chewing gums contain plastic as gum base.

Which of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I.
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Answer: (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I

Explanation:

- Both statements are correct. Many chewing gums contain plastic in their gum base, which does not biodegrade and thus contributes to environmental pollution. Statement II explains why Statement I is true.

23. Consider the following pairs:

	Country	Animal found in its natural habitat
1.	Brazil	Indri
2.	Indonesia	Elk
3.	Madagascar	Bonobo

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (d) None

Explanation:

- The Indri is native to Madagascar, not Brazil.
- Elk are found in North America and parts of Europe and Asia, not Indonesia.
- Bonobos are found in the Democratic Republic of Congo, not Madagascar.

24. Consider the following statements regarding World Toilet Organization:

Statement I:

It is one of the agencies of the United Nations.

Statement II:

World Toilet Summit, World Toilet Day, and World Toilet College are the initiatives of this organization, to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.

Statement III:

The main focus of its function is to grant funds to the least developed countries and developing countries to achieve the end of open defecation.

Which of the statements given below is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement I is incorrect because the World Toilet Organization is not an agency of the United Nations; it is an independent non-profit organization.
- Statement II is correct. The World Toilet Summit, World Toilet Day, and World Toilet College are initiatives of the World Toilet Organization.
- Statement III is incorrect because the main focus of the World Toilet Organization is advocacy, education, and collaboration to improve global sanitation, not primarily granting funds.

25. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

Lions do not have a particular breeding season.

Statement II:

Unlike most other big cats, cheetahs do not roar.

Statement III:

Unlike male lions, male leopards do not proclaim their territory by scent marking.

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 I is correct. Lions do not have a specific breeding season and can breed throughout the year.
- Statement II is correct. Cheetahs do not roar; they make other vocalizations such as chirps and purrs.
- Statement III is incorrect. Male leopards do scent mark their territory, similar to male lions.

26. Which one of the following is the correct description of "100 Million Farmers"?

- (a) It is a platform for accelerating the transition towards food and water systems that are net-zero (carbon), nature-positive and that aims to increase farmer resilience.
- (b) It is an international alliance and a network of individuals and farming organizations interested in supporting and strengthening the development of organic animal husbandry.
- (c) It is a digital platform fully integrated with service providers and built on blockchain that lets buyers, sellers and third parties trade fertilizers quickly and securely.
- (d) It is a platform with a mission of encouraging the farmers to form Farmer Product Organisations or Agribusiness Consortiums, thus facilitating the access to global open markets to sell their products.

Answer: (a) It is a platform for accelerating the transition towards food and water systems that are net-zero (carbon), nature-positive and that aims to increase farmer resilience.

Explanation:

- The "100 Million Farmers" initiative is designed to accelerate the transition to sustainable food and water systems, focusing on reducing carbon emissions, promoting nature-positive practices, and increasing farmer resilience.

27. Consider the following:

1. Battery storage
2. Biomass generators
3. Fuel cells
4. Rooftop solar photovoltaic units

How many of the above are considered "Distributed Energy Resources"?

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

Answer: (d) All four

Explanation:

- Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) include small-scale units of local generation connected to the grid at distribution level. Battery storage, biomass generators, fuel cells, and rooftop solar photovoltaic units are all considered DERs.

28. Which one of the following shows a unique relationship with an insect that has coevolved with it and that is the only insect that can pollinate this tree?

- (a) Fig
- (b) Mahua
- (c) Sandalwood
- (d) Silk cotton

Answer: (a) Fig

Explanation:

- The fig tree has a unique coevolutionary relationship with fig wasps, which are the only insects that can pollinate fig trees. This mutualistic relationship is highly specialized.

29. Consider the following:

- 1. Butterflies
- 2. Fish
- 3. Frogs

How many of the above have poisonous species among them?

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

Answer: (c) All three

Explanation:

- Some butterflies have toxic substances to deter predators.
- Certain fish, like pufferfish, contain potent toxins.
- Many frog species, such as poison dart frogs, are known for their toxic skin.

30. Consider the following:

- 1. Cashew
- 2. Papaya
- 3. Red sanders

How many of the trees are actually native to India?

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

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- Cashew: Native to Brazil and was introduced to India by the Portuguese.
- Papaya: Native to Central America and southern Mexico, introduced to India.
- Red Sanders: Native to India, specifically to the southern parts such as Andhra Pradesh.

31. With reference to radioisotope thermoelectric generators (RTGs), consider the following statements:

- 1. RTGs are miniature fission reactors.
- 2. RTGs are used for powering the onboard system of spacecrafts.
- 3. RTGs can use Plutonium-238, which is a by-product of weapons development.

Which of the statements given below are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect because RTGs are not miniature fission reactors; they use the decay of radioactive isotopes (not fission reactions) to generate electricity.
- Statement 2 is correct as RTGs are commonly used to power the onboard systems of spacecraft, especially those sent to deep space where solar power is not feasible.
- Statement 3 is correct because Plutonium-238, which is used in RTGs, can be a by-product of nuclear reactors and weapons development.

32. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

Giant stars live much longer than dwarf stars.

Statement II:

Compared to the dwarf stars, giant stars have a greater rate of nuclear reactions.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Answer: (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Explanation:

- Statement I is incorrect because giant stars actually have shorter lifespans than dwarf stars due to their faster rate of nuclear reactions.
- Statement II is correct as giant stars have a greater rate of nuclear reactions compared to dwarf stars.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Life Cycle of a Star](#)

33. Which one of the following is synthesized in the human body that dilates blood vessels and increases blood flow?

- (a) Nitric oxide
- (b) Nitrous oxide
- (c) Nitrogen oxide
- (d) Nitrogen pentoxide

Answer: (a) Nitric oxide

Explanation:

- Nitric oxide (NO) is synthesized in the human body and acts as a vasodilator, meaning it helps to dilate blood vessels and increase blood flow.

34. Consider the following activities:

1. Identification of narcotics on passengers at airports or in aircraft
2. Monitoring of precipitation
3. Tracking of precipitation
4. Tracking the migration of animals

In how many of the above activities can radars be used?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- Radars can be used for monitoring and tracking precipitation.
- Radars are not typically used for the identification of narcotics on passengers or for tracking the migration of animals.

35. Consider the following aircraft:

1. Rafael
2. MiG-29
3. Tejas MK-1

How many of the above are considered fifth-generation fighter aircraft?

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

Answer: (d) None

Explanation:

- Rafael (Rafale) is a 4.5 generation fighter aircraft.
- MiG-29 is a 4th generation fighter aircraft.
- Tejas MK-1 is a 4th generation fighter aircraft.
- None of these aircraft are classified as fifth-generation fighter aircraft.

Reference- [ClearIAS: The Indian Air Force](#)

36. In which of the following are hydrogels used?

1. Controlled drug delivery in patients
2. Mobile air-conditioning systems
3. Preparation of industrial lubricants

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- Hydrogels are used in controlled drug delivery systems due to their ability to absorb and release drugs in a controlled manner.
- Hydrogels can be used in mobile air-conditioning systems as desiccants to control humidity.
- Hydrogels are also used in the preparation of industrial lubricants due to their water retention properties and ability to reduce friction.

37. Which of the following is the exhaust pipe emission from Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles, powered by hydrogen?

- (a) Hydrogen peroxide
- (b) Hydronium
- (c) Oxygen
- (d) Water vapour

Answer: (d) Water vapour

Explanation:

- Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEVs) powered by hydrogen emit only water vapor as a by-product, making them environmentally friendly.

Reference: [ClearIAS: Green Hydrogen](#)

38. Recently the term “pumped-storage hydropower” is actually and appropriately discussed in the context of which one of the following?

- (a) Irrigation of terraced crop fields
- (b) Lift irrigation of cereal crops
- (c) Long duration energy storage
- (d) Rainwater harvesting system

Answer: (c) Long duration energy storage

Explanation:

- Pumped-storage hydropower is used for long-duration energy storage by pumping water to a higher elevation during low demand periods and releasing it to generate electricity during high demand periods.

39. “Membrane Bioreactors” are often discussed in the context of:

- (a) Assisted reproductive technologies
- (b) Drug delivery nanotechnologies
- (c) Vaccine production technologies
- (d) Wastewater treatment technologies

Answer: (d) Wastewater treatment technologies

Explanation:

- Membrane Bioreactors (MBRs) are advanced wastewater treatment systems that combine biological treatment with membrane filtration to efficiently remove contaminants from wastewater.

40. With reference to the Indian economy, “Collateral Borrowing and Lending Obligations” are the instruments of:

- (a) Bond market
- (b) Forex market
- (c) Money market
- (d) Stock market

Answer: (c) Money market

Explanation:

- Collateral Borrowing and Lending Obligations (CBLO) are money market instruments used in the Indian financial system for short-term borrowing and lending, typically overnight, backed by collateral.

41. The total fertility rate in an economy is defined as:

- (a) The number of children born per 1000 people in the population in a year.
- (b) The number of children born to a couple in their lifetime in a given population.
- (c) The birth rate minus death rate.
- (d) The average number of live births a woman would have by the end of her child-bearing age.

Answer: (d) The average number of live births a woman would have by the end of her child-bearing age.

Explanation:

- The total fertility rate (TFR) is defined as the average number of live births a woman would have by the end of her child-bearing age, typically considered to be between 15 and 49 years old.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Fertility Rate in India: Reasons for Decline](#)

42. Consider the following statements:

1. In India, Non-Banking Financial Companies can access the Liquidity Adjustment Facility window of the Reserve Bank of India.
2. In India, Foreign Institutional Investors can hold Government Securities (G-Secs).
3. In India, Stock Exchanges can offer separate platforms for debts.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect because Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in India generally do not have access to the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) window of the Reserve Bank of India.
- Statement 2 is correct. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) can hold Government Securities (G-Secs) in India.
- Statement 3 is correct. Stock Exchanges in India can offer separate platforms for debt instruments.

Reference: [ClearIAS: Indian Financial System](#)

43. In India, which of the following can trade in Corporate Bonds and Government Securities?

1. Insurance Companies
2. Pension Funds
3. Retail Investors

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- Insurance Companies, Pension Funds, and Retail Investors can all trade in Corporate Bonds and Government Securities in India.

Reference- [Clear IAS: Government Securities Market](#)

44. Consider the following:

1. Exchange-Traded Funds (ETF)
2. Motor vehicles
3. Currency swap

Which of the above is/are considered financial instruments?

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

Answer: (d) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) and Currency swaps are considered financial instruments.
- Motor vehicles are not financial instruments; they are physical assets.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Financial Market: Money Market and Capital Market](#)

45. With reference to the sectors of the Indian economy, consider the following pairs:

	Economic activity	Sector
1.	Storage of agricultural produce	Secondary
2.	Dairy farm	Primary
3.	Mineral extraction	Tertiary
4.	Weaving cloth	Secondary

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- Pair 1 is incorrect. Storage of agricultural produce is considered part of the Tertiary sector (services).
- Pair 2 is correct. A Dairy farm is part of the Primary sector (agriculture and allied activities).
- Pair 3 is incorrect. Mineral extraction is part of the Primary sector.
- Pair 4 is correct. Weaving cloth is part of the Secondary sector (manufacturing).

Reference- [ClearIAS: Sectors of the Economy: Primary, Secondary, Tertiary, Quaternary and Quinary](#)

46. Consider the following materials:

1. Agricultural residues
2. Corn grain
3. Wastewater treatment sludge
4. Wood mill waste

Which of the above can be used as feedstock for producing Sustainable Aviation Fuel?

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

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

Explanation:

- All the listed materials—agricultural residues, corn grain, wastewater treatment sludge, and wood mill waste—can be used as feedstock for producing Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).

47. With reference to physical capital in the Indian economy, consider the following pairs:

	Items	Category
1.	Farmer's plow	Working capital
2.	Computer	Fixed capital
3.	Yarn used by the weaver	Fixed capital
4.	Petrol	Working capital

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- Pair 1 is incorrect. A farmer's plough is considered fixed capital because it is a long-term asset.
- Pair 2 is correct. A computer is considered fixed capital as it is a long-term asset used in production.
- Pair 3 is incorrect. Yarn used by the weaver is considered working capital as it is a consumable item used in production.
- Pair 4 is correct. Petrol is considered working capital as it is consumed in the process of production.
- Possible Sources: Economics textbooks on physical capital.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Factors of Production](#)

48. Which one of the following words/phrases is most appropriately used to denote “an interoperable network of 3D virtual worlds that can be accessed simultaneously by millions of users, who can exert property rights over virtual items”?
- (a) Big data analytics
 - (b) Cryptography
 - (c) Metaverse
 - (d) Virtual matrix

Answer: (c) Metaverse

Explanation:

- The term "metaverse" refers to an interoperable network of 3D virtual worlds that can be accessed simultaneously by millions of users, who can exert property rights over virtual items.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Metaverse – Explained in layman’s terms](#)

49. With reference to the rule/rules imposed by the Reserve Bank of India treating foreign banks, consider the following statements:
1. There is no minimum capital requirement for wholly owned banking subsidiaries in India.
 2. For wholly owned banking subsidiaries in India, at least 50% of the board members should be Indian nationals.
- 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: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect. There is a minimum capital requirement for wholly owned banking subsidiaries in India.
- Statement 2 is correct. RBI regulations require that at least 50% of the board members of wholly owned banking subsidiaries in India should be Indian nationals.

Reference: [ClearIAS: Indian Financial System](#)

50. With reference to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) rules in India, consider the following statements:

1. CSR rules specify that expenditures that benefit the company directly or its employees will not be considered as CSR activities.
2. CSR rules do not specify minimum rights over virtual items spending on CSR activities.

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: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. CSR rules in India specify that expenditures that benefit the company directly or its employees will not be considered as CSR activities.
- Statement 2 is incorrect and irrelevant. CSR rules do not address "rights over virtual items" as it is not pertinent to CSR activities.

Reference- [ClearIAS: CSR: Corporate Social Responsibility](#)

51. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

If the United States of America (USA) were to default on its debt, holders of US Treasury Bonds will not be able to exercise their claims to receive payment.

Statement II:

The US government debt is not backed by any hard assets, but only by the faith of the Government.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Answer: (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I

Explanation:

- Statement I is correct because if the USA were to default on its debt, holders of US Treasury Bonds would indeed face challenges in exercising their claims to receive payment.
- Statement II is correct and explains Statement I because US government debt is not backed by hard assets but by the full faith and credit of the US government. If that faith were to be compromised by a default, the ability to claim payments would be impacted. Possible

52. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

Syndicated lending spreads the risk of borrower default across multiple lenders.

Statement II:

The syndicated loan can be a fixed amount/lump sum of funds, but cannot be a credit line.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Answer: (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect

Explanation:

- Statement I is correct. Syndicated lending indeed spreads the risk of borrower default across multiple lenders.
- Statement II is incorrect. Syndicated loans can be structured as either a fixed amount/lump sum or a revolving credit line.

53. Consider the following statements in respect of the digital rupee:

1. It is a sovereign currency issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in alignment with its monetary policy.
2. It appears as a liability on the RBI's balance sheet.
3. It is insured against inflation by its very design.
4. It is freely convertible against commercial bank money and cash.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 4

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. The digital rupee is a sovereign currency issued by the RBI.
- Statement 2 is correct. It appears as a liability on the RBI's balance sheet.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The digital rupee, like any currency, is not inherently insured against inflation.
- Statement 4 is correct. It is freely convertible against commercial bank money and cash.

Reference- [ClearIAS: e-RUPI: Digital Payment Instrument](#)

54. With reference to ancient India, Gautama Buddha was generally known by which of the following epithets?

1. Nayaputta
2. Shakyamuni
3. Tathagata

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None of the above are epithets of Gautama Buddha

Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Shakyamuni and Tathagata are common epithets for Gautama Buddha.
- Nayaputta is not an epithet for Gautama Buddha; it refers to Mahavira, the founder of Jainism.

55. Consider the following information:

	Archaeological Site	State	Description
1.	Chandraketugarh	Odisha	Trading Port town
2.	Inamgaon	Maharashtra	Chalcolithic Site
3.	Mangadu	Kerala	Megalithic site
4.	Salihundam	Andhra Pradesh	Rock-cut cave shrines

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b) 2 and 3

Explanation:

- Inamgaon in Maharashtra is correctly identified as a Chalcolithic site.
- Mangadu is a village in Kollam District in Kerala. The megalithic monuments at Mangadu consisted of 28 hard compact and unhewn laterite blocks within an area of 5 cents of land.
- Chandraketugarh is in West Bengal, not Odisha.
- Salihundam in Andhra Pradesh is known for Buddhist stupas, not rock-cut cave shrines.

56. Who of the following rulers of medieval India gave permission to the Portuguese to build a fort at Bhatkal?

- (a) Krishnadevaraya
- (b) Narasimha Saluva
- (c) Muhammad Shah III
- (d) Yusuf Adil Shah

Answer: (a) Krishnadevaraya

Explanation:

- Emperor Krishnadevaraya allowed the Portuguese to build a fort at Bhatkal in 1510, but little of it survives today.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Vijayanagara Kingdom](#)

57. With reference to revenue collection by Cornwallis, consider the following statements:

1. Under the Ryotwari Settlement of revenue collection, the peasants were exempted from revenue payment in case of bad harvests or natural calamities.
2. Under the Permanent Settlement in Bengal, if the Zamindar failed to pay his revenues to the state, on or before the

fixed date, he would be removed from his Zamindari.

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: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Under the Ryotwari system, individual farmers (ryots) paid taxes directly to the government. There were no explicit exemptions for bad harvests or natural calamities.
- Statement 2 is correct. Under the Permanent Settlement, if the Zamindar failed to pay his revenue to the state on time, he could lose his zamindari rights.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Land Revenue Systems in British India: Zamindari, Ryotwari and Mahalwari](#)

58. Consider the following statements:

1. There are no parables in Upanishads.
2. Upanishads were composed earlier than the Puranas.

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: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Upanishads do contain parables and stories used to illustrate philosophical concepts.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Upanishads were composed earlier than the Puranas.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Ancient Indian Literature](#)

59. Consider the following statements:

1. India is a member of the International Grains Council.
2. A country needs to be a member of the International Grains Council for exporting or importing rice and wheat.

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: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. India is a member of the International Grains Council.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Membership in the International Grains Council is not a requirement for exporting or importing rice and wheat.

60. Which one of the following was the latest inclusion in the Intangible Cultural Heritage List of UNESCO?

- (a) Chhau dance
- (b) Durga Puja
- (c) Garba dance

(d) Kumbh Mela

Answer: (c) Garba dance

Explanation:

- Garba Dance is the latest one which was included on 8th December 2023.

Reference- [ClearIAS: UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage \(ICH\)](#)

61. Who was the Provisional President of the Constituent Assembly before Dr. Rajendra Prasad took over?

- (a) C.C. Rajagopalachari
- (b) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- (c) T.T. Krishnamachari
- (d) Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha

Answer: (d) Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha

Explanation:

- Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha was the Provisional President of the Constituent Assembly before Dr. Rajendra Prasad took over as the permanent President.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Historical Background of Indian Constitution](#)

62. With reference to the Government of India Act, 1935, consider the following statements:

1. It provided for the establishment of an All India Federation based on the union of the British Indian Provinces and Princely States.
2. Defence and Foreign Affairs were kept under the control of the federal legislature.

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: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. The Government of India Act, 1935, provided for the establishment of an All India Federation, which was to include both British Indian provinces and princely states.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Defence and Foreign Affairs were kept under the control of the British government, not the federal legislature.

Reference- [ClearIAS: GoI Act 1935: Features and Limitations](#)

63. Which one of the following is a work attributed to playwright Bhasa?

- (a) Kavyalankara
- (b) Natyashastra
- (c) Madhyama-vyayoga
- (d) Mahabhashya

Answer: (c) Madhyama-vyayoga

Explanation:

- Madhyama-vyayoga is one of the plays attributed to the ancient Indian playwright Bhasa.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Sanskrit Literature](#)

64. Sanghabhuti, an Indian Buddhist monk, who travelled to China at the end of the fourth century AD, was the author of a commentary on:

- (a) Prajnaparamita Sutra
- (b) Visuddhimagga
- (c) Sarvastivada Vinaya

(d) Lalitavistara

Answer: (c) Sarvastivada Vinaya

Explanation:

- Sanghabhuti, an Indian Buddhist monk who traveled to China in the late 4th century AD, authored a commentary on the Sarvastivada Vinaya.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Important Buddhist terminologies](#)

65. Consider the following properties included in the World Heritage List released by UNESCO:

1. Shantiniketan
2. Rani ki Vav
3. Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas
4. Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhgaya

How many of the above properties were included in 2023?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- In 2023, both Shantiniketan and Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas were included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Rani ki Vav and the Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhgaya were included in previous years.

Reference- [ClearIAS: UNESCO's World Heritage Sites: Names from India](#)

66. As per Article 368 of the Constitution of India, the Parliament may amend any provision of the Constitution by way of:

1. Addition
2. Variation
3. Repeal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- Article 368 of the Indian Constitution allows the Parliament to amend the Constitution by addition, variation, or repeal of any provision.

Reference- [Amendments of Indian Constitution - ClearIAS](#)

67. Consider the following countries:

1. Italy
2. Japan
3. Nigeria
4. South Korea
5. South Africa

Which of the above countries are frequently mentioned in the media for their low birth rates, ageing of population, or declining population?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 4

Explanation:

- Italy, Japan, and South Korea are frequently mentioned for their low birth rates and ageing populations. Nigeria and South Africa do not face the same demographic issues.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Ageing India: Concerns, Concepts and Government Schemes](#)

68. Which of the following statements is correct in respect of a Money Bill in the Parliament?

1. Article 109 mentions a special procedure in respect of Money Bills.
2. A Money Bill shall not be introduced in the Council of States.
3. The Rajya Sabha can either approve the Bill or suggest changes but cannot reject it.
4. Amendments to a Money Bill suggested by the Rajya Sabha have to be accepted by the Lok Sabha.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. Article 109 of the Indian Constitution mentions the special procedure for Money Bills.

- Statement 2 is correct. A Money Bill cannot be introduced in the Rajya Sabha (Council of States).
- Statement 3 is correct. The Rajya Sabha can suggest changes to a Money Bill but cannot reject it.
- Statement 4 is incorrect. The Lok Sabha is not required to accept the amendments suggested by the Rajya Sabha.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Bills and Procedures in the Parliament](#)

69. Which one of the following is/are correctly matched in terms of equivalent rank in the three services of Indian Defence forces?

	Army	Airforce	Navy
1.	Brigadier	Air Commodore	Commander
2.	Major General	Air Vice Marshal	Vice Admiral
3.	Major	Squadron Leader	Lieutenant Commander
4.	Lieutenant Colonel	Group Captain	Captain

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d) 3 only

Explanation:

- Brigadier in the Army is equivalent to Air Commodore in the Airforce and Commodore in the Navy, not Commander.
- Major General in the Army is equivalent to Air Vice Marshal in the Airforce and Rear Admiral in the Navy, not Vice Admiral.
- Major in the Army is equivalent to Squadron Leader in the Airforce and Lieutenant Commander in the Navy.
- Lieutenant Colonel in the Army is equivalent to Wing Commander in the Airforce and Commander in the Navy, not Group Captain.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Defense Forces and Paramilitary Forces of India](#)

70. The North Eastern Council (NEC) was established by the North Eastern Council Act, 1971. Subsequent to the amendment of NEC Act in 2002, the Council comprises which of the following members?

1. Governor of the Constituent State
2. Chief Minister of the Constituent State
3. Three Members to be nominated by the President of India
4. The Home Minister of India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- members of the North Eastern Council (NEC) include Governors and Chief Ministers of the

eight constituent states of Northeast India, along with three members nominated by the President of India.

71. How many Delimitation Commissions have been constituted by the Government of India till December 2023?
- One
 - Two
 - Three
 - Four

Answer: (d) Four

Explanation:

- The Government of India has constituted four Delimitation Commissions till December 2023. These were established in the years 1952, 1963, 1973, and 2002.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Delimitation Commission](#)

72. The Constitution (71st Amendment) Act, 1992 amends the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution to include which of the following languages?
- Konkani
 - Manipuri
 - Nepali
 - Maithili

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1, 2 and 3
- 1, 2 and 4
- 1, 3 and 4
- 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- The Constitution (71st Amendment) Act, 1992 included Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali in the

Eighth Schedule. Maithili was added later by the 92nd Amendment Act, 2003.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Schedules of the Indian Constitution](#)

73. Party - Its Leader:
- Bharatiya Jana Sangh - Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
 - Socialist Party - C. Rajagopalachari
 - Congress for Democracy - Jagjivan Ram
 - Swatantra Party - Acharya Narendra Dev

How many of the above are correctly matched?

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- All four

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- Bharatiya Jana Sangh was led by Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee (correct).
- Socialist Party was not led by C. Rajagopalachari; he was associated with the Swatantra Party.
- Congress for Democracy was indeed led by Jagjivan Ram (correct).
- Swatantra Party was led by C. Rajagopalachari, not Acharya Narendra Dev.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Political Parties in India](#)

74. Which of the following statements are correct about the Constitution of India?
- Powers of the Municipalities are given in Part IX A of the Constitution

2. Emergency provisions are given in Part XVIII of the Constitution
3. Provisions related to the amendment of the Constitution are given in Part XX of the Constitution.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- Powers of the Municipalities are indeed given in Part IX A of the Constitution.
- Emergency provisions are provided in Part XVIII of the Constitution.
- Provisions related to the amendment of the Constitution are found in Part XX.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Indian Constitution Parts vs Corresponding Articles](#)

75. Which one of the following statements is correct as per the Constitution of India?
- (a) Inter-State trade and commerce is a State subject under the State List.
 - (b) Inter-State migration is a State subject under the State List.
 - (c) Inter-State quarantine is a Union subject under the Union List.
 - (d) Corporation tax is a State subject under the State List.

Answer: (c) Inter-State quarantine is a Union subject under the Union List.

Explanation:

- Inter-State trade and commerce is not a State subject; it is regulated by the Union.
- Inter-State migration is also not a State subject.
- Inter-State quarantine is indeed a Union subject under the Union List.
- Corporation tax is a Union subject under the Union List.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Functions and responsibilities of union and the states](#)

76. Under which of the following Articles of the Constitution, has the Supreme Court of India placed the Right to Privacy?
- (a) Article 15
 - (b) Article 16
 - (c) Article 19
 - (d) Article 21

Answer: (d) Article 21

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court of India has placed the Right to Privacy under Article 21, which guarantees the right to life and personal liberty. This was established in the landmark judgment of K.S. Puttaswamy vs. Union of India (2017).

Reference- [ClearIAS: Right to Privacy as a Fundamental Right – Implications of the Verdict](#)

77. What are the duties of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) as Head of the Department of Military Affairs?

1. Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee
2. Exercise military command over the three Service Chiefs
3. Principal Military Advisor to Defence Minister on all tri-service matters

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The CDS is the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.
- The CDS does not exercise military command over the three Service Chiefs.
- The CDS is the Principal Military Advisor to the Defence Minister on all tri-service matters.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Integrated Theatre Commands: All you need to know](#)

78. Operations undertaken by the Army towards upliftment of the local population in remote areas to include addressing their basic needs is called:

- (a) Operation Sankalp

- (b) Operation Maitri
- (c) Operation Sadbhavana
- (d) Operation Madad

Answer: (c) Operation Sadbhavana

Explanation:

- Operation Sadbhavana is undertaken by the Indian Army to uplift the local population in remote areas, including addressing their basic needs.
79. The longest border between any two countries in the world is between:
- (a) Canada and the United States of America
 - (b) Chile and Argentina
 - (c) China and India
 - (d) Kazakhstan and Russian Federation

Answer: (a) Canada and the United States of America

Explanation:

- The longest international border in the world is between Canada and the United States of America, stretching approximately 8,891 kilometers (5,525 miles).

80. Which of the following statements about the Ethics Committee in the Lok Sabha are correct?

1. Initially, it was an ad-hoc Committee.
2. Only a Member of the Lok Sabha can make a complaint relating to unethical conduct of a member of the Lok Sabha.
3. This Committee cannot take up any matter which is sub-judice.

Select the answers using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. Initially, the Ethics Committee in the Lok Sabha was an ad-hoc Committee.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Complaints can be made by anyone, not just a member of the Lok Sabha.
- Statement 3 is correct. The Ethics Committee cannot take up any matter which is sub-judice.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Parliamentary Committees in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha](#)

81. Consider the following statements regarding 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam':
1. Provisions will come into effect from 18th Lok Sabha.
 2. This will be in force for 15 years after becoming an Act.
 3. There are provisions for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes Women within the quota reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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

Answer: (c) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is not correct regarding the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam':
- The provisions will not come into effect from the 18th Lok Sabha.
- The Act will be in force for 15 years after it becomes an Act.
- There are provisions for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes Women within the quota reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Women's Reservation Bill](#)

82. Which of the following statements about 'Exercise Mitra Shakti-2023' are correct?
1. This was a joint military exercise between India and Bangladesh.
 2. It commenced in Aundh (Pune).
 3. Joint response during counter-terrorism operation was a goal of this operation.
 4. Indian Air Force was a part of this exercise.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d) 2, 3 and 4

Explanation:

- Exercise Mitra Shakti-2023 was a joint military exercise between India and Sri Lanka, not Bangladesh (statement 1 is incorrect).

- The exercise commenced in Aundh (Pune).
- The goal included a joint response during counter-terrorism operations.
- The Indian Air Force was part of this exercise.

83. A writ of prohibition is an order issued by the Supreme Court or High Courts to:

- (a) a government officer prohibiting him from taking a particular action.
- (b) the Parliament/Legislative Assembly to pass a law on Prohibition.
- (c) the lower court prohibiting continuation of proceedings in a case.
- (d) the government prohibiting it from following an unconstitutional policy.

Answer: (c) the lower court prohibiting continuation of proceedings in a case

Explanation:

- A writ of prohibition is issued by the Supreme Court or High Courts to a lower court, prohibiting it from continuing with proceedings in a case that is beyond its jurisdiction.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Writs in Indian Constituion](#)

84. Consider the following statements:

1. It is the Governor of the State who recognizes and declares any community of that State as a Scheduled Tribe.
2. A community declared as a Scheduled Tribe in a State need not be so in another State.

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: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect. It is the President of India who declares any community as a Scheduled Tribe, after consulting with the state governor.
- Statement 2 is correct. A community declared as a Scheduled Tribe in one state need not be considered a Scheduled Tribe in another state.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Scheduled Tribes in India – Definition, Criteria, and Full List](#)

85. With reference to the Union Budget, consider the following statements:

1. The Union Finance Minister on behalf of the Prime Minister lays the Annual Financial Statement before both the Houses of Parliament.
2. At the Union level, no demand for a grant can be made except on the recommendation of the President 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: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Union Finance Minister lays the Annual Financial Statement (Union Budget) before both Houses of Parliament on behalf of the President of India, not the Prime Minister.
- Statement 2 is correct. At the Union level, no demand for a grant can be made except on the recommendation of the President of India.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Government Budgeting in India – The Process and Constitutional Requirements](#)

86. Who of the following is the author of the books “The Indian Way” and “Why Bharat Matters”?
- (a) Bhupender Yadav
(b) Nalin Mehta
(c) Shashi Tharoor
(d) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

Answer: (d) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

Explanation:

- Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, the current External Affairs Minister of India, is the author of the books “The Indian Way” and “Why Bharat Matters”.

87. Consider the following pairs:

	Country	Reason for being in the news
1.	Argentina	Worst Economic Crisis

2.	Sudan	War between the country's regular army and paramilitary forces
3.	Turkey	Rescinded its membership of NATO

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
(b) Only two pairs
(c) All three pairs
(d) None of the pairs

Answer: (b) Only two pairs

Explanation:

- Argentina has been in the news for its economic crisis.
- Sudan has been in the news for the war between its regular army and paramilitary forces.
- Turkey has not rescinded its membership of NATO.

88. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

Sumed pipeline is a strategic route for Persian Gulf oil and natural gas shipments to Europe.

Statement II:

Sumed pipeline connects the Red Sea with the Mediterranean Sea.

Which of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I

- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Answer: (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I

Explanation:

- Both statements are correct. The Sumed pipeline, also known as the Suez-Mediterranean pipeline, is a strategic route for transporting oil from the Persian Gulf to Europe.
- It connects the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, providing an alternative route to the Suez Canal for oil shipments.

89. Consider the following statements:

1. The Red Sea receives very little precipitation in any form.
2. No water enters the Red Sea from rivers.

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: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. The Red Sea region receives very little precipitation.
- While the Red Sea does not receive major river inflows like some other seas or oceans, it does receive some freshwater input from small rivers and streams along its coastlines.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Marginal seas of the world](#)

90. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which one of the following is the largest source of Sulphur Dioxide emissions?

- (a) Locomotives using fossil fuels
- (b) Ships using fossil fuels
- (c) Extraction of metals from ores
- (d) Power plants using fossil fuels

Answer: (d) Power plants using fossil fuels

Explanation:

- Power plants that burn fossil fuels, especially coal, are the largest sources of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions. The combustion of fossil fuels in power plants releases a significant amount of sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere.

91. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

There is instability and worsening security situation in the Sahel region.

Statement II:

There have been military takeovers/coups d'état in several countries of the Sahel region in the recent past.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Answer: (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I

Explanation:

- Both statements are correct and interconnected. The instability and worsening security situation in the Sahel region are partly due to recent military takeovers and coups in several countries within this region.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Sahel Region | Mapping | ClearIAS](#)

92. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

India does not import apples from the United States of America.

Statement II:

In India, the law prohibits the import of Genetically Modified food without the approval of the competent authority.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I

- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Answer: (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Explanation:

- Statement I is incorrect. India does import apples from the United States.
- Statement II is correct. Indian law does prohibit the import of genetically modified food without the approval of the competent authority.

93. With reference to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements:

While any resolution for the removal of Speaker of the Lok Sabha is under consideration:

- He/She shall not preside.
- He/She shall not have the right to speak.
- He/She shall not be entitled to vote on the resolution in the first instance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. The Speaker shall not preside while a resolution for his/her removal is under consideration.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The Speaker can speak and vote in the first instance as a member, but not as the presiding officer.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Lok Sabha Speaker](#)

94. With reference to the Indian Parliament, consider the following statements:

1. A bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses on its dissolution.
2. A bill passed by the Lok Sabha and pending in the Rajya Sabha lapses on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.
3. A bill in regard to which the President of India notified his/her intention to summon the Houses to a joint sitting lapse on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 2

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct. A bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses upon its dissolution.
- Statement 2 is correct. A bill passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha lapses on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. If the President has notified a joint sitting, the bill does not lapse on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Bills and Procedures in the Parliament](#)

95. With reference to the Parliament of India, consider the following statements:

1. Prorogation of a House by the President of India does not require the advice of the Council of Ministers.
2. Prorogation of a House is generally done after the House is adjourned sine die but there is no bar to the President of India prorogating the House which is in session.
3. Dissolution of the Lok Sabha is done by the President of India who, save in exceptional circumstances, does so on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c) 2 and 3

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The prorogation of a House by the President of India is generally done on the advice of the Council of Ministers.
- Statement 2 is correct. Prorogation is generally done after the House is adjourned sine die, but the President can prorogue the House even if it is in session.
- Statement 3 is correct. The dissolution of the Lok Sabha is done by the President, usually on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Adjournment, Prorogation, and Dissolution: Know the Difference](#)

96. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

The European Parliament approved The Net-Zero Industry Act recently.

Statement II:

The European Union intends to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 and therefore aims to develop all of its own clean technology by that time.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Answer: (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect

Explanation:

- Statement I is correct. The European Parliament approved The Net-Zero Industry Act recently.
- Statement II is incorrect. The European Union aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, not 2040.

97. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

Recently, Venezuela has achieved a rapid recovery from its economic crisis and succeeded in preventing its people from fleeing/emigrating to other countries.

Statement II:

Venezuela has the world's largest oil reserves. Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Answer: (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Explanation:

- Statement I is incorrect. Venezuela has not achieved a rapid recovery from its economic crisis, and many of its people continue to flee to other countries due to the ongoing economic hardships and political instability.
- Statement II is correct. Venezuela indeed has the world's largest oil reserves.

98. With reference to the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme, consider the following statements:

1. To implement the scheme, the central government provides 100% funding.
2. Under the Scheme, Cadastral Maps are digitised.
3. An initiative has been undertaken to transliterate the Records of Rights from local languages to any of the languages recognized by the Constitution of India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- Statement 1 incorrect. The earlier National Land Records Modernization Programme (NILRMP), approved in 2008 as a centrally Sponsored Scheme, has been revamped as the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) a Central Sector Scheme with 100% Central Government funding with effect from 1st April 2016.
- Statement 2 is correct. The scheme includes the digitisation of Cadastral Maps.
- Statement 3 is correct. There is an initiative to transliterate the Records of Rights from local languages to any of the languages recognized by the Constitution of India.

Reference- [ClearIAS- National Land Records Modernization Programme](#)

99. With reference to the 'Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan', consider the following statements:

1. This scheme guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their second and third trimesters of pregnancy and six months post-delivery health care service in any government health facility.
2. Under this scheme, private sector health care providers of certain specialties can volunteer to provide services at nearby government health facilities.

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: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The scheme guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their second and third trimesters of pregnancy, but it does not explicitly include six months post-delivery health care services.
- Statement 2 is correct. Private sector health care providers of certain specialties can volunteer to provide services at nearby government health facilities under this scheme.

Reference- [ClearIAS: Anemia Mukht Bharat](#)

100, With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. The entry age group for enrolment in the scheme is 21 to 40 years.
2. Age specific contribution shall be made by the beneficiary.
3. Each subscriber under the scheme shall receive a minimum pension of ₹3,000

per month after attaining the age of 60 years.

4. Family pension is applicable to the spouse and unmarried daughters.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The entry age group for enrolment in the PM-SYM scheme is 18 to 40 years.
- Statement 2 is correct. Age-specific contributions are made by the beneficiary.
- Statement 3 is correct. Each subscriber receives a minimum pension of ₹3,000 per month after attaining the age of 60 years.
- Statement 4 is incorrect. Family pension is applicable to the spouse only, not to unmarried daughters.

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