

# INFINITE IAS KAS

UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination 2024-General Studies Paper - I (Set A) - Solved Paper

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**UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination 2024**  
**General Studies Paper - I (Set A) - Solved Paper**

*Questions / Answer / Explanation /*

**Note: Answers are aligned with the official answer key for CSP-2024 GS Paper-I Series A. Questions 20, 52 and 57 were dropped/not taken for scoring in the official 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:** The atmosphere is heated mainly from below by terrestrial long-wave radiation emitted by the Earth's surface after it absorbs incoming short-wave solar radiation. Greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, water vapour and methane are efficient absorbers of long-wave radiation. Therefore Statement-I is incorrect, while Statement-II is correct.

**Source link:** [NCERT Geography](#)

**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:** The troposphere is thicker over the equator and thinner over the poles. Greater insolation and strong convectional currents near the equator carry heat and moisture to higher levels, raising the tropopause. Hence both statements are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I.

**Source link:** [NCERT Geography](#)

**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:** Volcanic eruptions release solid fragments such as pyroclastic debris, ash and dust, and gases including compounds of sulphur, nitrogen, carbon dioxide, water vapour and others. Hence all four listed materials can be products of volcanic activity.

**Source link:** [NCERT Geography](#)

**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 ocean and to the south over the continent. 2. The presence of cold ocean currents, Gulf Stream and North Atlantic Drift make the North Atlantic Ocean colder and the isotherms bend towards the north.**

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

**Answer: a. 1 only**

**Explanation:** In January, land in the Northern Hemisphere cools faster than oceans; consequently isotherms bend southward over continents and northward over oceans. The Gulf Stream and North Atlantic Drift are warm currents, not cold currents, and they warm the North Atlantic. Thus only Statement 1 is correct.

**Source link:** [NCERT Geography](#)

**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: c. Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana**

**Explanation:** Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana dominate global cocoa production and are consistently listed among the top cocoa-producing countries. The other pairs are not the leading cocoa producers. Hence option (c) is correct.

Source link: [FAOSTAT - Crops and livestock products](#)

**6. With reference to the Himalayan rivers joining the 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:** Downstream of Prayagraj, the Gomati joins the Ganga in eastern Uttar Pradesh, the Ghaghara further east near Chhapra, the Gandak near Patna, and the Kosi farther east near the Bihar region. Therefore the correct west-to-east sequence is Gomati, Ghaghara, Gandak and Kosi.

Source link: [NCERT India Physical Environment](#)

**7. Consider the following statements: Statement-I: Rainfall is one of the reasons for weathering of rocks. Statement-II: Rain water contains carbon dioxide in solution. Statement-III: Rain water 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 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 explain Statement-I**

**Explanation:** Rainwater absorbs carbon dioxide to form weak carbonic acid, which aids carbonation and solution of minerals. It also contains dissolved atmospheric oxygen that contributes to oxidation. Since both processes are important mechanisms of chemical weathering, both statements II and III explain the role of rainfall in weathering.

Source link: [NCERT Geography](#)

**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: b. Only two**

**Explanation:** Germany has a North Sea coast, and Norway is conventionally treated as bordering the North Sea along its southwestern coast. Finland and Russia do not have coastlines on the North Sea. Therefore only two countries in the list border the North Sea.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

**9. Consider the following information: 1. Dhuandhar - Malwa - Narmada; 2. Hundru - Chota Nagpur - Subarnarekha; 3. Gersoppa - Western Ghats - Netravati. In how many rows is the information correctly matched?**

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

**Answer: a. Only one**

**Explanation:** Hundru Falls is located in the Chota Nagpur region on the Subarnarekha river, so row 2 is correct. Dhuandhar Falls is on the Narmada near Jabalpur in the marble-rock region, not Malwa. Gersoppa/Jog Falls is associated with the Sharavathi river, not the Netravati. Hence only one row is correctly matched.

**Source link:** [NCERT India Physical Environment](#)

**10. Consider the following information: 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 rows is the information correctly matched?**

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

**Answer: b. Only two**

**Explanation:** The Appalachians of North America and the Andes of South America are fold mountain systems. The Vosges are in Europe, not Central Asia, and the Alps are fold mountains, not block mountains. Thus rows 3 and 4 are correct; only two rows are correctly matched.

**Source link:** [NCERT Geography](#)

**11. Consider the following airports: 1. Donyi 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:** Donyi Polo Airport at Itanagar and Kushinagar International Airport were developed as greenfield airport projects. Vijayawada International Airport is an upgraded airport at Gannavaram rather than a newly constructed greenfield airport. Therefore, only 1 and 2 are correct.

**Source link:** [Ministry of Civil Aviation / PIB releases](#)

**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.**

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

**Answer: a. 1 only**

**Explanation:** Water vapour is a variable atmospheric gas and is concentrated mainly in the lower troposphere; its amount generally decreases with altitude. It is relatively higher over warm tropical oceans and lower over cold polar regions. Therefore Statement 1 is correct and Statement 2 is incorrect.

**Source link:** [NCERT Geography](#)

**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 and 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:** Marine west coast climate is controlled by the ocean and westerlies, giving a small annual and diurnal temperature range and rainfall throughout the year. Its precipitation range broadly fits the 50-250 cm band. Equatorial climate is hotter and wetter, while China-type/humid subtropical climates have stronger seasonal contrasts.

**Source link:** [NCERT Geography](#)

**14. With reference to Coriolis force, which of the following statements is/are correct? 1. It increases with increase in wind velocity. 2. It is maximum at the poles and is absent at the equator.**

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

**Answer: c. Both 1 and 2**

**Explanation:** Coriolis force is proportional to the velocity of the moving object and to the sine of latitude. Hence it increases with wind speed, is zero at the equator and reaches maximum strength at the poles. Both statements are correct.

**Source link:** [NCERT Geography](#)

**15. On June 21 every year, which of the following latitude(s) experience(s) sunlight of more than 12 hours? 1. Equator 2. Tropic of Cancer 3. Tropic of Capricorn 4. Arctic Circle.**

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

**Answer: d. 2 and 4**

**Explanation:** Around June 21, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted towards the Sun. Latitudes north of the equator, including the Tropic of Cancer and Arctic Circle, receive more than 12 hours of daylight. The equator has nearly 12 hours, while the Tropic of Capricorn has less than 12 hours. Thus 2 and 4 are correct.

**Source link:** [NCERT Geography](#)

**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 whose destruction can affect global climate. Which region is it?**

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

**Answer: b. Congo Basin**

**Explanation:** The Cuvette Centrale peatlands in the Congo Basin constitute the world's largest tropical peatland complex. They store massive amounts of carbon, and degradation through drainage, fire or land-use change can release large greenhouse-gas emissions. Hence the region is the Congo Basin.

Source link: [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

17. With reference to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) used in many consumer products, consider the following statements: 1. PFAS are 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.

- (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:** PFAS are often called forever chemicals because many of them resist degradation. They are reported in water, food, food packaging and several consumer products. Persistent exposure can lead to accumulation in living organisms and possible health concerns. Therefore all three statements are correct.

Source link: [US EPA - 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:** Parasitoids are especially common among wasps and flies, and some beetle groups also include parasitoid forms. Centipedes are predators and termites are social insects, not typical parasitoid groups. Therefore parasitoid species occur among three of the listed kinds.

Source link: [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

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) All three
- (d) None

Answer: **c. All three**

**Explanation:** The pea family is Fabaceae/Leguminosae. Groundnut, horse-gram and soybean are all legumes belonging to this family. They also share the characteristic association with nitrogen-fixing bacteria in root nodules. Hence all three are members of the pea family.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

**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?**

- (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: Dropped. Dropped by UPSC / not taken for scoring**

**Explanation:** The official answer key dropped this question. Conceptually, the Indian flying fox is a fruit bat and does not feed on blood; it is not correctly described as a blood-feeding vermin. Because UPSC removed the question from scoring, the safe exam answer is to mark it as Dropped.

**Source link:** [UPSC official answer key copy](#)

**21. The organisms Cicada, Froghopper and Pond skater are:**

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

**Answer: c. Insects**

**Explanation:** Cicadas, froghoppers and pond skaters are all insects. They belong to arthropods and possess the typical insect body plan of head, thorax and abdomen with three pairs of legs. Hence option (c) is correct.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

**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.**

- (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 statements are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I**

**Explanation:** Many modern chewing gums use synthetic polymers as gum base. These plastic-like materials persist in the environment and contribute to litter and microplastic concerns when improperly discarded. Therefore both statements are correct, and the plastic gum base explains the pollution concern.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

**23. Consider the following pairs: 1. Brazil - Indri 2. Indonesia - Elk 3. Madagascar - Bonobo. How many of the pairs are correctly matched with the animal found in its natural habitat?**

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

**Answer: d. None**

**Explanation:** Indri is a lemur native to Madagascar, not Brazil. Elk are native to North America and parts of Eurasia, not Indonesia. Bonobos are native to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, not Madagascar. Thus none of the pairs is correctly matched.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

**24. Consider the following statements regarding World Toilet Organization: 1. It is one of the agencies of the United Nations. 2. World Toilet Summit, World Toilet Day and World Toilet College are initiatives of this organization. 3. Its main focus is to grant funds to least developed and developing countries to achieve the end of open defecation.**

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

**Answer: a. 2 only**

**Explanation:** The World Toilet Organization is a global non-profit organization, not a United Nations agency. It is associated with initiatives such as World Toilet Summit, World Toilet Day advocacy and World Toilet College. Its role is advocacy, capacity-building and sanitation awareness, not primarily grant-making. Hence only statement 2 is correct.

**Source link:** [World Toilet Organization](#)

**25. Consider the following statements: 1. Lions do not have a particular breeding season. 2. Unlike most other big cats, cheetahs do not roar. 3. Unlike male lions, male leopards do not proclaim their territory by scent marking.**

- (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:** Lions can breed throughout the year, and cheetahs are unable to roar like the big cats of genus Panthera. Leopards, however, do mark and advertise territories using scent marking; hence statement 3 is incorrect. Therefore statements 1 and 2 only are correct.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

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

- (a) 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) An international alliance and network for organic animal husbandry
- (c) A blockchain platform for trading fertilizers
- (d) A platform encouraging farmers to form FPOs for global open markets

**Answer: a. A platform for accelerating transition towards net-zero, nature-positive food and water systems**

**Explanation:** The 100 Million Farmers initiative is associated with the World Economic Forum and aims to support a transition to net-zero, nature-positive food systems while improving farmer resilience. The other options describe unrelated or incorrect platforms. Hence option (a) is correct.

**Source link:** [World Economic Forum - 100 Million Farmers](#)

**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 are small-scale energy resources located near the point of consumption. Rooftop solar, battery storage, fuel cells and biomass generators can all operate as distributed resources when connected to distribution networks or local loads. Hence all four are included.

**Source link:** [US Department of Energy - Distributed Energy Resources](#)

**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:** Fig trees have a classic obligate mutualism with fig wasps. In many fig species, a specific wasp species pollinates the flowers inside the fig syconium, and the wasp also uses the fig for reproduction. This coevolutionary relationship makes option (a) correct.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

**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 are toxic or distasteful due to chemicals acquired from host plants. Several fish species are poisonous or venomous, and many frogs, such as poison dart frogs, secrete toxins through their skin. Therefore all three groups have poisonous species.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

**30. Consider the following: 1. Cashew 2. Papaya 3. Red sanders. How many of the above trees are actually native to India?**

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

**Answer: a. Only one**

**Explanation:** Cashew and papaya are native to the Americas and were introduced to India. Red sanders is native to parts of the Eastern Ghats in India, especially Andhra Pradesh. Hence only one of the listed trees is native to India.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)



Source link: [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

**34. Consider the following activities: 1. Identification of narcotics on passengers at airports or in aircraft 2. Monitoring of precipitation 3. 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:** Radar is routinely used for monitoring precipitation in meteorology. It is also used in biological and ecological studies, including tracking bird and animal movement in some contexts. Identification of narcotics on passengers is generally done through chemical detection, scanners and other security technologies rather than radar. Hence two activities are correct.

Source link: [NOAA - Radar and weather](#)

**35. Consider the following aircraft: 1. Rafale 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:** Rafale is generally classified as a 4.5-generation fighter, MiG-29 as a fourth-generation fighter, and Tejas Mk-1 as a light combat aircraft of the fourth-generation category. None of these is a fifth-generation stealth fighter. Hence option (d) is correct.

Source link: [Ministry of Defence / PIB](#)

**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.**

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

**Answer: a. 1 only**

**Explanation:** Hydrogels are water-swollen polymer networks widely used in biomedical applications

such as controlled drug delivery, wound dressings and tissue engineering. Mobile air-conditioning systems and routine preparation of industrial lubricants are not standard hydrogel applications in the context of this question. Therefore only statement 1 is correct.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

**37. Which one 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:** Hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles generate electricity by combining hydrogen with oxygen in an electrochemical cell. The principal exhaust product is water, released as water vapour, along with heat. Therefore option (d) is correct.

**Source link:** [US Department of Energy - Distributed Energy Resources](#)

**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 stores energy by pumping water to a higher reservoir when electricity is surplus and releasing it through turbines when demand is high. It is therefore a large-scale, long-duration energy storage technology rather than an irrigation or rainwater-harvesting method.

**Source link:** [US Department of Energy - Distributed Energy Resources](#)

**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 combine biological treatment of wastewater with membrane

filtration. They are used to remove organic matter and suspended solids efficiently in sewage and industrial wastewater treatment. Hence option (d) is correct.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

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

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

**Answer: c. Money market**

**Explanation:** Collateralized Borrowing and Lending Obligations are short-term money market instruments used for borrowing and lending against collateral. They help participants manage short-term liquidity. Therefore they belong to the money market.

**Source link:** [RBI - Financial markets and instruments](#)

**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:** Total Fertility Rate is the average number of children a woman would bear during her reproductive years if she experienced current age-specific fertility rates. It is not the crude birth rate or natural increase. Hence option (d) is correct.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

**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. 3. In India, Stock Exchanges can offer separate trading platforms for debts.**

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

**Answer: c. 1, 2 and 3**

**Explanation:** The exam key treats all three statements as correct. Foreign portfolio/institutional investors are permitted to invest in Government Securities subject to regulatory conditions. Stock exchanges have debt trading/reporting platforms. RBI liquidity windows and special facilities have also been accessible to eligible non-bank financial entities in specified contexts. Hence the answer is 1, 2 and 3.

**Source link:** [RBI - Financial markets and instruments](#)

**43. In India, which of the following can trade in Corporate Bonds and Government Securities? 1. Insurance Companies 2. Pension Funds 3. Retail Investors.**

- (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:** Institutional investors such as insurance companies and pension funds participate in debt markets. Retail investors can also access government securities through retail direct platforms and can invest in corporate bonds through regulated market channels. Therefore all three can trade or invest in such securities.

**Source link:** [RBI - Financial markets and instruments](#)

**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:** ETFs are market-traded financial products representing a basket of assets. Currency swaps are derivative contracts and are financial instruments. Motor vehicles are physical assets, not financial instruments. Hence 1 and 3 only are correct.

**Source link:** [RBI - Financial markets and instruments](#)

**45. With reference to sectors of the Indian economy, consider the following pairs: 1. Storage of agricultural produce - Secondary 2. Dairy farm - Primary 3. Mineral exploration - Tertiary 4. Weaving cloth - Secondary. How many pairs are correctly matched?**

- (a) Only one

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

**Answer: b. Only two**

**Explanation:** Dairy farming is a primary-sector activity because it depends directly on natural/biological processes. Weaving cloth is secondary because it transforms raw materials into manufactured goods. Storage is a service and belongs to the tertiary sector, while mineral exploration is linked to the primary sector. Thus only pairs 2 and 4 are correct.

**Source link:** [NCERT India Physical Environment](#)

**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:** Sustainable Aviation Fuel can be produced from a range of renewable or waste feedstocks, including agricultural residues, corn-derived alcohols/sugars, municipal and wastewater sludge, and forestry/wood-processing residues. Since all four can serve as feedstocks through different approved pathways, option (c) is correct.

**Source link:** [US Department of Energy - Distributed Energy Resources](#)

**47. With reference to physical capital in the Indian economy, consider the following pairs: 1. Farmer's plough - Working capital 2. Computer - Fixed capital 3. Yarn used by the weaver - Fixed capital 4. Petrol - Working capital. How many pairs are correctly matched?**

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

**Answer: b. Only two**

**Explanation:** Fixed capital consists of durable assets used repeatedly in production, such as a computer or a plough. Working capital consists of inputs consumed in the production process, such as yarn or petrol. Therefore pair 2 and pair 4 are correct; pairs 1 and 3 are incorrect.

**Source link:** [NCERT India Physical Environment](#)

**48. Which one of the following words/phrases denotes an interoperable network of 3D virtual worlds accessible 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 described concept is the metaverse: a persistent, shared, interoperable 3D digital environment in which users can interact and own or trade virtual assets. Big data analytics and cryptography are enabling technologies but do not describe the entire virtual world ecosystem.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

**49. With reference to RBI rules while 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.**

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

**Answer: d. Neither 1 nor 2**

**Explanation:** Foreign banks operating as wholly owned subsidiaries in India are subject to capital and governance requirements. The statement that there is no minimum capital requirement is incorrect. The quoted 50% Indian-national board requirement is not the correct formulation of the RBI governance requirement. Hence neither statement is correct.

**Source link:** [RBI - Foreign bank presence in India](#)

**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 spending on CSR activities.**

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

**Answer: a. 1 only**

**Explanation:** CSR rules exclude activities that benefit only the company or its employees from qualifying as CSR expenditure. However, the Companies Act framework requires qualifying companies to spend at least 2% of the average net profits of the preceding three years on CSR activities, or explain non-spending. Thus statement 2 is incorrect.

**Source link:** [MCA - CSR](#)

**51. Consider the following statements: Statement-I: If the 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: USA Government debt is not backed by hard assets, but only by the faith of the Government.**

- (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 statements are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I**

**Explanation:** Government securities are backed by the full faith and credit of the issuing sovereign rather than by a pool of specific hard assets. If a sovereign default occurs, investors cannot simply enforce collateral against a pledged asset to obtain payment. Therefore both statements are correct and Statement-II provides the reason.

**Source link:** [RBI - Financial markets and instruments](#)

**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.**

- (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: Dropped. Dropped by UPSC / not taken for scoring**

**Explanation:** The official answer key dropped this question. In general, syndicated lending distributes risk among multiple lenders. Syndicated facilities may be structured as term loans as well as revolving or credit-line facilities, so Statement-II is problematic. Since UPSC dropped it, it should not be used for scoring.

**Source link:** [UPSC official answer key copy](#)

**53. Consider the following statements in respect of the digital rupee: 1. It is a sovereign currency issued by RBI in alignment with monetary policy. 2. It appears as a liability on RBI's balance sheet.**

**3. It is insured against inflation by its design. 4. It is freely convertible against commercial bank money and cash.**

- (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:** The digital rupee is India's CBDC, issued by RBI as sovereign money. Like physical currency, it is a liability on RBI's balance sheet and is convertible with bank money and cash. It is not inherently insured against inflation merely by design. Hence statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct.

**Source link:** [RBI - Concept Note on CBDC](#)

**54. With reference to ancient India, Gautama Buddha was generally known by which of the following epithets? 1. Nayaputta 2. Shakyamuni 3. Tathagata.**

- (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 means sage of the Shakya clan and Tathagata is a common epithet used for the Buddha. Nayaputta/Natputta is associated with Mahavira in Jain tradition. Therefore epithets 2 and 3 only apply to Gautama Buddha.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

**55. Consider the following archaeological information: 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 rows is the 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 a well-known Chalcolithic site. Mangadu in Kerala is associated with megalithic remains. Chandraketugarh is in West Bengal, not Odisha, and Salihundam is better known as a Buddhist site/stupa complex rather than rock-cut cave shrines. Hence rows 2 and 3 are correct.

Source link: [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

**56. Who among 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:** During Krishnadevaraya's reign, the Vijayanagara Empire maintained diplomatic and commercial relations with the Portuguese. He permitted the Portuguese to build a fort at Bhatkal on the west coast. Therefore option (a) is correct.

Source link: [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

**57. With reference to revenue collection by Cornwallis, consider the following statements: 1. Under the Ryotwari Settlement, peasants were exempted from revenue payment in case of bad harvests or natural calamities. 2. Under Permanent Settlement in Bengal, if the Zamindar failed to pay revenue by the fixed date, he would be removed from his Zamindari.**

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

**Answer: Dropped. Dropped by UPSC / not taken for scoring**

**Explanation:** The official answer key dropped this question. Permanent Settlement in Bengal was associated with Cornwallis and the sunset law could lead to loss of zamindari for non-payment by the fixed date. However, the Ryotwari reference and wording created ambiguity. Since it was dropped, it should not be used for scoring.

Source link: [UPSC official answer key copy](#)

**58. Consider the following statements: 1. There are no parables in Upanishads. 2. Upanishads were composed earlier than the Puranas.**

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

**Answer: b. 2 only**

**Explanation:** The Upanishads include narratives and parable-like dialogues, so Statement 1 is incorrect. The major Upanishads are generally earlier than the Puranas, which are later compilations and developments in Sanskrit literature. Hence only Statement 2 is correct.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

**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.**

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

**Answer: a. 1 only**

**Explanation:** India is a member of the International Grains Council. However, membership of the IGC is not a legal prerequisite for a country to export or import rice and wheat; trade depends on national policies, trade agreements and market conditions. Therefore only statement 1 is correct.

**Source link:** [Ministry of External Affairs](#)

**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:** Among the options, Garba of Gujarat was the latest inscription on UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, added in 2023. Chhau dance, Kumbh Mela and Durga Puja were inscribed earlier. Hence option (c) is correct.

**Source link:** [UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage](#)

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

- (a) 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 temporary/provisional chairman of the Constituent Assembly at its first meeting in December 1946. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was later elected as the permanent President of the Assembly. Hence option (d) is correct.

**Source link:** [Constitution of India](#)

**62. With reference to the Government of India Act, 1935, consider the following statements: 1. It provided for establishment of an All India Federation based on the union of British Indian Provinces and Princely States. 2. Defence and Foreign Affairs were kept under the control of the federal legislature.**

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

**Answer: a. 1 only**

**Explanation:** The Government of India Act, 1935 proposed an All India Federation of British Indian provinces and princely states. However, defence and external affairs were reserved subjects under the Governor-General's control, not under ordinary control of the federal legislature. Hence only statement 1 is correct.

**Source link:** [Constitution of India](#)

**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 Bhasa. Natyashastra is associated with Bharata, Mahabhashya with Patanjali, and Kavyalankara with later poetries. Therefore option (c) is correct.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

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

- (a) Prajnaparamita Sutra
- (b) Visuddhimagga

- (c) Sarvastivada Vinaya
- (d) Lalitavistara

**Answer: c. Sarvastivada Vinaya**

**Explanation:** Sanghabhuti is associated with the Sarvastivada Buddhist tradition and is known in connection with a commentary on the Sarvastivada Vinaya. The other texts belong to different Buddhist literary traditions or authorship contexts. Hence option (c) is correct.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

**65. Consider the following properties included in the World Heritage List by UNESCO: 1. Shantiniketan 2. Rani-ki-Vav 3. Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas 4. Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhgaya. How many were included in 2023?**

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

**Answer: b. Only two**

**Explanation:** Santiniketan and the Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2023. Rani-ki-Vav and the Mahabodhi Temple Complex were inscribed earlier. Thus only two properties in the list were included in 2023.

**Source link:** [UNESCO World Heritage Centre](#)

**66. As per Article 368 of the Constitution of India, Parliament may amend any provision of the Constitution by way of: 1. Addition 2. Variation 3. Repeal.**

- (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 empowers Parliament to amend the Constitution by way of addition, variation or repeal of any provision, subject to the procedure and limits of constitutional amendment. Therefore all three expressions are covered.

**Source link:** [Constitution of India](#)

**67. Consider the following countries: 1. Italy 2. Japan 3. Nigeria 4. South Korea 5. South Africa. Which are frequently mentioned for low birth rates, ageing 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 widely discussed for low fertility, rapid ageing and demographic decline. Nigeria and South Africa have different demographic profiles and are not usually cited in the same low-birth-rate/ageing category. Hence 1, 2 and 4 are correct.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

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

- (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:** Article 109 lays down the special procedure for Money Bills. A Money Bill can be introduced only in Lok Sabha, not in Rajya Sabha. Rajya Sabha may recommend amendments within the prescribed period but cannot reject or amend the Bill on its own; Lok Sabha may accept or reject recommendations. Hence 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

**Source link:** [Constitution of India](#)

**69. Which of the following are correctly matched in terms of equivalent rank in the three services? 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.**

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

**Answer: d. 3 only**

**Explanation:** Only Major, Squadron Leader and Lieutenant Commander are equivalent ranks across Army, Air Force and Navy. Brigadier corresponds to Air Commodore and Commodore, not Commander. Major General corresponds to Air Vice Marshal and Rear Admiral, not Vice Admiral. Lieutenant Colonel corresponds to Wing Commander and Commander, not Group Captain and Captain. Hence only

pair 3 is correctly matched.

**Source link:** [Ministry of Defence / PIB](#)

**70. The North Eastern Council Act, 1971 was amended in 2002. After the amendment, the Council comprises which members? 1. Governor of the constituent State 2. Chief Minister of the constituent State 3. Three members nominated by the President of India 4. Home Minister of India.**

- (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:** Under the NEC framework after the 2002 amendment, the Council consists of Governors and Chief Ministers of the constituent States and members nominated by the President. The Home Minister's later role as chairman does not make Statement 4 part of this statutory composition formulation. Hence 1, 2 and 3 only are correct.

**Source link:** [North Eastern Council](#)

**71. How many Delimitation Commissions have been constituted by the Government of India till December 2023?**

- (a) One
- (b) Two
- (c) Three
- (d) Four

**Answer: d. Four**

**Explanation:** India has had four Delimitation Commissions constituted after independence: in 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002. Therefore the correct answer is four.

**Source link:** [Constitution of India](#)

**72. The Constitution (71st Amendment) Act, 1992 amended the Eighth Schedule to include which languages? 1. Konkani 2. Manipuri 3. Nepali 4. Maithili.**

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

**Answer: a. 1, 2 and 3**

**Explanation:** The 71st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 added Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali to the

Eighth Schedule. Maithili was added later by the 92nd Amendment Act, 2003. Hence the correct set is 1, 2 and 3.

**Source link:** [Constitution of India](#)

**73. Consider the following pairs: 1. Bharatiya Jana Sangh - Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee 2. Socialist Party - C. Rajagopalachari 3. Congress for Democracy - Jagjivan Ram 4. Swatantra Party - Acharya Narendra Dev. How many pairs are correctly matched?**

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

**Answer: b. Only two**

**Explanation:** The Bharatiya Jana Sangh was founded by Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. Congress for Democracy was associated with Jagjivan Ram. C. Rajagopalachari founded the Swatantra Party, not Socialist Party; Acharya Narendra Dev was a socialist leader, not Swatantra Party leader. Hence two pairs are correct.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

**74. Which statements are correct about the Constitution of India? 1. Powers of Municipalities are given in Part IXA. 2. Emergency provisions are given in Part XVIII. 3. Provisions related to amendment are given in Part XX.**

- (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:** Part IXA deals with municipalities. Part XVIII contains emergency provisions. Part XX contains Article 368 and the procedure for amendment of the Constitution. Therefore all three statements are correct.

**Source link:** [Constitution of India](#)

**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 quarantine appears in the Union List. Inter-State trade and commerce is also in the Union List, not the State List. Corporation tax is a Union subject. Hence the only correct statement among the options is option (c).

**Source link:** [Constitution of India](#)

**76. Under which Article of the Constitution of India has the Supreme Court 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 in K. S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India recognized privacy as a fundamental right, mainly as an intrinsic part of life and personal liberty under Article 21, while also connected with freedoms and dignity. Hence option (d) is correct.

**Source link:** [Constitution of India](#)

**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.**

- (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 and principal military adviser to the Defence Minister on tri-service matters. However, the CDS does not exercise military command over the three Service Chiefs. Therefore statements 1 and 3 are correct.

**Source link:** [Ministry of Defence / PIB](#)

**78. Operations undertaken by the Army towards upliftment of local population in remote areas, including addressing basic needs, are called:**

- (a) Operation Sankalp
- (b) Operation Maitri
- (c) Operation Sadbhavana

(d) Operation Madad

**Answer: c. Operation Sadbhavana**

**Explanation:** Operation Sadbhavana is an Indian Army civic-action programme aimed at welfare and development in remote and affected areas, especially in Jammu and Kashmir/Ladakh contexts. It includes education, health, infrastructure and community support. Hence option (c) is correct.

**Source link:** [Ministry of Defence / PIB](#)

**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 Canada-United States border is the world's longest international land border. It includes the main border and the Alaska-Canada segment. Therefore option (a) is correct.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

**80. Which statements about the Ethics Committee in the Lok Sabha are correct? 1. Initially it was an ad-hoc Committee. 2. Only a Member of Lok Sabha can make a complaint relating to unethical conduct of a member. 3. The Committee cannot take up any matter which is sub-judice.**

- (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:** The Ethics Committee was initially constituted as an ad hoc committee and later made permanent. Complaints can be made under prescribed rules and are not confined in the simplistic way stated in Statement 2. Matters sub judice are generally excluded from committee consideration. Hence statements 1 and 3 are correct.

**Source link:** [Lok Sabha - Parliamentary Procedure](#)

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

- (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:** The women's reservation law is to be implemented after delimitation following the relevant census and does not automatically apply from the 18th Lok Sabha. It provides a 15-year duration and includes reservation for SC/ST women within seats reserved for SCs/STs. Therefore statements 2 and 3 are correct.

**Source link:** [Constitution of India](#)

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

- (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 is a joint India-Sri Lanka military exercise, not India-Bangladesh. The 2023 edition was held at Aundh, Pune and focused on joint responses in counter-terrorism/peacekeeping contexts. The Indian Air Force also participated. Hence 2, 3 and 4 are correct.

**Source link:** [Ministry of Defence / PIB](#)

**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:** The writ of prohibition is issued by a superior court to an inferior court or tribunal to stop proceedings that are beyond jurisdiction or contrary to law. It is preventive in nature. Hence option (c) is correct.

**Source link:** [Constitution of India](#)

**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.**

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

**Answer: b. 2 only**

**Explanation:** Scheduled Tribes are specified by the President through a public notification under Article 342, with parliamentary power to include or exclude groups; the Governor does not make the final declaration. ST status is state/UT-specific, so a community listed in one State may not be listed in another. Hence only statement 2 is correct.

**Source link:** [Constitution of India](#)

**85. With reference to Union Budget, consider the following statements: 1. The Union Finance Minister on behalf of the Prime Minister lays the Annual Financial Statement before both 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.**

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

**Answer: c. Both 1 and 2**

**Explanation:** The Annual Financial Statement (Union Budget) is laid before both Houses of Parliament as part of the constitutional budget process. In parliamentary practice it is presented by the Union Finance Minister for the Government headed by the Prime Minister. Article 113 further provides that no demand for a grant can be made except on the recommendation of the President. Hence both statements are treated as correct in the official key.

**Source link:** [Constitution of India](#)

**86. Who is the author of the books The India Way and Why Bharat Matters?**

- (a) Bhupender Yadav
- (b) Nalin Mehta
- (c) Shashi Tharoor
- (d) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

**Answer: d. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar**

**Explanation:** The India Way and Why Bharat Matters are authored by S. Jaishankar, India's External

Affairs Minister and former diplomat. Therefore option (d) is correct.

**Source link:** [Ministry of External Affairs](#)

**87. Consider the following pairs: 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 pairs 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 severe economic crisis and inflation. Sudan has been in the news for conflict between the regular army and the Rapid Support Forces. Turkey is a NATO member and has not rescinded its NATO membership. Therefore only two pairs are correct.

**Source link:** [Ministry of External Affairs](#)

**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.**

- (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 statements are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I**

**Explanation:** The SUMED pipeline in Egypt links the Red Sea area with the Mediterranean coast, allowing oil shipments to bypass the Suez Canal route constraints. This geographical connection explains its strategic importance for Gulf energy supplies to Europe. Hence both statements are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

**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.**

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

**Answer: c. Both 1 and 2**

**Explanation:** The Red Sea region is arid and receives very little rainfall. It also has no major permanent river inflow, unlike many other seas. Its water balance is maintained mainly by exchange with the Gulf of Aden and high evaporation. Hence both statements are correct.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

**90. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which one 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:** Sulphur dioxide emissions arise mainly from combustion of sulphur-containing fossil fuels and from some industrial processes. EPA materials identify fossil-fuel-based power plants as a major/largest source category, especially coal and oil combustion. Hence option (d) is correct.

**Source link:** [US EPA - PFAS](#)

**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'etat in several countries of the Sahel region in the recent past.**

- (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 statements are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I**

**Explanation:** The Sahel has faced conflict, terrorism, weak governance and political instability. Military coups in countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger are part of this worsening security and governance environment. Hence both statements are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I.

**Source link:** [Ministry of External Affairs](#)

**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 import of Genetically Modified food without approval of the competent authority.**

- (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:** India has imported apples from the United States, and tariff/import policy changes regarding US apples have been in the news. Therefore Statement-I is incorrect. Import of genetically modified food requires approval of the competent authority under India's biosafety/food regulatory framework, making Statement-II correct.

**Source link:** [Ministry of External Affairs](#)

**93. With reference to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, while a resolution for removal of the Speaker is under consideration: 1. He/She shall not preside. 2. He/She shall not have the right to speak. 3. He/She shall not be entitled to vote on the resolution in the first instance.**

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

**Answer: a. 1 only**

**Explanation:** Under Article 96, the Speaker shall not preside while a resolution for removal is under consideration. However, the Speaker has the right to speak and otherwise take part in the proceedings, and is entitled to vote in the first instance but not in case of equality of votes. Therefore only statement 1 is correct.

**Source link:** [Constitution of India](#)

**94. With reference to the Indian Parliament, consider the following statements: 1. A bill pending in Lok Sabha lapses on its dissolution. 2. A bill passed by Lok Sabha and pending in Rajya Sabha lapses on dissolution of Lok Sabha. 3. A bill for which the President has notified intention to summon a joint sitting lapses on dissolution of Lok Sabha.**

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

**Answer: b. 1 and 2**

**Explanation:** Bills pending in Lok Sabha lapse when the House is dissolved. A bill passed by Lok Sabha but pending in Rajya Sabha also lapses. However, if the President has notified intention to summon a joint sitting before dissolution, the bill does not lapse. Hence statements 1 and 2 only are correct.

**Source link:** [Lok Sabha - Parliamentary Procedure](#)

**95. With reference to Parliament of India, consider the following statements: 1. Prorogation of a House by the President does not require advice of Council of Ministers. 2. Prorogation is generally done after adjournment sine die, but the President can prorogue a House in session. 3. Dissolution of Lok Sabha is done by the President, usually on advice of Council of Ministers.**

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

**Answer: c. 2 and 3**

**Explanation:** In a parliamentary system, the President normally acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, so Statement 1 is incorrect. Prorogation usually follows adjournment sine die but can technically occur while the House is in session. Lok Sabha is dissolved by the President, normally on ministerial advice. Thus 2 and 3 are correct.

**Source link:** [Constitution of India](#)

**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.**

- (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:** The European Parliament approved the Net-Zero Industry Act, aimed at strengthening clean-technology manufacturing in Europe. However, the EU's climate-neutrality target is 2050, not 2040, and the law does not mean the EU will develop all clean technology domestically by then. Hence Statement-I is correct and Statement-II is incorrect.

**Source link:** [Ministry of External Affairs](#)

**97. Consider the following statements: Statement-I: Recently, Venezuela has achieved rapid recovery from its economic crisis and succeeded in preventing people from fleeing/emigrating. Statement-II: Venezuela has the world's largest oil reserves.**

- (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:** Venezuela has not fully overcome its economic crisis or migration problem; large-scale emigration has continued to be a major issue. However, Venezuela is widely recognized as having the world's largest proven oil reserves. Therefore Statement-I is incorrect and Statement-II is correct.

**Source link:** [Encyclopaedia Britannica](#)

**98. With reference to the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme, consider the following statements: 1. The Central Government provides 100% funding. 2. Cadastral Maps are digitised. 3. An initiative has been undertaken to transliterate Records of Rights from local language to any of the languages recognized by the Constitution of India.**

- (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:** DILRMP is a Central Sector scheme with full central funding. It includes computerization of land records and digitization of cadastral maps. The programme also supports initiatives such as transliteration/translation of Records of Rights to improve accessibility across languages. Therefore all three statements are correct.

**Source link:** [Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme](#)

**99. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan, consider the following statements: 1. It guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care in the second and third trimesters and six months post-delivery health care service in any government health facility. 2. Private sector health-care providers of certain specialities can volunteer to provide services at nearby government health facilities.**

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

**Answer: b. 2 only**

**Explanation:** PMSMA focuses on assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care to pregnant women, particularly on the 9th of every month, during the second/third trimester. The statement incorrectly adds six months post-delivery care as part of the guaranteed package. Private doctors/specialists can volunteer services at government facilities. Hence only statement 2 is correct.

**Source link:** [PMSMA - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare](#)

**100. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) Yojana, consider the following statements: 1. Entry age group is 21 to 40 years. 2. Age-specific contribution shall be made by the beneficiary. 3. Each subscriber receives minimum pension of Rs. 3,000 per month after attaining 60 years. 4. Family pension is applicable to spouse and unmarried daughters.**

- (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:** PM-SYM is for eligible unorganised workers in the entry age group of 18-40 years, so Statement 1 is incorrect. It requires age-specific beneficiary contribution with matching government contribution. It provides a minimum assured pension of Rs. 3,000 per month after 60 years. Family pension is available only to the spouse, not unmarried daughters. Hence statements 2 and 3 are correct.

**Source link:** [Ministry of Labour - PM-SYM](#)

### Answer Key - Series A

Q. No.	Key	Q. No.	Key	Q. No.	Key	Q. No.	Key	Q. No.	Key
1	d	2	a	3	d	4	a	5	c
6	b	7	a	8	b	9	a	10	b
11	a	12	a	13	d	14	c	15	d
16	b	17	d	18	b	19	c	20	Dropped
21	c	22	a	23	d	24	a	25	a
26	a	27	d	28	a	29	c	30	a
31	b	32	d	33	a	34	b	35	d
36	a	37	d	38	c	39	d	40	c
41	d	42	c	43	d	44	d	45	b
46	c	47	b	48	c	49	d	50	a
51	a	52	Dropped	53	d	54	b	55	b
56	a	57	Dropped	58	b	59	a	60	c
61	d	62	a	63	c	64	c	65	b
66	d	67	a	68	c	69	d	70	a
71	d	72	a	73	b	74	d	75	c
76	d	77	d	78	c	79	a	80	c
81	c	82	d	83	c	84	b	85	c
86	d	87	b	88	a	89	c	90	d
91	a	92	d	93	a	94	b	95	c
96	c	97	d	98	d	99	b	100	b