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Q. 1. Consider the following statements with respect to the Vernacular Press Act:

- 1. The Vernacular Press Act was directed only against Indian language newspapers.**
- 2. It was one of the acts of the Lord Ripon's reactionary policies to curb national awakening.**
- 3. Under the Act Magistrate's action against publisher was final and no appeal could be made against it.**
- 4. The Vernacular Press Act continued to haunt freedom of press till Independence.**

Which of the above given statements are correct?

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

Solution (c)

The Vernacular Press Act of 1878, directed only against Indian language newspapers. It was conceived in great secrecy and passed at a single sitting of the Imperial Legislative Council. The Act provided for the confiscation of the printing press, paper and other materials of a newspaper if the Government believed that it was publishing seditious materials and had flouted an official warning. Various public bodies and the Press also campaigned against the Act. Consequently, it was repealed in 1881 by Lord Ripon. It was the act initiated by Lord Lytton.

Q. 2. Consider the following statements related to the economic philosophy of Gandhi and Nehru:

- 1. Gandhi and Nehru had strongly supported the recognition of conflict of classes and put forwarded the theories of trusteeship.**
- 2. Gandhi strongly supported Jawaharlal to organize the Independence for India League and a socialist revision of the economic structure of society.**
- 3. They both supported for the initiation of the large scale industries for economic development.**

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only 1**
- (b) 1 and 2**
- (c) All**
- (d) None**

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Solution (d)

Nehru developed a complex relationship with Gandhiji in terms of their economic approach. He criticized Gandhiji for refusing to recognize the conflict of classes, for preaching harmony among the exploiters and the exploited, and for putting forward the theories of trusteeship by, and conversion of, the capitalists and landlords. In 1928, Jawaharlal joined hands with Bose to organize the Independence for India League to fight for complete independence and 'a socialist revision of the economic structure of society.'

Q. 3. Consider the following statements with respect to the Struggle-Truce-Struggle (S-T-S) strategy in the Indian national movements:

- 1. This strategy states that the mass movements have an inherent tendency to ebb after reaching a certain height.**
- 2. It states that the freedom struggle would pass through several stages ending with the transfer of power by the colonial regime itself.**
- 3. It was designed to suit the multi-class mass movement against the colonial state.**
- 4. Gandhi, Patel and Jawaharlal Nehru were the main architect of this process.**

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

Solution (a)

The entire political process of S-T-S was based on the assumption that the freedom struggle would pass through several stages ending with the transfer of power by the colonial regime itself. Jawaharlal also challenged the basic Gandhian strategy of struggle. Under the Gandhian strategy of Struggle - Truce - Struggle (S-T-S'), phases of a vigorous extra-legal mass movement and confrontation with colonial authority and peaceful reconstruction alternate. The entire political process of S-T-S' was an upward spiraling one, which also assumed that the freedom struggle would pass through several stages, ending with the transfer of power by the colonial regime itself. Nehru also attacked the notion of winning freedom through stages. Thus, to S-T-S' he counterposed the strategy of S-V ('V' standing for victory) or the permanent waging of mass struggle till victory was won.

4. Which of the following were the reasons for moderates not taking up of working class causes?

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1. Apprehensions of division of national movement.
2. Fear of loss of competitiveness of Indian owned industries.
3. Threat of Russia led communist attack.
4. Absence of faith in masses.

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

Solution (c)

Following were the reasons for moderates not taking up of working class causes:

- *Apprehensions of division of national movement*
- *Fear of loss of competitiveness of Indian owned industries*
- *Absence of faith in masses*
- *Threat of Russia led communist attack was not a factor in this.*

Q. 5. Lord Metcalf is known as the liberator of press in India. Which of the following act/regulation was repealed by him?

- (a) Press Act of 1835.
(b) Vernacular Press Act.
(c) Licensing Regulations, 1823
(d) Licensing Act of 1857

Solution (c)

Lord Metcalf is known as the liberator of press in India because he repealed obnoxious Licensing Regulations of 1823 which made starting a newspaper without license a penal offence.

Q. 6. Which of the following statements related to different departments at the centre is/are correct?

1. Department of Economic Affairs is responsible for preparing Budget and Economic Survey.
2. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion is responsible for formulation of both FDI policy and IPR Policy.

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3. Department of Revenue formulates foreign trade policy in India.

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

Solution (a)

Department of Revenue deals with direct and indirect taxes. Trade Policy is the task of Department of Commerce.

Q. 7. Which of the following statements is/are true about different types of unemployment?

- 1. Agro-based industries are susceptible to seasonal unemployment.
- 2. Disguised unemployment is where marginal productivity of labour is exactly or almost zero.
- 3. In frictional unemployment people are in the process of moving from one job to another.

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

Solution (d)

Another type of unemployment is structural unemployment when industrial reorganization is taking place, typically due to technological change, rather than fluctuations in supply or demand.

Q. 8. Which of the following statements is/are true about Gini coefficient?

- (a) It helps in identifying ratio of people living below poverty line.
- (b) Gini coefficient is higher in rich countries than in poor countries.
- (c) Higher gini coefficient indicates the failure of re-distributive policies of the state.
- (d) All of the above.

Solution (d)

As it shows proportion of people in each income level, hence one can easily calculate the percentage of people living below a particular income level. Rich countries have wide

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variance income distribution among its citizens as compared to poor countries, hence they have higher gini coefficient. If redistribution of wealth and opportunities had taken place, everyone would have almost similar income levels.

Q. 9. Which of the following indicate(s) 'Ease of Doing Business' parameters?

1. Doing away with licenses and providing automatic approval.

2. Providing flexibility and simplicity in labour laws.

(a) Only 1

(b) Only 2

(c) Both

(d) None

Solution (c)

Ease of Doing Business include is the lessening of government regulations and restrictions in an economy in exchange for greater participation by private entities.

Q.10. Which of the following statement correctly defines the term "merchant banks"?

(a) The institutions which provide business loans to the merchants.

(b) The banks which provide loans to the agriculture sector.

(c) The institutions which provides term deposits to their clients.

(d) The institutions which provides capital to companies in the form of share ownership.

Solution (d)

A merchant bank is a financial institution providing capital to companies in the form of share ownership instead of loans. A merchant bank also provides advisory on corporate matters to the firms in which they invest.

Q. 11. In the context of agricultural revolution in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. White revolution is associated with modernization of sheep and dairyfarming.

2. Second green revolution is associated with development of horticulture.

3. Blue revolution is associated with improvement in the production of fish and marine products.

(a) Only 1

(b) Only 3

(c) 2 and 3

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Solution (c)

White Revolution is associated with modernising dairy farming & increasing milk production.

Q. 12. Identify the crop having the following features:

1. It is a tropical as well as subtropical crop.
2. It grows well in a region with temperature of 21°C to 27°C and an annual rainfall between 75 - 100cm.
3. It's cultivation is highly labourious.

- (a) Jute
- (b) Barley
- (c) Rice
- (d) Sugarcane

Solution (d)

Sugarcane is a plantation crop and thus it's highly labourious to grow it. It is a tropical as well as a subtropical crop. It grows well in hot and humid climate with a temperature of 21°C to 27°C and an annual rainfall between 75cm and 100cm.

Q. 13. The calculation of Total Cultivated Land includes:

- (a) Net area sown, current fallows, fallow other than current fallows, culturable waste land.
- (b) Net area sown and current fallows.
- (c) Net area sown, current fallows, fallow other than current fallows.
- (d) Net area sown and culturable waste land.

Solution (b)

Total Cultivable Area: This consists of net area sown, current fallows, fallow lands other than current fallows, culturable waste land and land under miscellaneous tree crops. Total Cultivated Land: This consists of net area sown and current fallows.

Q. 14. Consider the following statements related to energy resources in India:

1. Most of the petroleum occurrences in India are associated with anticlines and fault traps in the rock formations of the tertiary age.

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2. Large reserves of natural gas have been discovered in the Krishna- Godavari basin.

3. The largest wind farm cluster is located in Gujrat from Jaamnagar to Mehsaana.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2

(b) Only 2

(c) 2 and 3

(d) All

Solution (a)

The largest wind farm cluster is located in Tamil Nadu from Nagarcoil to Madurai.

Q.15. Consider the following regarding Truck Farming practiced in Europe:

1. This is the region where farmers specialise in vegetables only.

2. The name 'truck farming' is due to the travelling time of truck from the farm to the market overnight.

3. This is the type of farming practiced in dry area where the water are being carried on truck for irrigation and hence the name truck farming.

Which of the above statements are correct?

(a) 1 and 2

(b) 2 and 3

(c) 1 and 3

(d) None

Solution (a)

Truck farming, horticultural practice of growing one or more vegetable crops on a large scale for shipment to distant markets. It is usually less intensive and diversified than market gardening. The major truck-farming areas are in California, Texas, Florida, along the Atlantic Coastal Plain, and in the Great Lakes area. Centers for specific crops vary with the season. Among the most important truck crops are tomatoes, lettuce, melons, beets, broccoli, celery, radishes, onions, cabbage, and strawberries.

Q.16. With reference to Garo Hills and people living there, consider the following statements,

1. It is one of the earliest places in India where agriculture was practised

2. The society is matrilineal

3. Rice is the main food of Garo people

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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- a) 1 and 2 Only
- b) 2 and 3 Only
- c) 1 and 3 Only
- d) All

Solution: d)

The **Garo Hill**) are part of the Garo-Khasi range in Meghalaya, India. They are inhabited mainly by tribal dwellers, the majority of whom are Garo people. It is one of the wettest places in the world. The chief meals of the Garos consist of rice with onions, capsicum and salt thrice a day.

The society is matrilineal like the Khasis and the Jaintias. Till death, the new-born baby belongs to the mother's family, irrespective of sex, even after marriage. Marriage within the clan is completely prohibited and severely punishable for both the Khasis and the Garos. Till now, the institution of Bachelors Dormitories which is gradually disappearing amongst the tribes of North Eastern Region, are found in the Garo villages. In such dormitories young people stay and live together till they are married. They receive various training in the dormitories like protection of crops, construction of roads, organising festivals, sports and ceremonies. This institution is similar to ancient agoges of Sparta.

Q. 17. Koldihwa in Uttar Pradesh is known for

- a) Neolithic site
- b) Palaeolithic site
- c) Buddhist site
- d) None of the above

Solution: a)

Neolithic archaeological site in Uttar Pradesh state of northern India, dated between 4000-1200 BC. Koldihwa was an agricultural village of circular uts, with stone axes, bone and stone tools, pottery, and cattle pens; and early evidence of rice cultivation, found as impressions in ceramic vessels.

Q. 18. With reference to citadels in Harappa and Mohenjodaro sites, consider the following statements

1. They were built to the east of the city on large elevated regions
2. The Great Bath, found in Mohenjodaro is built in one of these citadels

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both

d) None

Solution: a)

Many of these cities were divided into two or more parts. Usually, the part to the west was smaller but higher. Archaeologists describe this as the citadel. Generally, the part to the east was larger but lower. This is called the lower town. Very often walls of baked brick were built around each part. The bricks were so well made that they have lasted for thousands of years. The bricks were laid in an interlocking pattern and that made the walls strong.

In some cities, special buildings were constructed on the citadel. For example, in Mohenjodaro, a very special tank, which archaeologists call the Great Bath, was built in this area. This was lined with bricks, coated with plaster, and made water-tight with a layer of natural tar. There were steps leading down to it from two sides, while there were rooms on all sides. Water was probably brought in from a well, and drained out after use. Perhaps important people took a dip in this tank on special occasions.

Q. 19. During the *mahajanapada* period, we hear about *kammakaras*. Who were these people?

- a) Watchmen of the forts
- b) Watchmen of villages
- c) Landless agricultural labourers
- d) Slave men and women

Solution: c)

There were two major changes in agriculture around Mahajanapada period. One was the growing use of iron ploughshares. This meant that heavy, clayey soil could be turned over better than with a wooden ploughshare, so that more grain could be produced. Second, people began transplanting paddy. This meant that instead of scattering seed on the ground, from which plants would sprout, saplings were grown and then planted in the fields. This led to increased production, as many more plants survived. However, it was back breaking work. Generally, slave men and women, (*dasas* and *dasis*) and landless agricultural labourers (*kammakaras*) had to do this work.

Q. 20. With reference to Zoroastrianism, consider the following statements

1. It is a major religion in Iran
2. It was founded by Zoroaster, an Iranian prophet
3. Present day Parsis in India are the descendants of Zoroastrians

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 Only
- b) 2 and 3 Only

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- c) 1 and 3 Only
- d) All

Solution: b)

Zoroaster was an Iranian prophet. His teachings are contained in a book called the Avesta. The language of the Avesta, and the practices described in it are very similar to those of the Vedas. The basic teachings of Zoroaster are contained in the maxim "Good thoughts, Good Words and Good Deeds." Here is a verse from the Zend Avesta:

"Lord, grant strength and the rule of truth and good thinking, by means of which one shall create peace and tranquillity." For more than a thousand years, Zoroastrianism was a major religion in Iran. Later, some Zoroastrians migrated from Iran and settled down in the coastal towns of Gujarat and Maharashtra. They were the ancestors of today's Parsis. Today, Shia Islam dominates religion in Iran.

Q. 21. With reference to Mahavira's teachings, consider the following statements

1. He taught that men and women should leave homes if they wished to know the truth
2. Mahavira taught in Prakrit language

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both
- d) None

Solution: c)

The most famous thinker of the Jainas, Vardhamana Mahavira, also spread his message around this time, i.e. 2500 years ago. He was a kshatriya prince of the Lichchavis, a group that was part of the Vajji sangha, about which you read in Chapter 6. At the age of thirty, he left home and went to live in a forest. For twelve years he led a hard and lonely life, at the end of which he attained enlightenment.

He taught a simple doctrine: men and women who wished to know the truth must leave their homes. They must follow very strictly the rules of ahimsa, which means not hurting or killing living beings. "All beings," said Mahavira "long to live. To all things life is dear." Ordinary people could understand the teachings of Mahavira and his followers, because they used Prakrit. There were several forms of Prakrit, used in different parts of the country, and named after the regions in which they were used. For example, the Prakrit spoken in Magadha was known as Magadhi.

Q. 22. World Economic Outlook is published by

1. World Economic Forum
2. International Monetary Fund

3. World Bank

4. World Trade Organisation

Solution: 2

The **World Economic Outlook (WEO)** is a survey conducted and published by the International Monetary Fund. It is published biannually and partly updated two times a year. It portrays the world economy in the near and medium context, with projections for up to four years into the future

Q. 23. Consider the following statements

1. Taiwan is an island that lies in the Yellow Sea

2. Tropic of Cancer cuts across both Taiwan and India

Choose the correct code

A. 1 Only

B. 2 Only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Solution (b)

Taiwan lies between South China Sea and East China Sea.

Tropic of Cancer cuts across both Taiwan and India.



Q. 24. Consider the following statements about Tunisia

1. It is bordered by Algeria, Morocco and Libya

2. It opens up in Mediterranean Sea

Select the correct statements

A. 1 Only

B. 2 Only

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- C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Solution (b)

It is a sovereign state in North Africa. Its northernmost point, Cape Angela, is the northernmost point on the African continent.

It is bordered by Algeria to the west and southwest, Libya to the southeast, and the Mediterranean Sea to the north and east.



Q. 25. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The torrid zone refers to the area of the earth between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
2. Norway's Svalbard Islands lie entirely within North Frigid Zone

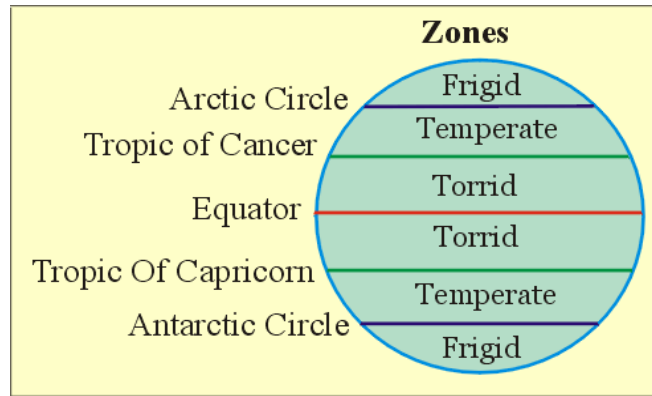
Select the correct statements

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

Solution -- (c)

The Torrid is also known as the Tropics. The zone is bounded on the north by the Tropic of Cancer and on the south by the Tropic of Capricorn; these latitudes mark the northern and southern extremes in which the sun seasonally passes directly overhead.

This happens annually, but in the region between, the sun passes overhead twice a year.
Frigid zone -- north of Arctic circle and south of Antarctic circle



Q. 26. Mahanadi river flows through which of the following states?

1. Madhya Pradesh
2. Chhattisgarh
3. Odisha

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

Solution: (b)

The Mahanadi is a major river in East Central India. The river flows through the states of Chhattisgarh and Odisha. The Mahanadi basin extends over states of Chhattisgarh and Odisha and comparatively smaller portions of Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. It is bounded by the Central India hills on the north, by the Eastern Ghats on the south and east and by the Maikala range on the west.

Q. 27. The United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an international treaty drawn at:

- A. United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 1972
- B. UN conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 1992
- C. World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, 2002
- D. UN Climate Change Conference Copenhagen, 2009

Solution (b)

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC or FCCC) is an international environmental treaty produced at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), informally known as the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro from June 3 to 14, 1992. The objective of the treaty is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

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28. Consider the following statements about Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

- 1. It is under the auspices of United Nations**
- 2. It was developed from the Advisory Group on Greenhouse Gases set up in 1985 by the International Council of Scientific Unions**

Select the correct statements

- A. 1 Only**
- B. 2 Only**
- C. Both 1 and 2**
- D. Neither 1 nor 2**

Solution (c)

A. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a scientific and intergovernmental body under the auspices of the United Nations, set up at the request of member governments, dedicated to the task of providing the world with an objective, scientific view of climate change and its political and economic impacts.

B. It was established in 1988 by two United Nations organizations, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

C. The IPCC produces reports that support the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is the main international treaty on climate change.

IPCC reports cover "the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation.

Q. 29. Consider the following statements

- 1. Frictional unemployment when workers move from one job to another job**
- 2. Invisible trade is a trade of the services like the banks, consulting and shipping companies**

Select the correct statements --

- a) 1 Only**
- b) 2 Only**
- c) Both 1 and 2**
- d) Neither 1 nor 2**

Solution (c)

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A. An **invisible trade** is a business transaction that occurs with no exchange of tangible goods. An invisible trade involves the transfer of non-tangible goods and/or services, such as customer service, intellectual property and patents. By contrast, visible trade involves the exchange, or the import and export, of tangible goods. Examples of invisible trade include consulting, income from foreign investments, shipping services, insurance, banking and tourism. Invisible trade represents an increasing percentage of world trade.

B. **Frictional unemployment** is always present in the economy, resulting from temporary transitions made by workers and employers or from workers and employers having inconsistent or incomplete information. For example, a first-time job seeker may lack the resources or efficiency for finding the company that has the job that is available and suitable for him and as a result does not take other work, temporarily holding out for the better-paying job. Another example of when frictional employment occurs is when a company abstains from hiring because it believes there are not enough qualified individuals available for the job, when in actuality there is. Frictional unemployment can be reduced by quickly matching prospective job seekers with job openings of interest. This is accomplished through the transmission of information. Through social media and job posting websites, individuals looking for jobs may now experience a quicker turnaround to get hired. This reduces the frictional unemployment level.

Q. 30. Consider the following statements about Price Stabilization Fund (PSF)

1. It regulates the price volatility of important agri-horticultural commodities
2. It is under the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW)

Select the correct statements

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

Solution (a)

The Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) was set up in 2014-15 under the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) to help regulate the price volatility of important agri-horticultural commodities like onion, potatoes and pulses were also added subsequently. The PSF scheme was transferred from DAC&FW to the Department of Consumer Affairs (DOCA) w.e.f. 1st April, 2016.

Q. 31. Consider the following statements about Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

1. It is a pension scheme for unorganised sector workers
2. The minimum age of joining APY is 18 years and maximum age is 40 years

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only

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- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution (c)

Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

1. A pension scheme for unorganised sector workers such as personal maids, drivers, gardeners etc, was launched in June 2015 by the government.
2. This social security scheme was introduced as a replacement to previous government's Swavalamban Yojana NPS Lite, which wasn't well accepted by people.
3. In Atal Pension Yojana, for every contribution made to the pension fund, The Central Government would also co-contribute 50% of the total contribution or ₹1,000 per annum, whichever is lower, to each eligible subscriber account, for a period of 5 years.
- 4 The minimum age of joining APY is 18 years and maximum age is 40 years.
5. The age of exit and start of pension would be 60 years. Therefore, minimum period of contribution by the subscriber under APY would be 20 years or more.

Q. 32. ' Mission Raftaar' is concerned with which of the following ministries?

- A. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**
- B. Ministry of Power**
- C. Ministry of Railways**
- D. None of the above**

Solution (c)

Mission Raftaar - Raise average speed of both passenger carrying trains and freight carrying trains.

It envisages a target of doubling of average speed of freight trains and increasing the average speed of all non-suburban passenger trains by 25 kmph in the next 5 years.

Q. 33. What is true about Scheduled banks:

- a. Mentioned in the second schedule of RBI Act 1934**
 - b. Min capital of 5 lakhs**
- 1. a & b**
 - 2. b & c**
 - 3. Only c**

4. All the above

Solution: 1

The scheduled commercial banks are those banks which are included in the second schedule of RBI Act 1934 and which carry out the normal business of banking such as accepting deposits, giving out loans and other banking services.

Q. 34. Gyan Sangam is related to:

- a. Is an NGO working on spreading digital financial knowledge
- b. Annual meeting of bankers, RBI and the government.
- c. It's a knowledge database created by RBI
- d. None of these

Solution: b

Gyan Sangam is the meet of various banks, financial institutions and government. The annual conference of tax administrators "Rajasva Gyan Sangam". It is for the first time that two Revenue Boards "Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) & Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC)" are holding the conference simultaneously.

Q. 35. Bank consolidation initiative by the GOI includes:

- a. Merger of SBI and 5 subsidiaries & Mahila Bank
- b. Decreasing share in some banks (egs IDBI)
- c. Both a & b
- d. Only a

Solution: c

Q. 36. Who was the chairman of FRBM committee constituted in 2016?

- a. Nachiket Mor
- b. Urijit Patel
- c. NK Singh
- d. Raghuram Rajan

Solution: c

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The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Committee has submitted its 4 volume report on changes in FRBM Act, 2013. The 5 member committee was headed by N.K. Singh.

Q. 37. Consider the following statements about Panchayati raj:

- 1. All the residents of the village are members of Gram Sabha.**
- 2. Panchayat is elected by the Gram Sabha.**
- 3. The Gram Panchayat is financially accountable to the Gram Sabha.**

Which of the above statements is/are true?

- a) 1 and 2**
- b) 2 and 3**
- c) 1 and 3**
- d) Only 2**

Solution: b)

Any one who has the right to vote and lives in the premises if a Panchayat is a member of the Gram Sabha. Panchayat is elected by it. The Sarpanch is usually elected by the Panchayat – it depends from state to state.

The Gram Sabha keeps a track of the work of Gram Panchayat and prevents misuse of money. Some of the works by Gram Panchayat has to be approved by the Gram Sabha.

Q. 38. Consider the following statements about rural administration:

- 1. Each state has its own set of laws regarding Panchayats.**
- 2. The District or Zila Panchayat plays a role in the sanctioning of money to Gram Panchayats.**
- 3. Panchayat secretary, who assists the Panchayat, is chosen by the Sarpanch.**

Which of the above statements is/are true?

- a) 1 and 2**
- b) 2 and 3**
- c) 1 and 3**
- d) None of the above**

Solution: a)

The constitution via the 73rd amendment provides the skeleton for rural government. The rest is decided by the states by laws enacted in the legislature.

The District Panchayat is the at the top of the hierarchy in rural government. It prepares plan for the whole district with the help of Panchayat samitits and municipalities. In this way it regulates the sanctioning of money to the gram Panchayats.

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Panchayat secretary is a bureaucrat and selected by the Civil Services examination of the concerned state. The state government appoints the Panchayat secretary.

Q. 39. In rural administration, which of the following functions usually are performed by the Tehsildar?

1. He supervises patwari/kanungo/lekhpal's work.
2. He hears land disputes.
3. He is the authority issuing land record and caste certificates.

Which of the above statements is/are true?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

Solution: a)

The District collector or the BDO issues such important certificates. The only duty of the Tehsildar is to make sure that these certificates are disbursed to the needy properly.

Q. 40. Which of the following problems is/are associated with 'casual labourers' in India?

1. Low wages
2. Little or no social security
3. Can be fired easily by the employer

Which of the above statements is/are true?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

Solution: d)

The fact that unemployment and low skill labour are found easily in India leads to the easy availability of casual labour.

The law does not regulate the hiring and firing of the casual labourers as they are part of the informal economy.

Q. 41. Consider the following health care centres:

1. Primary health care centre
2. Community health care centre
3. Sub-centres

Select the correct hierarchy based on the population served by them in increasing order.

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

Solution: b)

Sub-centre is the first point of contact between the community and public health system. For every 3000-4000 of population there is a sub-centre. For every 4-5 sub-centres, there is a primary health centre. And for every 4-5 primary health centres, there is a community health centre.

Q. 42. Consider the following statements:

Assertion (A): All states in India have the same number of assembly constituencies.

Reason (R): Indian political system is federal in nature.

In the context of the statements above, which of these is correct?

- a) Both A and R are correct and R is a correct explanation for A.
- b) Both A and R are correct and R is NOT a correct explanation for A.
- c) A is correct but R is incorrect.
- d) A is incorrect but R is correct.

Solution: d)

All states do not have the same number of constituencies. India being a federal nation has nothing to do with the number of assembly seats in a state. The federal character of India has more to do with the representation of states in the Rajya Sabha.

Q. 43. Mass Media is considered as the fourth pillar of democracy because of its independence from the other three organs. Which of the following may possibly undermine the ability of media to be unbiased, fair and represent pluralistic points of view?

1. Ownership by large and important corporate houses.
2. Strict censorship imposed by the government
3. Separation of ownership and editorial board of media houses

Choose the correct answer using the codes below:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

Solution: a)

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Large bourses who control the money flow to media can prevent unbiased reporting from media. They further may have connection with the political class and this may encourage selective and distorted reporting.

Option 3 is in fact a way to make the functioning of media transparent and unbiased.

Q. 44. Which of these planets does not rotate and revolve in the same direction?

- a) Venus
- b) Earth
- c) Jupiter
- d) Pluto

Solution: a)

Most planets also rotate on their axes (as well as revolve) in an anti-clockwise direction, but Venus rotates clockwise (called "retrograde" rotation) once every 243 Earth days.

Q. 45. Which of the following are found in the South American continent?

- 1. Andes mountain ranges
- 2. Great Victoria desert
- 3. Atakama deserts

Choose the correct answer using the codes below:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

Solution: c)

The Atacama Desert is a plateau in South America, covering a 1,000-kilometre strip of land on the Pacific coast, west of the Andes mountains. It is the driest non-polar desert in the world.

The Great Victoria Desert, an interim Australian bioregion, is a sparsely populated desert area in Western Australia and South Australia.

Q. 46. Arrange these landforms found in India from North to South.

- 1. Aravali range
- 2. Vindhya range
- 3. Satpura range
- 4. Godavari river
- 5. Krishna river

Choose the correct order from the codes given below:

- a) 1,2,3,4,5
- b) 2,1,3,4,5

- c) 1,3,2,5,4
- d) 1,2,3,5,4

Solution: a)

Self-explanatory.

Q. 47. Consider the following statements:

1. No river passing through the Vindhya and Satpura flows into the Arabian Sea.
2. Eastern Ghats are broken and uneven unlike the Western Ghats.
3. Eastern coastal plains are much broader than that of the Western side.

Which of these is/are true?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

Solution: b)

The Vindhyas and the Satpuras are the important ranges in the Penninsular plateau. The rivers Narmada and Tapi flow through these ranges. These are west-flowing rivers that drain into the Arabian Sea.

The Western Ghats or Sahyadris border the plateau in the west and the Eastern Ghats provide the eastern boundary. While the Western Ghats are almost continuous, the Eastern Ghats are broken and uneven. The plateau is rich in minerals like coal and iron-ore. To the West of the Western Ghats and the East of Eastern Ghats lie the Coastal plains. The western coastal plains are very narrow. The eastern Coastal plains are much broader.

Q. 48. Coastal places like Kolkata and Mumbai experience a humid and moderate weather. Why?

- a) Due to their continentality
- b) Due to the flowing of sea and land breezes
- c) Due to their low elevation as compared to nearby regions
- d) Due to the less frequency of eastern cyclonic disturbances.

Solution: b)

Continentality means that the more a place is surrounded by land, the more extreme its weather will be. Because land heats faster as compared to sea.

Opposed to this, closeness to the sea moderates weather. Because in the day the sea heats slower than land. This cool sea breeze blows across the land thus reducing the day temperatures.

In the night the sea cools down slower. And the exact opposite happens.

This keeps the temperature moderate.

Q. 49. Sedimentary rocks can be directly formed from which of the following?

1. Magma
2. Igneous rocks
3. Metamorphic rocks

Choose the correct answer using the codes below:

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

Solution: b)

Sedimentary rocks are formed when sediments (broken from a rock) are deposited and consolidated under pressure or temperature or in other ways. Only igneous rocks can be directly formed from magma, not sedimentary rocks.

Q. 50. What can be the consequences of global warming?

1. Flooding of coastal areas
2. Conditions of drought and flood may aggravate in certain regions of the world.
3. Extinction of some species of plants and animals
4. Albedo of the earth will increase

Choose the correct answer using the codes below:

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

Solution: c)

Albedo is the reflectivity of a surface. The more ice is there on the earth, the more it will reflect sunrays as white ice is a good reflector. Therefore, albedo will decrease. So the temperature of the earth will increase.

This and the melting of the snow will cause an expansion in the volume of sea water leading to the flooding of the coastal areas.

Floods and drought will become more severe and frequent in certain pockets of the world. This is because some regions will become hotter than usual. They will experience either more intense rain leading to floods or more intense evaporation leading to hydrological drought.

Such disturbance in the local weather, and climate later on, will disturb the local environment. This will create problems for the species which will find it tough to adapt to the sudden changing environment; flood; drought; high temperature; changing flora etc. Some of them may go extinct too.

Q. 51. Which of the following are permanent planetary winds?

1. Westerlies
2. Trade winds
3. Monsoon winds

Choose the correct answer using the codes below:

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

Solution: d)

Winds can be broadly divided into three types.

1. *Permanent winds – The trade winds, westerlies and easterlies are the permanent winds. These blow constantly throughout the year in a particular direction.*
2. *Seasonal winds – These winds change their direction in different seasons. For example monsoons in India.*
3. *Local winds – These blow only during a particular period of the day or year in a small area.*

Q. 52. Consider the following statements

1. A great Tamil epic, Silappadikaram, is older than another Tamil epic Manimekalai
2. Silappadikaram was composed by Sattanar

Which of the above statements is/are INCORRECT?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both
- d) None

Solution: b)

A famous Tamil epic, the Silappadikaram, was composed by a poet named Ilango, around 1800 years ago. It is the story of a merchant named Kovalan, who lived in Puhar and fell in love with a courtesan named Madhavi, neglecting his wife Kannagi. Later, he and Kannagi left Puhar and went to Madurai, where he was wrongly accused of theft by the court jeweller of the Pandya king. The king sentenced Kovalan to death. Kannagi, who still loved him, was full of grief and anger at this injustice, and destroyed the entire city of Madurai. Another Tamil epic, the Manimekalai was composed by Sattanar around 1400 years ago. This describes the story of the daughter of Kovalan and Madhavi. These beautiful compositions were lost to scholars for many centuries, till their manuscripts were rediscovered, about a hundred years ago.

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Q. 53. With reference to the National Cyber Security and Coordination Centre (NCSC), a proposed body to be set up by the Ministry of IT and Communications, India, consider the following statements

1. It will analyse Internet traffic data scanned and integrated from various gateway routers at a centralised location
2. It will facilitate real-time assessment of cyber-security threats and generate actionable reports for various agencies

Which of the above statements is/are INCORRECT?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both
- d) None

Solution: d)

Both are correct.

54. The Space Exploration Technologies Corp' (SpaceX) which launches spacecrafts to International Space Station, is a/an:

- a) Privately owned company
- b) Subsidiary of NASA
- c) Autonomous agency under USA government
- d) None of the above

Solution: a)

Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, or SpaceX, is a space transport services company headquartered in Hawthorne, California. It was founded in 2002 by former PayPal entrepreneur and Tesla Motors CEO Elon Musk. SpaceX was founded with the goal of reducing space transportation costs and enabling the colonization of Mars. It has developed the Falcon 1 and Falcon 9 launch vehicles, both of which were designed from conception to eventually become reusable. SpaceX also developed the Dragon spacecraft, which are flown into orbit by the Falcon 9 launch vehicle, initially transporting cargo and later planned to carry humans to the International Space Station and other destinations., NASA awarded the company a Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS) contract to design and demonstrate a launch system to resupply cargo to the International Space Station (ISS). SpaceX has since flown four missions to the ISS.