

PRELIMS TEST SERIES 2019

TEST 4 Answers: History, Geography, International relations, Current Affairs



Detail Answers

1. D. 1 and 3 only

Answer Justification:

Justification: Statement 1: These are third-generation EVMs that will stop functioning if someone tries to tinker with it in any way.

Statement 2: The M3 EVM production is starting from August at the Electronics Corporation of India Ltd and Bharat Electronics Lt Plants.

Statement 3 and 4: Another feature of these new machines is self-diagnosis. That is, it can automatically detect any fault with the software or system and will show it in the display.

The third part is digital certification. The Control Unit and Ballot Unit can communicate with each other. If someone plants a Ballot Unit or Control Unit from outside, the digital signature will not match and the system would stop functioning.

Further, by 2019 all EVMs will be attached with voter verifiable paper audit trail units. And, the vehicles carrying the EVMs will be fitted with GPS to monitor their movement. EVM machines will have paper trail slips in every constituency they will be used from 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

2. A 1 and 2 only

Answer Justification :

Statement 3: There is very little helium-3 available on the Earth. However, there are thought to be significant supplies on the Moon.

Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)'s second moon mission — the Rs 800 crore 'Chandrayaan-2' — will hunt for deposits of Helium-3 — a waste-free nuclear energy that could answer many of Earth's energy problems.

There are approximately 1 million metric tons of Helium-3 embedded in the moon, although only about a quarter of that can realistically be brought to Earth.

Statement 1 and 2: The isotope of Helium could theoretically meet global energy demands for three to five centuries. This kind of energy is also expected to be worth trillions of dollars (one expert estimated Helium-3's value at about five billion US dollars a ton).

Since the isotope is not radioactive, it could be used in fusion reactors for nuclear energy without dangerous nuclear by-products.

Mechanism: In current nuclear fusion reactors, the hydrogen isotopes tritium and deuterium are used as the fuel, with atomic energy released when their nuclei fuse to create helium and a neutron.

Nuclear fusion effectively makes use of the same energy source that fuels the Sun and other stars, and does not produce the radioactivity and nuclear waste that is the by-product of current nuclear fission power generation. However, the so-termed "fast" neutrons released by nuclear fusion reactors fuelled by tritium and deuterium lead to significant energy loss and are extremely difficult to contain.

One potential solution may be to use helium-3 and deuterium as the fuels in "aneutronic" (power without neutrons) fusion reactors. The involved nuclear reaction here when helium-3 and deuterium fuse creates normal helium and a proton, which wastes less energy and is easier to contain. Nuclear fusion reactors using helium-3 could therefore provide a highly efficient form of nuclear power with virtually no waste and no radiation.

3.C. August 15, 1947 with India's Independence

Answer Justification :

Justification: The Indian Independence Act 1947 ended the British rule in India and declared India as an independent and sovereign state from August 15, 1947.

It finally provided for the partition of India and creation of two independent dominions of India and Pakistan with the right to secede from the British Commonwealth.

It proclaimed the lapse of British paramountcy over the Indian princely states and treaty relations with tribal areas from August 15, 1947.

Even though India was declared as a sovereign and independent state, it was still called as a dominion because the constitution was not finalized.

4. B. Tribes that were labelled as criminals through a legislation by British government and were denotified post-independence

Answer Justification :

Justification: Denotified tribes are those that were labeled as criminals through a legislation by British government and were denotified post-independence, the Nomadic tribes maintain constant geographical mobility while semi-nomads are those who are on the move but return to fixed habitations once a year, mainly for occupational reasons.

NITI Aayog has offered to set up a working group to come up with policy suggestions on many issues of these marginalised communities.

It has also proposed lowering tuition fees and relaxing admission conditions for children from the communities, and easy allotment of land and housing for members of the community in which 90% or more are landless.

The Niti Aayog has also supported the panel's suggestion to form a dedicated National Finance Development Corporation for DNT, SNT and NTs.

5. B 273

Answer Justification :

Justification: Amendment to the Constitution requires two different kinds of special majorities: in the first place, those voting in favour of the amendment bill should constitute at least half of the total strength of that House. Secondly, the supporters of the amendment bill must also constitute two-thirds of those who actually take part in voting.

In the Lok Sabha there are 545 members. Therefore, any amendment must be supported by a minimum of 273 members. Even if only 300 members are present at the time of voting, the amendment bill must get the support of 273 out of them.

6. B Nepal

Answer Justification :

Learning: Nepal for having eliminated trachoma as a public health problem – a milestone, as the country becomes the first in WHO's South-East Asia Region to defeat the world's leading infectious cause of blindness.

Trachoma is a chronic infective disease of the eye and is the leading cause of infective blindness globally. Trachoma is a disease of poor environmental and personal hygiene and inadequate access to water and sanitation.

It affects the conjunctiva under the eyelids. Repeated infections cause scarring leading to in-turning of the eyelashes and eyelids. This further causes damage to the cornea and blindness.

Trachoma was the second leading cause of preventable blindness in Nepal in the 1980s. In 2002, the Government of Nepal stepped up efforts to eliminate the disease with the establishment of a national trachoma programme. From 2002 to 2005, following the implementation of sustained control activities, the prevalence of active (inflammatory) trachoma fell by 40%

7. A. The United Nations

Answer Justification :

Learning: The U.N. has released its annual checkup report on the SDGs which presents an overview of progress toward achieving the Goals, which were unanimously adopted by countries in 2015.

Highlights of the report

Concerns: Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals remains uneven, and is not moving fast enough to meet the ambitious 17 goals on poverty, health, and equality by 2030.

Challenges: A fast-changing climate, conflict, inequality, persistent pockets of poverty and hunger and rapid urbanization are challenging countries' efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The hunger challenge: There are now approximately 38 million more hungry people in the world, rising from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016. According to the report, conflict is now one of the main drivers of food insecurity in 18 countries.

Sanitation and Health: In 2015, 2.3 billion people still lacked even a basic level of sanitation service and 892 million people continued to practice open defecation. In 2016, there were 216 million cases of malaria compared to 210 million cases in 2013 and close to 4 billion people were left without social protection in 2016. The under-five mortality rate dropped by almost 50% and in the least developed countries.

8. D 1, 2 and 3

Answer Justification :

Justification: Statement 1: The term 'secular' was added to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976. The Preamble secures to all citizens of India liberty of belief, faith and worship.

Statement 2: The State shall endeavour to secure for all the citizens a Uniform Civil Code (Article 44) is mentioned in DPSP – Part IV.

Statement 3: The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or equal protection of the laws (Article 14).

The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on the ground of religion (Article 15).

Equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters of public employment (Article 16).

All persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice and propagate any religion (Article 25).

Every religious denomination or any of its section shall have the right to manage its religious affairs (Article 26).

Similarly Articles 27-30 also uphold values of secularism.

9. C. Both 1 and 2

Answer Justification :

Justification: They operate as limitations on the tyranny of the executive and arbitrary laws of the legislature. They are justiciable in nature, that is, they are enforceable by the courts for their violation.

Statement 2: Rights such as equality to contest for political office, right against discrimination etc show the political and social equality of citizens.

10. A. The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)

Answer Justification :

Learning: APTA, previously named the Bangkok Agreement, was signed in 1975 as an initiative of ESCAP.

The six member countries are Bangladesh, China, India, Laos, Korea and Sri Lanka. Being the oldest preferential trade agreement among developing countries in Asia-Pacific, APTA aims to promote economic development through the adoption of mutually beneficial trade liberalization measures that will contribute to intra-regional trade expansion and provides for economic integration through coverage of merchandise goods, services, investment and trade facilitation.

Significance of APTA:

Open to all developing member countries, APTA is a truly region-wide trade agreement spanning East and South Asia, with potential to expand to other sub-regions, including Central Asia and the Pacific.

APTA is the first plurilateral agreement among the developing countries in the region to adopt common operational procedures for certification and verification of the origin of goods and it has the longest effective implementation period amongst the trade agreements in the entire Asia-Pacific.

Notably, APTA is the only operational trade agreement linking China and India, two of the fastest growing markets in the world, and other major markets such as the Republic of Korea.

11. D. Walk Free Foundation

Answer Justification :

Justification: The report of the Global slavery Index 2018 has been released. It is published by the Australia-based human rights group Walk Free Foundation.

The estimation data were drawn from 54 surveys conducted in 48 countries which included a module on Modern Slavery, with a total sample of 71,158 individual interviews.

Modern Slavery

“In the context of this report, modern slavery covers a set of specific legal concepts including forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage, slavery and slavery-like practices, and human trafficking”.

It is used as an umbrella term which refers to situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, and abuse of power.

Performance of various countries:

North Korea is at the top of the list with 104.6 per 1,000 and Japan registering the lowest prevalence rate of 0.3 per 1,000.

Globally, nearly three-quarters (71 percent) of modern slavery's victims are women and girls. There are more female than male victims across all forms of modern slavery.

The 10 countries with the largest number of absolute numbers of people in modern slavery include India, China, Pakistan, North Korea, Nigeria, Iran, Indonesia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Russia and the Philippines. These 10 countries account for 60 percent of people living in modern slavery.

Findings from the Index highlight the connection between modern slavery and two major external drivers – highly repressive regimes, in which populations are put to work to prop up the government, and conflict situations which result in the breakdown of rule of law, social structures, and existing systems of protection.

Extent of modern slavery in India:

Among 167 countries, India ranked 53. However, in absolute numbers, India topped the list on prevalence.

The index estimates that on any given day in 2016 there were nearly 8 million people living in “modern slavery” in India — a claim strongly contested by the government on the grounds that its parameters were poorly defined and too wide-ranging.

The report said that in terms of prevalence, there were 6.1 victims for every thousand people.

12 B. Godavari

Answer Justification :

Learning: This dam across the Godavari River is under construction located in West Godavari District and East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh state and its reservoir spreads in parts of Chhattisgarh and Orissa States also.

The project is multipurpose major terminal reservoir project on river Godavari for development of Irrigation, Hydropower and drinking water facilities to East Godavari, Vishakhapatnam, West Godavari and Krishna districts of Andhra Pradesh.

The project is likely to displace over 1.88 lakh people across 222 villages and so far, 1,730 persons in six villages have been rehabilitated by the government.

13. D Canada

14. C. Kerala

Learning: Gujarat is third state in India to grant religious minority status to Jews after West Bengal and Maharashtra.

Jews there will get benefits of welfare schemes formulated for religious minority communities.

Six religious communities, viz. Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains have been notified in Gazette of India as minority communities by Union Government all over India.

Constitution of India has not defined word 'Minority' and only refers to 'Minorities' but it speaks of those 'based on religion or language' and rights of minorities have been spelt out in Constitution in detail.

15. A. Future space manned missions

Answer Justification :

Learning: PAT (pad abort test) is the first in a series of tests to qualify a crew escape system technology of a manned mission in the future.

Crew Escape System is an emergency escape measure to quickly pull the astronaut cabin along with crew out to a safe distance from launch vehicle during a launch abort.

ISRO recently conducted the first 'pad abort' test critical for a future human space mission. The Pad Abort Test demonstrated the safe recovery of the crew module in case of any exigency at the launch

16. C. Jointly by the Central, State governments and the sponsor banks

Answer Justification :

Learning: A Regional Rural Banks Ordinance was promulgated in September 1975, which was replaced by the Regional Rural Banks Act 1976.

RRBs were set up with the objective to provide credit and other facilities, especially to the small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans and small entrepreneurs in rural areas for development of agriculture, trade, commerce, industry and other productive activities.

RRBs are jointly owned by Government of India, the concerned State Government and Sponsor Banks with the issued capital shared in the proportion of 50%, 15% and 35% respectively. Cabinet recently approved extension of Scheme of Recapitalization of Regional Rural Banks upto 2019-20.

This will enable the RRBs to maintain the minimum prescribed Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 9%. A strong capital structure and minimum required level of CRAR will ensure financial stability of RRBs which will enable them to play a greater role in financial inclusion and meeting the credit requirements of rural areas.

17. B. Madhya Pradesh

Justification and Learning: Option A: Delhi does not have a happiness department or happiness Index. It has introduced Happiness curriculum in schools though recently. The curriculum involves a “happiness period” of 45 minutes and five minutes of meditation before each class. It will include meditation, moral values and mental exercises.

Option B: Madhya Pradesh, which is in the process of developing a happiness index to find out how happy its population is, has decided to introduce on pilot basis happiness-based activities in 10 schools, five each in Bhopal and Jabalpur. Keeping the emotional needs of students in mind, an effort will be made to develop their personalities to help them lead a meaningful life. After the idea of a happiness department was floated by the MP Chief Minister in 2017, the state government signed an MoU with IIT Kharagpur to assess and develop the Happiness index.

The 14 domains were arrived at after reviewing global, country and city indices with which happiness is associated while the sub-domains and their indicators were chosen after study of various reports on the basis of ground realities that emerged from primary unstructured and domain-specific interviews with 600 respondents from 10 districts of the state.

18 B. China

Answer Justification :

Learning: As the most populous country in the world and third largest in area, China also has the largest number of neighbours (14) sharing its 22,000km land borders namely: North Korea, Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam.

Brazil shares its borders with 10 nations, almost all of them in South America.

19. A. Sulphur

Answer Justification :

Background: The BS — or Bharat Stage — emission standards are norms instituted by the government to regulate the output of air pollutants from internal combustion engine equipment, including motor vehicles. India has been following the European (Euro) emission norms, though with a time-lag of five years.

ICAT has completed the first BS-VI certification for a heavy-duty engine model for M/s Volvo Eicher Commercial Vehicle Limited.

The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) is a division of NATRiP implementation society (NATIS), under the administrative control of the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Government of India.

Justification: The newly introduced fuel is estimated to reduce the amount of sulphur released by 80%, from 50 parts per million to 10 ppm. As per the analysts, the emission of NO_x (nitrogen oxides) from diesel cars is also expected to reduce by nearly 70% and 25% from cars with petrol engines.

20. D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer Justification :

Background: The Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga project aims to provide piped cooking gas to residents of Varanasi and later to millions of people in states like Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha.

From Varanasi's perspective, an 800-km long MDPI pipeline will be laid and 50,000 households and 20,000 vehicles will get PNG and CNG gas respectively. The government estimates that around 5 lakh gas cylinders will be sent at rural areas annually.

According to GAIL, with the Urja Ganga project, 20 lakh households will get PNG connections. The project is said to be a major step towards collective growth and development of the Eastern region of India.

GAIL has built a network of trunk pipelines covering the length of around 11,000 km. With Urja Ganga project, this number will further increase by 2540 km.

Justification: The proposed gas pipeline grid will connect Guwahati to the major Northeast cities and major load centers. The project is being implemented under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious Urja Ganga Gas Pipeline Project.

Besides connecting all the state capitals in the region, the pipeline will also connect with the National Gas Grid through Barauni-Guwahati Gas Pipeline, which is being laid by GAIL.

From Guwahati, the pipeline will extend to Numaligarh, Dimapur, Kohima and Imphal in one direction; Shillong, Silchar, Aizawl and Agartala in the second direction and to Itanagar in the third direction. Gangtok will be connected from Siliguri from the gas pipeline of GAIL coming from Barauni to Guwahati.

21. C. 3 only

Justification: Government recently declared 6 educational 'Institutions of Eminence'; 3 Institutions from Public Sector and 3 from Private Sector shortlisted.

Each 'Public Institution' selected as 'Institution of Eminence' will get financial assistance up to Rs. 1000 Crore over a period of five years.

These Institutions shall be provided with greater autonomy to admit foreign students up to 30% of admitted students; to recruit foreign faculty upto 25% of faculty strength; to offer online courses upto 20% of its programmes.

They will also be allowed to enter into academic collaboration with top 500 in the world ranking Institutions without permission of UGC; free to fix and charge fees from foreign students without restriction; complete flexibility in fixing of curriculum and syllabus, among others.

At the same time, they will get more opportunity to scale up their operations with more skills and quality improvement so that they become World Class Institutions in the field of education.

22 C. 2 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: Statement 1: Formaldehyde, in its basic form, is a gas. Most people think of formaldehyde as a liquid. The liquid is actually a mixture of formaldehyde gas and water. The most common concentration used is a 37% solution.

- To prevent polymerization of formaldehyde solution, about 10 - 15% of methyl alcohol is added. It is the addition of methyl alcohol that causes the substance to be called formalin as opposed to formaldehyde.
- Formalin is a toxic, colourless solution that is derived by dissolving formaldehyde gas in water.
- It is a cancer-inducing chemical used to preserve fish is used as a disinfectant. It is used in the manufacture of pesticides, fertilisers, glue, paper and paint, among other products.
- Formalin causes irritation in the eyes, throat, skin and stomach. In the long run continued exposure causes harm to the kidneys, liver and can even cause cancers.

Statement 2: Fish samples in Chennai test positive for formalin. This is the first time samples of fish in Tamil Nadu have tested positive for toxic formalin.

This is because Formalternate can be disposed of via the sanitary sewer system. But, formalin must be disposed though the hazardous chemical waste disposal program because it is toxic.

Formalternate can be used in lieu of formaldehyde in the storage (NOT FIXATION) of biological specimens.

Statement 3: Formaldehyde is a highly reactive, flammable gas, which means it can become a fire hazard when exposed to flame or heat.

Formaldehyde solutions can be flammable when there are high concentrations of formaldehyde or methanol.

23. D. 3 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: S1 and 2: During the Census of 1951, a national citizen register was created that contained the details of every person by village. The data included name, age, father's/husband's name, houses or holdings belonging to them, means of livelihood and so on. These registers covered every person enumerated during the Census of 1951 and were kept in the offices of deputy commissioners and sub-divisional officers as per the Centre's instructions issued in 1951.

In the early 1960stheseregisters were transferred to the police.

Assam is the only state having this arrangement.

The NRC will be updated as per the provisions of The Citizenship Act, 1955 and The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.

Updation basically means the process of enlisting the names of those persons (or their descendants) whose names appear in any of the Electoral Rolls up to 1971, 1951 NRC or any of the admissible documents stipulated.

The need of the hour therefore is for the Union Government to allay apprehensions presently in the minds of the people of Assam and take steps to contain any adverse fallout after the publication of the final draft of the NRC. At the same time, it also needs to spell out what it intends to do with the persons whose names do not figure in the final NRC.

24. B. 1 and 3 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: According to WHO, the Nipah virus infection is a newly emerging zoonosis, that is, a disease transmitted from animals to humans. The virus belongs to a new genus termed Henipavirus (subfamily Paramyxovirinae).

The natural host of the virus are fruit bats belonging to the family Pteropodidae. In 2004, humans were affected after eating the date palm contaminated by infected fruit bats. Pigs can also act as intermediate hosts.

It was first identified in 1998 at Kampung Sungai Nipah village, Malaysia. The virus is named after this village.

The symptoms of Nipah are similar to that of influenza: fever, muscle pain, and respiratory problems. Inflammation of the brain can also cause disorientation. Late onset of Encephalitis can also occur. Sometimes a person can have an asymptomatic infection, and be a carrier of Nipah and not show any symptoms.

Currently, there are no vaccines for both humans and animals. Intensive supportive care is given to humans infected by Nipah virus.

According to WHO, ribavirin can reduce the symptoms of nausea, vomiting, and convulsions associated with the disease. Individuals infected need to be hospitalised and isolated. Special care should be taken to prevent human-to-human transmission. Surveillance systems should be established to detect the virus quickly and to initiate appropriate control measures.

25. C. Sinai Peninsula

Answer Justification :

Learning: The Sinai Peninsula is a peninsula in Egypt, and the only part of the country located in Asia.

It is situated between the Mediterranean Sea to the north and the Red Sea to the south, and is a land bridge between Asia and Africa. Sinai has a land area of about 60,000 km² and a population of approximately 1,400,000 people.

Administratively, the Sinai Peninsula is divided into two governorates: the South Sinai Governorate and the North Sinai Governorate.

Three other governorates span the Suez Canal, crossing into African Egypt: Suez Governorate on the southern end of the Suez Canal, Ismailia Governorate in the centre, and Port Said Governorate in the north.

26. A. 3 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: Statement 1: Infant Mortality Rate has declined from 58 per 1,000 live births in 2005 to 37 per 1,000 live births in 2015, which is a decline of 21 points (36.2 per cent).

Statement 2: Maternal Mortality Rate: it was 254 per 1,00,000 live births in 2004-05, which has been reduced to 167 per 1,00,000 live births in 2013. It has decreased by 87 points (34.2 per cent).

Statement 3: U5MR is around 26.

27. D. 2 and 3 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: The PCR will essentially provide a single-point and real-time source for financial liabilities of a person or entity. The decision is based on the report of RBI appointed task force led by YM Deosthalee.

Statement 1: Currently, there are multiple granular credit information repositories in India, each with distinct objective and coverage. Within the RBI, CRILC is a borrower-level supervisory dataset with a threshold in aggregate exposure of Rs 5 crore. Also, there are four privately-owned credit information companies (CICs) in India.

The RBI has mandated all its regulated entity to submit credit information individually to all four CICs. CICs offer, based on this unique access to the credit data, value added services like credit scoring and analytics to the member credit institutions and to the borrowers.

Learning: The PCR will be the single point of mandatory reporting for all material events for each loan, notwithstanding any threshold in the loan amount or type of borrower. The PCR will serve as a registry of all credit contracts, duly verified by reporting institutions, for all lending in India and any lending by an Indian institution to a company incorporated in India.

Need for a public registry:

Credit information is spread over multiple systems in bits and pieces, making it difficult to get a comprehensive view of the financial liabilities of a person or entity. A PCR aims to remove information asymmetry to foster the level of access to credit, and to strengthen the credit culture in the economy.

Also, a comprehensive credit information repository covering all types of credit facilities (funded and non-funded) extended by all credit institutions – commercial banks, cooperative banks, NBFCs, MFIs – and also covering borrowings from other sources, including external commercial borrowings and borrowing from market, is essential to ascertain the total indebtedness of a legal or natural person.

Benefits of having a PCR:

- A PCR can potentially help banks in credit assessment and pricing of credit as well as in making risk-based, dynamic and counter-cyclical provisioning.
- The PCR can also help the RBI in understanding if transmission of monetary policy is working, and if not, where are the bottlenecks.
- Further, it can help supervisors, regulators and banks in early intervention and effective restructuring of stressed bank credits.
- A PCR will also help banks and regulators as credit information is a ‘public good’ and its utility is to the credit market at large and to society in general

28 B China, France, Russia, the United States, Britain, Israel and India

Answer Justification :

Learning: At present, India has in its armoury the Agni series — Agni-1 with 700 km range, Agni-2 with 2,000 km range, Agni-3 and Agni-4 with 2,500 km to more than 3,500 km range.

With the Agni-V missile, India has joined an elite club of nations that possess the ICBM launch capability. Only the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council – China, France, Russia, the United States and Britain, along with Israel, have so far possessed such longrange missiles.

Agni-5 Ballistic Missile is a surface-to-surface missile which can carry nuclear warhead weighing 1.5 tonnes to a distance of over 5,000 km and is the longest missile in India's arsenal capable of reaching most parts of China.

The missile features many new indigenously-developed technologies, including the very high accuracy Ring Laser Gyro based Inertial Navigation System (RINS), and the most modern and accurate Micro Navigation System (MINS) which improves the accuracy of the missile.

29. B. 2 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: Statement 1, 2 and 3: The inter-creditor agreement is aimed at the resolution of loan accounts with a size of ₹50 crore and above that are under the control of a group of lenders. It is part of the “Sashakt” plan approved by the government to address the problem of resolving bad loans.

The agreement is based on a recommendation by the Sunil Mehta committee that looked into resolution of stressed assets.

Statement 4: The agreement says if 66% of lenders by value agree to a resolution plan, it would be binding on all lenders. The dissenting creditors will, however, have the option to sell their loans to other lenders at a discount of 15% to the liquidation value, or buy the entire portfolio paying 125% of the value agreed under the debt resolution plan by other lenders.

Dissenting creditors can also exit by selling their loans to any entity at a price mutually arrived at between the lender and buyer.

The agreement has a standstill clause wherein all lenders are barred from enforcing any legal action against the borrower for recovery of dues.

Significance of the agreement:

The agreement is a “huge step forward” in tackling the bad loan issue as it is drawn up by banks themselves and is a reflection of bankers' resolve to collectively find a solution to stressed asset mess. Almost the entire banking system and prominent NBFCs like REC, PFC are joining the ICA which has held back fast and effective resolution of stressed assets for decades in the past.

30. A. 1 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: The AT Kearney Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index, created in 1998, is an annual survey of the business executives that ranks countries which are likely to attract the most FDI in the next three years.

S2: The Index is calculated as a weighted average of the number of low, medium and high responses to questions on the possibility of making a direct investment in a market over the next three years. So, 2 is wrong.

Global performers:

The United States (US) topped the index, followed by Canada at 2nd and Germany at the 3rd place.

China falls three spots to 5th place this year, the lowest ranking of the country in the history of the Index.

Only four emerging markets appear among the top 25 countries for FDI intentions- China, India, Mexico and Brazil.

Performance of India:

- India was ranked 11th, down from 8th in 2017 and 9th in 2016.
- Fall in India's rankings may be due to teething troubles in implementation of goods and services tax (GST) and Government's demonetisation decision in 2016.

31 C. Change in consumer preferences

Answer Justification:

Justification: Option C: This is because PPF shows a possibility of production and not what the consumers want to be produced. Even if the consumers change their preferences, the possibility of production in the economy in terms of technological capability or manpower remains the same.

For e.g. if all the resources are used in the production of corn, the maximum amount of corn that can be produced is 4 units and if all resources are used in the production of cotton, at the most, 10 units of cotton can be produced. The economy can also produce 1 unit of corn and 9 units of cotton or 2 units of corn and 7 units of cotton or 3 units of corn. There can be many

other possibilities. These possibilities are not changed even if the consumer preference changes, the actual quantity of each good produced may however depend on the consumer preference.

Option A and B: These will tend to shift the PPF downwards or upwards because an improvement in technology or resources would imply a change in production possibilities.

32 B. The volume of production of the country may have doubled without any increase in prices

Answer Justification :

Justification: Option C is incorrect because if production increases even a little despite the price hike the GDP is going to be more than doubled.

- GDP at market prices reflects both production and price.
- It is possible that only prices of all goods and services have doubled between the two years whereas the production has remained constant.
- Therefore, in order to compare the GDP figures (and other macroeconomic variables) of different countries or to compare the GDP figures of the same country at different points of time, we cannot rely on GDPs evaluated at current market prices.
- For comparison we take the help of real GDP. Real GDP is calculated in a way such that the goods and services are evaluated at some constant set of prices (or constant prices). Since these prices remain fixed, if the Real GDP changes we can be sure that it is the volume of production which is undergoing changes.
- Nominal GDP, on the other hand, is simply the value of GDP at the current prevailing prices.

For example, suppose a country only produces bread.

In the year 2000 it had produced 100 units of bread, price was Rs 10 per bread. GDP at current price was Rs 1,000. In 2001 the same country produced 110 units of bread at price Rs 15 per bread. Therefore nominal GDP in 2001 was Rs 1,650 ($=110 \times \text{Rs } 15$). Real GDP in 2001 calculated at the price of the year 2000 (2000 will be called the base year) will be $110 \times \text{Rs } 10 = \text{Rs } 1,100$.

33. D. Denotified nomadic tribes

Answer Justification :

Justification: Bhiku Ramji Idate Commission on DNT, SNT, and NT communities, in its report, had recommended to set up a permanent commission for the communities on the lines of similar commissions for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes.

Composition: In its report submitted to the social justice ministry in January 2018, the Idate Commission said such a permanent commission should have a prominent community leader as its chairperson, and a senior Union government bureaucrat, an anthropologist, and a sociologist as members.

Other important recommendations of the panel include granting Constitutional protection to these communities under a separate third schedule after Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, making them eligible for reservation, and extending the protective cover of Prevention of Atrocities Act to them.

Need for special attention:

The DNT, NT, SNT communities have been identified as the most marginalised by several commissions set up since Independence. The community has for long not been enumerated in the Census data. The Renke Commission report of 2008 had arrived at a rough estimate of their population being between 10-12 crore but none of its recommendations were implemented.

34. B. Madhya Pradesh and Odisha

Answer Justification :

Learning: As per Census 2011, Odisha has the second highest tribal population in the country after Madhya Pradesh.

Odisha Government has recently unveiled first-ever 'Tribal Atlas of Odisha', a compilation of demographic and cultural information of the tribal population in the state. This book will help provide comprehensive data on tribal population.

It is claimed to be first-of-its-kind tribal compilation in the country. The book was published by SC and ST Research and Training Institute in collaboration with Academy of Tribal Language and Culture (ATLC).

35. B. July

Answer Justification :

Background: Price volatility makes life difficult for farmers. Though prices of agri commodities may soar while in short supply, during years of bumper production, prices of the very same commodities plummet.

MSPs ensure that farmers get a minimum price for their produce in adverse markets. MSPs have also been used as a tool by the Government to incentivise farmers to grow crops that are in short supply.

Learning: In theory, an MSP is the minimum price set by the Government at which farmers can expect to sell their produce for the season. When market prices fall below the announced MSPs, procurement agencies step in to procure the crop and 'support' the prices.

MSP for various crops is announced at the beginning of each sowing season (so, for Kharf season it should be July) based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

The CACP takes into account demand and supply, the cost of production and price trends in the market among other things when fixing MSPs.

36. A. 1, 2 and 4 only

Answer Justification :

Justification & Learning:

Yoga aims to transform both body and mind.

In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly declared June 21st as the International Day of Yoga.

- Folding of both hands in the logo Symbolise Yoga, the union, which reflects the union of individual Consciousness with that of universal Consciousness, a perfect harmony between mind & body, man & nature; a holistic approach to health & well being.
- The brown leaves symbolise the Earth element, the green leaves symbolise the Nature, blue symbolises the Water element, brightness symbolises the Fire element and the Sun symbolise the source of energy and inspiration.
- The logo reflects harmony and peace for humanity, which is the essence of Yoga.

It is further important to know why the date June 21 was suggested. It is the Summer Solstice; the date is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and has special significance in many parts of the world.

37 A. 1 and 2 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: Statement 1 and 2: In economics, a transfer payment (or government transfer or simply transfer) is a redistribution of income and wealth (payment) made without goods or services being received in return. These payments are considered to be non-exhaustive because they do not directly absorb resources or create output.

For the purposes of calculating gross domestic product (GDP), government spending does not include transfer payments – the reallocation of money from one party to another – which includes Social Security, Medicare, unemployment insurance, welfare programs and subsidies. Because these are not payments for goods or services, they do not represent a form of final demand, or GDP.

Statement 3: Examples of transfer payments include welfare, financial aid, social security, and government making subsidies for certain businesses (firms) Transfer payments, however, do not include subsidies that are paid to domestic farmers, manufacturers and exporters, even though they are technically a one-way payment to a person on behalf of the government.

38 C. Both 1 and 2

Answer Justification :

Justification: The term quo warranto means what is your authority . The writ of quo warranto is used to judicially control executive action in the matter of making appointments to public offices under relevant statutory provisions.

The writ is also used to protect a citizen from the holder of a public office to which he has no right. The writ calls upon the holder of a public office to show to the court under what authority he is holding the office in question.

If he is not entitled to the office , the court may restrain him from acting in the office and may also declare the office to be vacant . The writ proceedings not only give a weapon to control the executive from making appointments to public office against law but also tend to protect the public from being deprived of public office to which it has a right.

39. C. 1 and 2 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: These include:

- Acquisition of estates and related rights by the State;
- Taking over the management of properties by the State;
- Amalgamation of corporations;
- Extinguishment or modification of rights of directors or shareholders of corporations; and Extinguishment or modification of mining leases.

Article 31A does not immunise a state law from judicial review unless it has been reserved for the president's consideration and has received his assent.

This Article also provides for the payment of compensation at market value when the state acquires the land held by a person under his personal cultivation and the land is within the statutory ceiling limit.

40. C. Pangolin

Answer Justification :

Justification: Option A, B and D: They are either reptiles or amphibians.

Pangolin is only scaly mammal on the planet. According to Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), it is also the most illegally traded vertebrate within its class (Mammalia).

Of the eight species of pangolin worldwide, two are found in India. They are Chinese pangolin, mostly found in northeast India and Indian pangolin.

Chinese pangolin has been listed as "critically endangered" by UN affiliated International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List. Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) has been listed as "endangered" in IUCN Red List. It is also a Schedule I category protected animal, under the Wildlife Protection Act (1972).

41 D. Directive Principles of State Policy

Answer Justification :

Learning: The directive principles are meant for promoting the ideal of social and economic democracy. They seek to establish a 'welfare state' in India.

However, unlike the Fundamental Rights, the directives are non-justiciable in nature, that is, they are not enforceable by the courts for their violation. Yet, the Constitution itself declares that 'these principles are fundamental in the governance of the country and it shall be the duty of the state to

apply these principles in making laws’.

Hence, they impose a moral obligation on the state authorities for their application. But, the real force (sanction) behind them is political, that is, public opinion.

In the Minerva Mills case (1980), the Supreme Court held that ‘the Indian Constitution is founded on the bedrock of the balance between the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles’

42. B. 1 and 2 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: The Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act is popularly known as POA Act was enacted in 1989. The rules for the Act were notified in 1995.

The SC/ST Act lists 22 offences relating to various patterns or behaviors inflicting criminal offences and breaking the self-respect and esteem of the scheduled castes and tribes community. This includes denial of economic, democratic and social rights, discrimination, exploitation and abuse of the legal process.

According to the SC/ST Act, the protection is provided from social disabilities such as denial of access to certain places and to use customary passage, personal atrocities like forceful drinking or eating of inedible food sexual exploitation, injury etc, atrocities affecting properties, malicious prosecution, political disabilities and economic exploitation.

For speedy trial, Section 14 of the SC/ST Act provides for a Court of Session to be a Special Court to try offences under this Act in each district.

The prime objective of the SC/ST Act is to deliver justice to marginalised through proactive efforts, giving them a life of dignity, self-esteem and a life without fear, violence or suppression from the dominant castes.

43. D. 2 and 3 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: Statement 1 and 2: The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission.

The average EVD case fatality rate is around 50%. Case fatality rates have varied from 25% to 90% in past outbreaks.

Statement 3: Community engagement is key to successfully controlling outbreaks. Good outbreak control relies on applying a package of interventions, namely case management, surveillance and contact tracing, a good laboratory service and social mobilisation.

Early supportive care with rehydration, symptomatic treatment improves survival. There is as yet no licensed treatment proven to neutralise the virus but a range of blood, immunological and drug therapies are under development.

44. A 1 and 2 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: It is an international and intergovernmental institution, owned and managed by its Member States, for the generation and application of early warning information.

RIMES evolved from the efforts of countries in Africa and Asia, in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, to establish a regional early warning system within a multi-hazard framework for the generation and communication of early warning information, and capacitybuilding for preparedness and response to trans-boundary hazards.

RIMES was established on 30 April 2009, and was registered with the United Nations on 1 July 2009.

RIMES operates from its regional early warning center located at the campus of the Asian Institute of Technology in Pathumthani, Thailand.

RIMES caters to differential needs and demands of its Member States by enhancing capacities for end-to-end multi-hazard early warning, in particular:

- Hazard monitoring, detection, analysis, prediction, and forecasting
- Risk assessment
- Potential impact analysis
- Generation of tailored risk information at different time scales
- Risk communication
- Application of tailored risk information in decision-making

45. A. A is correct, and R is an appropriate explanation of A.

Answer Justification :

Justification: An equatorial bulge is a difference between the equatorial and polar diameters of a planet, due to the centrifugal force exerted by the rotation about the body's axis. A rotating body tends to form an oblate spheroid rather than a sphere.

The Earth has an equatorial bulge of 42.77 km; that is, its diameter measured across the equatorial plane (12,756.274 km) is 42.77 km more than that measured between the poles (12,713.56 km).

An observer standing at sea level on either pole, therefore, is 21.36 km closer to Earth's central point than if standing at sea level on the Equator. The value of Earth's radius may be approximated by the average of these radii.

Learning: As a result of Earth's equatorial bulge, the highest point on Earth, measured from the center and outwards, is the peak of Mount Chimborazo in Ecuador rather than Mount Everest. But since the ocean also bulges, like Earth and its atmosphere, Chimborazo is not as high above sea level as Everest is.

46. D. Mongolia

Answer Justification :

Justification: Option D, Mongolia, is ruled out because these deposits are only found in Southern Hemisphere, apart from being found in India.

Learning: Tillite is the sedimentary rock formed out of deposits of glaciers. The Gondawana system of sediments from India is known to have its counter parts in six different landmasses of the Southern Hemisphere.

At the base the system has thick tillite indicating extensive and prolonged glaciation. Counter parts of this succession are found in Africa, Falkland Island, Madagascar, Antarctica and Australia besides India.

Overall resemblance of the Gondawana type sediments clearly demonstrates that these landmasses had remarkably similar histories.

The glacial tillite provides unambiguous evidence of palaeoclimates and also of drifting of continents.

47. A. 3 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: Statement 1: Divergent Boundaries are formed where new crust is generated as the plates pull away from each other.

The sites where the plates move away from each other are called spreading sites. The best-known example of divergent boundaries is the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

At this, the American Plate(s) is/are separated from the Eurasian and African Plates.

Statement 2: Where the crust is destroyed as one plate dived under another is called a convergent boundary. The location where sinking of a plate occurs is called a subduction zone.

There are three ways in which convergence can occur. These are: (i) between an oceanic and continental plate; (ii) between two oceanic plates; and (iii) between two continental plates.

Statement 3: Transform Boundaries form where the crust is neither produced nor destroyed as the plates slide horizontally past each other. Transform faults are the planes of separation generally perpendicular to the mid-oceanic ridges.

As the eruptions do not take all along the entire crest at the same time, there is a differential movement of a portion of the plate away from the axis of the earth. Also, the rotation of the earth has its effect on the separated blocks of the plate portions.

48. B. Human ecological footprint as compared to earth's bio-capacity has reduced considerably.

Answer Justification :

Learning: It is date when humanity annual demand on nature exceeds what Earth can regenerate over the entire year. It is calculated by Global Footprint Network and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). If the earth overshoot day occurs later, it simply means that we have become more efficient in the usage of our natural resources, or that we have bought more time for the earth.

Currently, humankind is using 170% of the world's natural output. That means we are using up the equivalent of 1.7 Earths. And, according to the Global Footprint Network , we're on track to be using two Earths by the end of the 21st Century.

In 1963, we used 78% of the Earth's biocapacity. However by the early 1970s we began to consume more energy than the planet could produce. By 10 years ago, we were using 144% of the Earth's biocapacity.

The two greatest contributing factors to humanity's Ecological Footprint are carbon emissions, which accounts for 60%, and food, 26%.

49. A. 1 and 2 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: Statement 1 and 2: Depending upon the mode of formation, sedimentary rocks are classified into three major groups: (i) mechanically formed — sandstone, conglomerate, limestone, shale, loess etc. are examples; (ii) organically formed— geyserite, chalk, limestone,

coal etc. are some examples; (iii) chemically formed — chert, limestone, halite, potash etc. are some examples.

Statement 3: It is an igneous rock.

Statement 3: This is mechanically formed.

50. C. Both 1 and 2

Answer Justification :

Justification: Statement 1: Biological weathering is contribution to or removal of minerals and ions from the weathering environment and physical changes due to growth or movement of organisms.

Burrowing and wedging by organisms like earthworms, termites, rodents etc., help in exposing the new surfaces to chemical attack and assists in the penetration of moisture and air. Human beings by disturbing vegetation, ploughing and cultivating soils, also help in mixing and creating new contacts between air, water and minerals in the earth materials.

Decaying plant and animal matter help in the production of humic, carbonic and other acids which enhance decay and solubility of some elements. Algae utilise mineral nutrients for growth and help in concentration of iron and manganese oxides. Plant roots exert a tremendous pressure on the earth materials mechanically breaking them apart

Statement 2: Weathering processes are responsible for breaking down the rocks into smaller fragments and preparing the way for formation of not only regolith and soils, but also erosion and mass movements.

Erosion cannot be significant if the rocks are not weathered. That means, weathering aids mass wasting, erosion and reduction of relief and changes in landforms are a consequence of erosion.

51. A. 1 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: Normally very coarse load is carried by streams flowing over mountain slopes. This load becomes too heavy for the streams to be carried over gentler gradients and gets dumped and spread as a broad low to high cone shaped deposit called alluvial fan.

Usually, the streams which flow over fans are not confined to their original channels for long and shift their position across the fan forming many channels called distributaries.

52. C. Both 1 and 2

Answer Justification :

Justification: Statement 1: Along the high rocky coasts, the rivers appear to have been drowned with highly irregular coastline.

The coastline appears highly indented with extension of water into the land where glacial valleys (fjords) are present. The hill sides drop off sharply into the water. Erosion features dominate.

When barrier bars and spits form at the mouth of a bay and block it, a lagoon forms. The lagoons would gradually get filled up by sediments from the land giving rise to a coastal plain.

Statement 2: Along low sedimentary coasts the rivers appear to extend their length by building coastal plains and deltas. The coastline appears smooth with occasional incursions of water in the form of lagoons and tidal creeks.

The land slopes gently into the water. Marshes and swamps may abound along the coasts. Depositional features dominate.

When waves break over a gently sloping sedimentary coast, the bottom sediments get churned and move readily building bars, barrier bars, spits and lagoons.

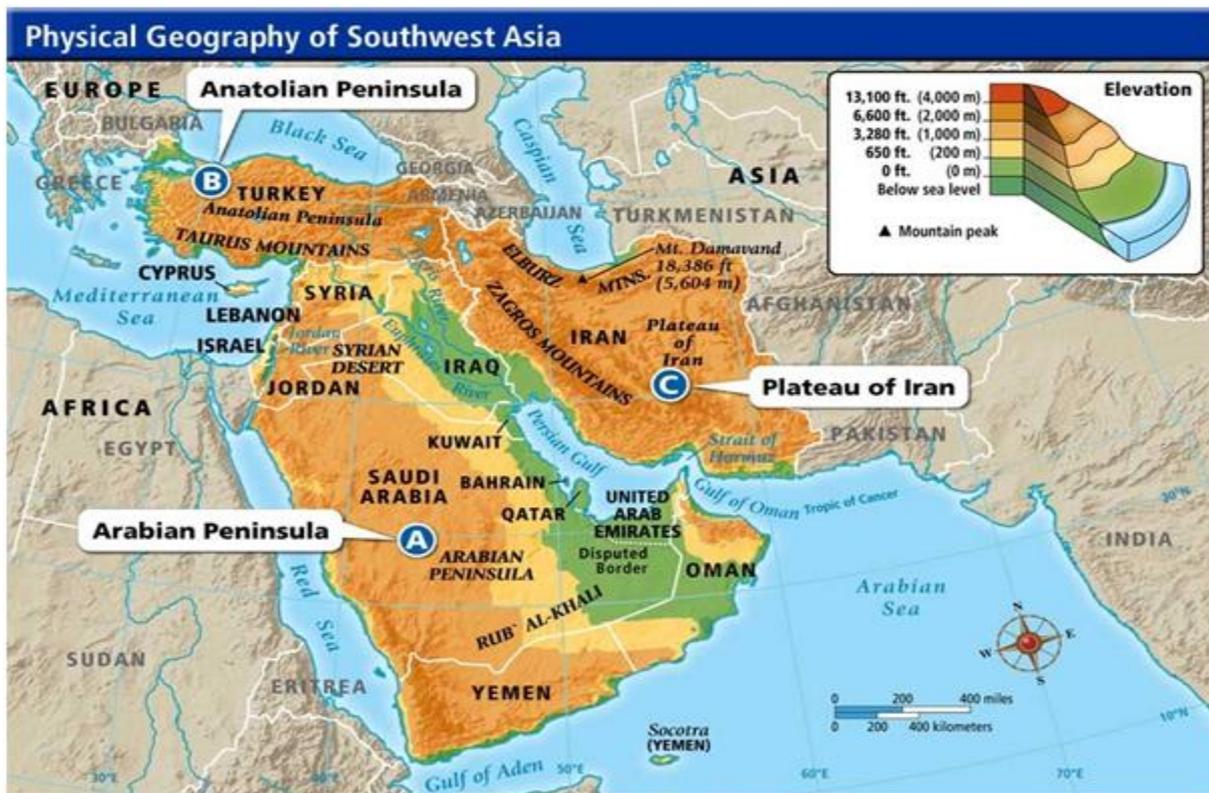
Lagoons would eventually turn into a swamp which would subsequently turn into a coastal plain. The maintenance of these depositional features depends upon the steady supply of materials.

53. D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer Justification :

Justification: These are the Aegean Sea, the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea.

To the north, the region is delimited from Europe by the Caucasus Mountains, to the southwest, it is delimited from Africa by the Isthmus of Suez, while to the east, the region adjoins Central Asia and South Asia.



54. B. 1, 2 and 3

Answer Justification :

Refer Physical Geography Of Southwest Asia

55. A. Internationally recognized as Syrian territory occupied by Israel

Answer Justification :

Learning: The Golan Heights is a region in the Levant, spanning about 1,800 square kilometres. As a geopolitical region, the Golan Heights is the area captured from Syria and occupied by Israel during the Six-Day War, territory which Israel effectively annexed in 1981. This region includes the western two-thirds of the geological Golan Heights, as well as the Israeli-occupied part of Mount Hermon.



56. D. None of the above

Answer Justification :

Justification: Statement 1: Japan has roughly from 30N to 45N.

Statement 2: Mongolia roughly from 40 to 50N.

Statement 3: Korea combined roughly from 35N to 45N.

57. B. 2 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: Oyashio is a cold subarctic ocean current that flows south and circulates counterclockwise in the western North Pacific Ocean.

- The nutrient-rich Oyashio is named for its metaphorical role as the parent that provides for and nurtures marine organisms.
- The current has an important impact on the climate of the Russian Far East, mainly in Kamchatka and Chukotka, where the northern limit of tree growth is moved south up to ten degrees compared with the latitude it can reach in inland Siberia.
- The waters of the Oyashio Current form probably the richest fishery in the world owing to the extremely high-nutrient content of the cold water and the very high tides (up to ten metres) in

some areas – which further enhances the availability of nutrients.

- Because the Oyashio Current brings water of subarctic origin southward, the Subarctic Current is accompanied by a distinct temperature-salinity front between cold, fresher water to the north and warm, saltier water of subtropical origin to the south.

Learning: The waters of the Oyashio Current originate in the Arctic Ocean and flow southward via the Bering Sea, passing through the Bering Strait and transporting cold water from the Arctic Sea into the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Okhotsk. It collides with the Kuroshio Current off the eastern shore of Japan to form the North Pacific Current (or Drift).

The Oyashio Current colliding with the Kuroshio Current near Hokkaido. When two currents collide, they create eddies. Phytoplankton growing in the surface waters become concentrated along the boundaries of these eddies, tracing out the motions of the water.

58. C. 3 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: When the molten magma cools, it becomes solid. Rocks thus formed are called igneous rocks. They are also called primary rocks. There are two types of igneous rocks: intrusive rocks and extrusive rocks.

When this molten lava comes on the earth's surface, it rapidly cools down and becomes solid. Rocks formed in such a way on the crust are called extrusive igneous rocks. They have a very fine grained structure. For example, basalt. The Deccan plateau is made up of basalt rocks.

Sometimes the molten magma cools down deep inside the earth's crust. Solid rocks so formed are called intrusive igneous rocks. Since they cool down slowly they form large grains. Granite is an example of such a rock. Grinding stones used to prepare paste/powder of spices and grains are made of granite.

Statement 3: Metamorphic rocks can melt under the earth due to high pressure and become igneous rocks again; or they can be eroded, transported and deposited to become sedimentary rock again.

59. C. Both 1 and 2

Answer Justification :

Justification: Lithospheric plates are regions of Earth's crust and upper mantle that are fractured into plates that move across a deeper plastic mantle.

Earth's crust is fractured into 13 major and approximately 20 total lithospheric plates. Each lithospheric plate is composed of a layer of oceanic crust or continental crust superficial to an outer layer of the mantle.

Containing both crust and the upper region of the mantle, lithospheric plates are generally considered to be approximately 60 mi (100 km) thick.

Although containing only continental crust or oceanic crust in any one cross-section, lithospheric plates may contain various sections that exclusively contain either oceanic crust or continental crust and therefore lithospheric plates may contain various combinations of oceanic and continental crust.

Lithospheric plates move on top of the asthenosphere (the outer plastically deforming region of Earth's mantle).

60. A. 1 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: Statement 1 and 3: Loess is an aeolian sediment formed by the accumulation of windblown silt, typically in the 20–50 micrometer size range, twenty percent or less clay and the balance equal parts sand and silt that are loosely cemented by calcium carbonate.

Loess is mostly created by wind, but can also be formed by glaciers. When glaciers grind rocks to a fine powder, loess can form. Streams carry the powder to the end of the glacier. This sediment becomes loess.

It is usually homogeneous and highly porous and is traversed by vertical capillaries that permit the sediment to fracture and form vertical bluffs.

61. B. Slightly less than \$2000

Answer Justification :

Justification: India's GDP per capita (nominal) is \$1983 as per IMF (2017) estimates. We rank overall at 139th position in the World.

But, in GDP (nominal) overall, we rank 6th as per IMF with a GDP (Nominal) of about \$2.6 trillion.

Learning: The figures presented here do not take into account differences in the cost of living in different countries, and the results vary greatly from one year to another based on fluctuations in the exchange rates of the country's currency.

Comparisons of national income are also frequently made on the basis of purchasing power parity (PPP), to adjust for differences in the cost of living in different countries.

PPP largely removes the exchange rate problem but not others; it does not reflect the value of economic output in international trade, and it also requires more estimation than GDP per capita.

On the whole, PPP per capita figures are more narrowly spread than nominal GDP per capita figures.

Per capita (PPP) of India is around \$7,174 as per IMF (2017).

62. A. 1 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: Mechanical weathering due to temperature changes and ranges is pronounced. In our country, debris avalanche and landslides occur very frequently in the Himalayas.

There are many reasons for this. One, the Himalayas are tectonically active. They are mostly made up of sedimentary rocks and unconsolidated and semi-consolidated deposits. The slopes are very steep.

Compared to the Himalayas, the Nilgiris bordering Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Kerala and the Western Ghats along the west coast are relatively tectonically stable and are mostly made up of very hard rocks; but, still, debris avalanches and landslides occur though not as frequently as in the Himalayas, in these hills.

Many slopes are steeper with almost vertical cliffs and escarpments in the Western Ghats and Nilgiris. Mechanical weathering due to temperature changes and ranges is pronounced. They receive heavy amounts of rainfall over short periods.

So, there is almost direct rock fall quite frequently in these places along with landslides and debris avalanches.

63. C. Both 1 and 2

Answer Justification :

Justification: Topography like parent materials is another passive control factor in the formation of soil. The influence of topography is felt through the amount of exposure of a surface covered by parent materials to sunlight and the amount of surface and sub-surface drainage over and through the parent materials.

Soils will be thin on steep slopes and thick over flat upland areas. Over gentle slopes where erosion is slow and percolation of water is good, soil formation is very favourable. Soils over flat

areas may develop a thick layer of clay with good accumulation of organic matter giving the soil dark colour.

In middle latitudes, the south facing slopes exposed to sunlight have different conditions of vegetation and soils and the north facing slopes with cool, moist conditions have some other soils and vegetation.

64. C. 3 and 4 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: The Mahanadi River is a river of eastern India. The Mahanadi rises in the Satpura Range of central India, and flows east to the Bay of Bengal.

The major tributaries of Mahanadi are Seonath, Jonk, Hasdo, Mand, Ib, Ong, Tel etc.

Mahanadi is one of the largest Indian peninsular rivers that drains into the Bay of Bengal. The 857 km long river originates in Raipur district of the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh and flows through the eastern state of Orissa before meeting the sea.

Odisha government has launched Green Mahanadi Mission. Under the mission, a total of two crore saplings will be planted on the banks of the Mahanadi.

The Green Mahanadi Mission envisages rejuvenating Mahanadi river and its tributaries Tel and Ib by increasing recharging capacity through massive plantation.

Under the mission, a green belt with width of 1 km will be created on both sides of the river beginning from the place, where the river enters Odisha to Paradip, where it merges with the Bay of Bengal

65. B. 2 and 3 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: We have several glaciers in India moving down the slopes and valleys in Himalayas. Higher reaches of Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir host some of the most important ones.

Bhagirathi is basically fed by meltwaters from under the snout (Gaumukh) of the Gangotri glacier. In fact, Alkapuri glacier feeds waters to Alakananda river.

Rivers Alkananda and Bhagirathi join to make river Ganga near Deoprayag.

We will cover more on this later.

66. D. None

Answer Justification :

Justification: The Kuroshio and Oyashio Currents are the western boundary currents in the wind-driven, subtropical and subarctic circulations of the North Pacific Ocean.

Statement 1: Eastern boundary currents are relatively shallow, broad and slow-flowing. They are found on the eastern side of oceanic basins (adjacent to the western coasts of continents).

Subtropical eastern boundary currents flow equatorward, transporting cold water from higher latitudes to lower latitudes; examples include the Benguela Current, the Canary Current, the Humboldt Current, and the California Current. Coastal upwelling often brings nutrient-rich water into eastern boundary current regions, making them productive areas of the ocean.

Statement 2: Western boundary currents transport organisms long distances rapidly and a variety of commercially important marine organisms migrate in these currents in the course of completing their lives.

Subtropical gyres occupy a large fraction of the world's ocean and are more productive than originally thought. In addition, their fixation of carbon dioxide is an important factor in the global budget for carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

The Kuroshio ("Black Tide", "Japan Current") is a north-flowing ocean current on the west side of the North Pacific Ocean. It is similar to the Gulf Stream in the North Atlantic and is part of the North Pacific Ocean gyre. Like the Gulf Stream, it is a strong western boundary current.

67. D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer Justification :

Justification: Statement 1: The shorelines of Africa and South America facing each other have a remarkable and unmistakable match. It may be noted that a map produced using a computer programme to find the best fit of the Atlantic margin was presented by Bullard in 1964. It proved to be quite perfect. The match was tried at 1,000- fathom line instead of the present shoreline.

Statement 2: The radiometric dating methods developed in the recent period have facilitated correlating the rock formation from different continents across the vast ocean. The belt of ancient rocks of 2,000 million years from Brazil coast matches with those from western Africa. The earliest marine deposits along the coastline of South America and Africa are of the Jurassic age. This suggests that the ocean did not exist prior to that time.

Statement 3: The occurrence of rich placer deposits of gold in the Ghana coast and the absolute absence of source rock in the region is an amazing fact.

The gold bearing veins are in Brazil and it is obvious that the gold deposits of the Ghana are derived from the Brazil plateau when the two continents lay side by side.

68. C. Both 1 and 2

Answer Justification :

Justification: The Earth experiences two high tides per day because of the difference in the Moon's gravitational field at the Earth's surface and at its center. You could say that there is a high tide on the side nearest the Moon because the Moon pulls the water away from the Earth, and a high tide on the opposite side because the Moon pulls the Earth away from the water on the far side. The tidal effects are greatly exaggerated in the sketches.

The tidal influence on a close object is greater because the inverse square law drop in gravitational force gives a greater ratio of the force on the near side of the object to that on the far side. As shown below, the tidal ratio of the force per unit mass on the near side compared to that on the far side is much larger for the closer object.

Statement 1: If you introduce a new celestial body, it would lead to a change in the gravitational field as experienced by the oceans causing a change in the tidal force.

It is a different matter that the new celestial body would also attract the earth and try to influence its orbit, but we ignore the extraneous considerations here.

69. A. 1324

Answer Justification :

Refer Japan Map

70. A. Isthmus of Suez and the Suez Canal in Egypt

Answer Justification :

Learning: The border continues through the Gulf of Suez, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. In antiquity, Egypt had been considered part of Asia, with the Catabathmus Magnus escarpment taken as the boundary with Africa (Libya).

Two of 27 governorates of Egypt lie entirely on the Asian Sinai Peninsula and two are transcontinental: Ismailia Governorate is nearly equally divided by the Suez Canal, and Suez

Governorate, which is coterminous with the "transcontinental city" of Suez, has a small portion east of the Canal.

While there are many countries with non-contiguous overseas territories fitting this definition, only a limited number of countries have territory straddling an overland continental boundary, most commonly the line that separates Europe and Asia.

71. B. 2 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: Statement 1: A mid-ocean ridge (MOR) is an underwater mountain system formed by plate tectonics. It is found usually in continental margins (not at the centre).

It consists of various mountains linked in chains, typically having a valley known as a rift running along its spine.

This type of oceanic mountain ridge is characteristic of what is known as an 'oceanic spreading center', which is responsible for seafloor spreading.

A mid-ocean ridge demarcates the boundary between two tectonic plates, and consequently is termed a divergent plate boundary.

Statement 2: This makes it the longest mountain range in the world. The continuous mountain range is 65,000 km long (several times longer than the Andes, the longest continental mountain range), and the total length of the oceanic ridge system is 80,000 km long.

Mid-ocean ridges are geologically active, with continuing volcanism and seismicity. New magma steadily emerges onto the ocean floor and intrudes into the ocean crust at and near rifts along the ridge axes.

72. A. Crust

Answer Justification :

Learning: The uppermost layer over the earth's surface is called the crust. It is the thinnest of all the layers. It is about 35 km. on the continental masses and only 5 km. on the ocean floors.

The crust forms only 0.5 per cent of the volume of the earth, 16 per cent consists of the mantle and 83 per cent makes the core.

The main mineral constituents of the continental mass are silica and alumina. It is thus called sial (si-silica and al-alumina).

The oceanic crust mainly consists of silica and magnesium; it is therefore called sima (si-silica and ma-magnesium).

73. C. Arabian Plate

Answer Justification :

Justification: The major plates are as follows:

- Antarctica and the surrounding oceanic plate
- (ii) North American (with western Atlantic floor separated from the South American plate along the Caribbean islands) plate
- (iii) South American (with western Atlantic floor separated from the North American plate along the Caribbean islands) plate
 - (iv) Pacific plate
 - (v) India-Australia-New Zealand plate
 - (vi) Africa with the eastern Atlantic floor plate
 - (vii) Eurasia and the adjacent oceanic plate.

Some important minor plates are listed below:

- (i) Cocos plate : Between Central America and Pacific plate
- (ii) Nazca plate : Between South America and Pacific plate
- (iii) Arabian plate : Mostly the Saudi Arabian landmass
- (iv) Philippine plate : Between the Asiatic and Pacific plate

74. B. Carbon

Answer Justification :

Learning: The major 8 elements are oxygen, silicon, aluminium, iron, calcium, sodium, potassium and magnesium, and the rest is constituted by titanium, hydrogen, phosphorous, manganese, sulphur, carbon, nickel and other elements.

Option B: Carbon is NOT a major element, even though organic life constitutes carbon; please note that.

75. B. 1 and 3 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: Statement 1 and 2: A mineral is a naturally occurring inorganic substance, having an orderly atomic structure and a definite chemical composition and physical properties.

A mineral is composed of two or more elements. But, sometimes single element minerals like sulphur, copper, silver, gold, graphite etc. are found.

Statement 3: When magma cools, crystals of minerals appear and a systematic series of minerals are formed in sequence to solidify so as to form rocks.

Minerals such as coal, petroleum and natural gas are organic substances found in solid, liquid and gaseous forms respectively.

Learning: Though the number of elements making up the lithosphere are limited they are combined in many different ways to make up many varieties of minerals.

There are at least 2,000 minerals that have been named and identified in the earth crust; but almost all the commonly occurring ones are related to six major mineral groups that are known as major rock forming minerals.

76. C. Myanmar

Answer Justification :

Learning: The move comes in the wake of the successful operation of such markets along India's border with Bangladesh.

A five-member team led by Myanmar's Ministry of Labour Affairs Director Soe Paing Myint and Indian officials visited the Kasba border 'haat' in western Tripura on the India-Bangladesh border.

Four northeastern Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Manipur (398 km), Nagaland (215 km) and Mizoram (510 km) share a 1,643-km unfenced border with Myanmar.

Border 'haats' have been set up at Kalaichar-Baliyamari and Balat-Dalora on the India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya, and at Kasba in western Tripura and Srinagar in southern Tripura.

The border 'haats' are allowed to sell local agricultural and horticultural products, spices, minor forest products (excluding timber), wet and dry fish, dairy and poultry products, cottage industry items, wooden furniture, handloom and handicraft items.

The 'haats' are set up within five km on each side of the international border.

77. C. Lut desert

Answer Justification :

Learning: The Dasht-e Kavir and Dasht-e Lut deserts in eastern Iran naturally delimit the region somewhat from Asia itself.

The Lut Desert, is a large salt desert located in the provinces of Kerman and Sistan and Baluchestan, Iran.

It is the world's 27th-largest desert, and was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2016.

The surface of its sand has been measured at temperatures as high as 70 °C making it one of the world's driest and hottest places.

Refer West Asia Map

78. C. 3 and 4 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: More details on these phenomena will be covered later. A broad sketch will suffice for now.

The energy emanating from within the earth is the main force behind endogenic geomorphic processes. This energy is mostly generated by radioactivity, rotational and tidal friction and primordial heat from the origin of the earth.

The endogenic and exogenic forces causing physical stresses and chemical actions on earth materials and bringing about changes in the configuration of the surface of the earth are known as geomorphic processes. Diastrophism and volcanism are endogenic geomorphic processes.

Weathering, mass wasting, erosion and deposition are exogenic geomorphic processes.

79. A. Saraswati River

Answer Justification :

Learning: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will soon be releasing a new lavender Rs 100 currency note. The banknote highlights the rich and diverse cultural heritage of India as it prominently displays a photograph of 'Rani-ki-vav' (The Queen's Stepwell), an 11th century architectural wonder.

It was built by the Solanki dynasty's queen Udayamati in the 11th century as a memorial to her deceased husband Bhimdev I.

Architectural significance: Rani-ki-Vav was built in the complex Maru-Gurjara architectural style. It highlights the sanctity of water as it is designed as an inverted temple under the earth's surface. The central theme is the Dasavataras, or ten incarnations of Vishnu, including Buddha. The avatars are accompanied by sadhus, brahmins, and apsaras (celestial dancers).

80. D. Continental shelves

Answer Justification :

Learning: The Ocean's Arctic shelf comprises a number of continental shelves, including the Canadian Arctic shelf, underlying the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, and the Russian continental shelf, which is sometimes simply called the "Arctic Shelf" because it is greater in extent.

The Siberian Shelf holds large oil and gas reserves, and the Chukchi shelf forms the border between Russian and the United States as stated in the USSR–USA Maritime Boundary Agreement. The whole area is subject to international territorial claims.

81. B. Mature stage

Answer Justification :

Learning: in the Youth stage, streams are few during this stage with poor integration and flow over original slopes showing shallow V-shaped valleys with no floodplains or with very narrow floodplains along trunk streams.

Streams divides are broad and flat with marshes, swamp and lakes. Meanders if present develop over these broad upland surfaces. These meanders may eventually entrench themselves into the uplands.

Waterfalls and rapids may exist where local hard rock bodies are exposed.

During the mature stage, streams are plenty with good integration. The valleys are still V-shaped but deep; trunk streams are broad enough to have wider floodplains within which streams may flow in meanders confined within the valley.

The flat and broad inter stream areas and swamps and marshes of youth disappear and the stream divides turn sharp. Waterfalls and rapids disappear.

82. B. Hindu Code Bill

Answer Justification :

Learning: There are several reasons behind Dr. Ambedkar's resignation from the cabinet as are evident from his resignation speech.

Hindu code bill disagreement was the trigger.

During the debates in the Constituent Assembly, Ambedkar demonstrated his will to reform Indian society by recommending the adoption of a Uniform Civil Code. Ambedkar resigned from the cabinet in 1951, when parliament stalled his draft of the Hindu Code Bill, which sought to enshrine gender equality in the laws of inheritance and marriage.

Some of the other reasons can be:

He was never a congressmen and was always treated like an outcast in the Congress Party and was never included in any substantial Cabinet Committee except the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs and that too on Dr. Ambedkar's own protest. Also, there was little freedom in the Law Ministry where he was working.

Most of the tenure of Dr. Ambedkar passed by while making and drafting the constitution till 26 January 1950. When the constitution was enacted he wanted to leave the cabinet but he stayed for several reasons. One of the major reason was the upliftment of the Scheduled Classes, Backward Classes and Women.

83. B. Jay Prakash Narayan

Answer Justification :

Learning: In 1975, Allahabad High Court passed a judgment declaring Indira Gandhi's election to the Lok Sabha invalid.

The judgment of the High Court meant that legally she was no more an MP and therefore, could not remain the Prime Minister unless she was once again elected as an MP within six months.

The stage was now set for a big political confrontation. The opposition political parties led by Jayaprakash Narayan pressed for Indira Gandhi's resignation and organised a massive demonstration in Delhi's Ramlila grounds on 25 June 1975.

Jayaprakash announced a nationwide satyagraha for her resignation and asked the army, the police and government employees not to obey "illegal and immoral orders". This too threatened to bring the activities of the government to a standstill. The political mood of the country had turned against the Congress, more than ever before.

Indira Gandhi responded with proclaiming the national emergency, the details of which are well covered in the NCERT.

84. C. Both 1 and 2

Answer Justification :

Justification: Statement 1: Kangra Fort is one of the oldest forts in India. The war records of Alexander the Great mention this 4th Century BC temple of Himachal Pradesh. The fort was devastated by a disastrous earthquake in 1905, but it stands as testimony to the architectural skills of the times. The fort includes richly carved temples with idols embossed in their walls.

Statement 2: The Dilwara Temples are located about 2½ kilometres from Mount Abu, Rajasthan's only hill station.

These Jain temples were built by Vimal Shah and designed by Vastupal-Tejpal, Jain laymen, between the 11th and 13th centuries AD and are famous for their use of marble and intricate marble carvings.

The five marble temples of Dilwara are a sacred pilgrimage place of the Jains. Some consider them to be one of the most beautiful Jain pilgrimage sites in the world.

The temples have an opulent entranceway, the simplicity in architecture reflecting Jain values like honesty and frugality. The temples are in the midst of a range of forested hills. A high wall shrouds the temple complex.

85. B. Indian National Congress

Answer Justification :

Learning: In 1963 he proposed that all senior Congressmen should resign from office to make way for younger party workers—this proposal is famous as the 'Kamraj plan.'

K. Kamraj (1903-1975): was a freedom fighter and Congress President; Chief Minister of Madras (Tamil Nadu); having suffered educational deprivation, made efforts to spread education in Madras province; introduced mid-day meal scheme for schoolchildren;

86. D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer Justification :

Justification: Sanskrit, though not necessarily Classical Sanskrit, is the root language of many Prakrit languages. Examples include numerous modern daughter Northern Indian subcontinental languages such as Hindi, Nepali, Bengali, Punjabi and Marathi.

Brahmi evolved into a multiplicity of Brahmic scripts, many of which were used to write Sanskrit. Roughly contemporary with the Brahmi, Kharosthi was used in the northwest of the subcontinent.

Sometime between the fourth and eighth centuries, the Gupta script, derived from Brahmi, became prevalent.

Around the eighth century, the Śāradā script evolved out of the Gupta script. The latter was displaced in its turn by Devanagari in the 11th or 12th century, with intermediary stages such as the Siddham script. In East India, the Odia alphabet, and the Bengali alphabet, were used.

In the south, where Dravidian languages predominate, scripts used for Sanskrit include the Kannada, Telugu, the Malayalam and Grantha alphabets.

87. B. Minto

Answer Justification :

Learning: He was known for the act of 1909 which introduced a system of communal representation for Muslims by accepting the concept of 'separate electorate'. Under this, the Muslim members were to be elected only by Muslim voters.

Thus, the Act 'legalised communalism' and Lord Minto came to be known as the Father of Communal Electorate.

It also provided for the separate representation of presidency corporations, chambers of commerce, universities and zamindars.

88. D. None

Answer Justification :

Justification: Statement 1: On 20 June 1947, the Bengal Legislative Assembly met to decide the future of the Bengal Presidency, on whether it would be a United Bengal within India or Pakistan; or be divided into East and West Bengal. At the preliminary joint session, the assembly decided by 120 votes to 90 that it should remain united if it joined the new Constituent Assembly of Pakistan. Later, a separate meeting of legislators from West Bengal decided by 58 votes to 21 that the province should be partitioned and that West Bengal should join the existing Constituent Assembly of India.

Statement 2: There was no conception that population transfers would be necessary because of the partitioning. Religious minorities were expected to stay put in the states they found themselves residing in. However, an exception was made for Punjab where transfer of populations were organised because of the communal violence affecting the province. This did not apply to other provinces.

89. C. Both 1 and 2

Answer Justification :

Justification: Statement 1: A Gandhian and Freedom fighter; she belonged to the royal family of Kapurthala; inherited Christian religion from her mother; served as a member of Constituent Assembly and Minister for Health in independent India's first ministry; she continued as Health Minister till 1957.

Statement 2: A Freedom fighter and founding President of the Congress Socialist Party; he was jailed several times during the freedom movement; and was active in peasants' movement. A scholar of Buddhism; after independence he led the Socialist Party and later the Praja Socialist Party.

90. C. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: It is a type of state in which one political party has the right to form the government, usually based on the existing constitution. All other parties are either outlawed or allowed to take only a limited and controlled participation in elections.

China, Cuba, Vietnam, North Korea, Eritrea (due to legal and military measures) and Laos have such one-party systems or dominance of a single party.

So, India is not the only country to have experienced the dominance of one party. But there is a crucial difference between these and the Indian experience. In the rest of the cases the dominance of one party was ensured by compromising democracy.

What distinguished the dominance of the Congress party in India from all these cases was it happened under democratic conditions.

This was similar to the dominance the African National Congress has enjoyed in South Africa after the end of apartheid.

91. A. Saraswati River

Answer Justification :

Learning: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will soon be releasing a new lavender Rs 100 currency note. The banknote highlights the rich and diverse cultural heritage of India as it prominently displays a photograph of 'Rani-ki-vav' (The Queen's Stepwell), an 11th century architectural wonder.

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Architectural significance: Rani-ki-Vav was built in the complex Maru-Gurjara architectural style. It highlights the sanctity of water as it is designed as an inverted temple under the earth's surface. The central theme is the Dasavataras, or ten incarnations of Vishnu, including Buddha. The avatars are accompanied by sadhus, brahmins, and apsaras (celestial dancers).

92. D. Balance of power in the world

Answer Justification :

Learning: The cold war saw new defensive alliances, NATO in the west and the Warsaw Pact of the Soviet satellites.

The world was divided into two camps, and the "third world" nations were courted and pressured to join one or the other. The world was thus divided into two World (poles) which came to be known as a bipolar world.

USSR and USA emerged as major powers, and thus the balance of power in the world was essentially bipolar.

Later, when the cold war ended, the USSR could not remain a superpower and USA emerged as the sole superpower, resulting in a unipolar world.

However, in the modern world, many new powers emerged, such as EU, China, Japan and the world effectively became multi-polar in nature.

93. C. Japan

Answer Justification :

Learning: The Group of Seven (G7) is a group consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These countries, with the seven largest

advanced economies in the world, represent more than 62% of the global net wealth (\$280 trillion).

The G7 countries also represent more than 46% of the global gross domestic product (GDP) based on nominal values, and more than 32% of the global GDP based on purchasing power parity. The European Union is also represented at the G7 summit.

94. D. Japan

Answer Justification :

Learning: According to Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, war is unconstitutional. This article within the Constitution of Japan was intended to prevent the country from being needlessly aggressive in multinational affairs after World War Two.

The official English translation of the article is:

(1) Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.

(2) In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.

In July 2014, instead of using Article 96 of the Japanese Constitution to amend the Constitution, the Japanese government approved a reinterpretation which gave more powers to the Japan Self- Defense Forces, allowing them to defend other allies in case of war being declared upon them, despite concerns and disapproval from mainland China, South Korea and North Korea, whereas the United States supported the move.

This change is considered illegitimate by some Japanese political parties and citizens, since the Prime Minister circumvented Japan's constitutional amendment procedure.

In September 2015, the Japanese National Diet made the reinterpretation official by enacting a series of laws allowing the Japan Self-Defense Forces to provide material support to allies engaged in combat internationally. The stated justification was that failing to defend or support an ally would weaken alliances and endanger Japan.

This was a major issue few years ago and is re emerging due to assertiveness of China in the South China Sea.

95. D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer Justification :

Justification: Countries in East Asia region have thriving trade and economic relations with each other through free trade agreements.

ASEAN has six partners namely People's Republic of China (ACFTA), Republic of Korea (AKFTA), Japan (AJCEP), India (AIFTA) as well as Australia and New Zealand (AANZFTA).

In order to broaden and deepen the engagement among parties and to enhance parties' participation in economic development of the region, the leaders of 16 participating countries established the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

The RCEP was built upon the existing ASEAN+1 FTAs with the spirit to strengthen economic linkages and to enhance trade and investment related activities as well as to contribute to minimising development gap among the parties.

96. C. European Union

Answer Justification :

Learning: Treaty of Maastricht is one of two treaties forming the constitutional basis of the European Union (EU), the other being the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU; also referred to as the Treaty of Rome).

The TEU was originally signed in 1992 by the members of the European Community in Maastricht, Netherlands to further European integration.

TEU comprised two novel titles respectively on Common Foreign and Security Policy and Cooperation in the Fields of Justice and Home Affairs, which replaced the former informal intergovernmental cooperation bodies named TREVI and European Political Cooperation on EU Foreign policy coordination.

97. B. Settling disputes by informal cooperative methods

Answer Justification :

Learning: The ASEAN Way is defined a shared of norms, principles, and values governing the interactions of ASEAN member states.

Keeping ASEAN together despite these deep cultural, economic and political differences – along with mistrust between different members - has always been an immense challenge.

Unlike other regional or international organizations, ASEAN possesses its own model of diplomatic engagement: the ASEAN Way.

The framework for cooperation is based on non-intervention and consensus. All ASEAN decisions must be unanimous. The alliance also is not permitted to intervene in members' matters of national interest.

This special political style is proudly known as the "ASEAN way." It is characterized by an informal and personal approach that aims at conflict prevention and is often not carried out in public. It is also important not to embarrass members or to drive them into a corner.

98. B. 2 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: Statement 1: It is an inter-governmental organization created on 18 June 2002 to promote Asian cooperation at a continental level and to help integrate separate regional organizations such as ASEAN, SAARC, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Eurasian Economic Union.

The ACD's main members states are Pakistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Indonesia, Thailand, Uzbekistan, China and Japan, the so-called Major Ten ACD Nations.

Statement 2: The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is an important forum for security dialogue in Asia. It draws together 27 members which have a bearing on the security of the Asia Pacific region.

ARF was established in 1994. It comprises 27 members: the 10 ASEAN member states (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), the 10 ASEAN dialogue partners (Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States), one ASEAN observer (Papua New Guinea), as well as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, Timor-Leste, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

The ARF is characterised by consensus decision making and frank dialogue.

99. A. 1 and 2 only

Answer Justification :

Justification: Statement 1: A trading bloc, particularly when it is coupled with a political goal, is likely to lead to at least partial loss of sovereignty for its participants. For example, the European Union, started as a trading bloc in 1957 by the Treaty of Rome, has transformed itself into a far-reaching political organization that deals not only with trade matters, but also with

human rights, consumer protection, greenhouse gas emissions and other issues which are only marginally related.

Statement 2: Because trading blocs increase trade among participating countries, those countries become increasingly dependent on each other. A disruption of trade within a trading bloc as a result of a natural disaster, conflict or revolution may have severe consequences for the economies of all participating countries.

Statement 3: This is actually an advantage.

The larger markets created by trade blocs permit companies to take advantage of economies of scale. Since the average cost of each good produced tends to fall as production increases, this results in lower prices for consumers.

Increased competition and the removal of tariffs, which may act as a price floor, drive down prices and allow for increased consumption. This reduces deadweight loss and hence improves market efficiency.

Learning: Some other disadvantages of economic blocs are:

- No country wants to let foreign firms gain domestic market share at the expense of local companies without getting something in return. Any country that wants to join a trading bloc must be prepared to make concessions. For example, allowing MNCs to enter their home markets, hurting the business of some local firms.
- Also, Trading blocs inherently favor their participating countries. Regional economies establish tariffs and quotas that protect intra-regional trade from outside forces. Rather than pursuing a global trading regime within the World Trade Organization, which includes the majority of the world's countries, regional trade bloc countries contribute to regionalism rather than global integration.

100. A. Strategy of Pakistan to infiltrate Jammu and Kashmir

Answer Justification :

Learning: Operation Gibraltar intended to start a rebellion against Indian rule. If successful, Pakistan hoped to gain control over Kashmir, but the operation resulted in a major failure.

Pakistan specifically chose this name to draw a parallel to the Arab invasion of Spain that was launched from the port of Gibraltar.

In August 1965, Pakistan Army's Azad Kashmir Regular Force troops, disguised as locals, entered Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistan with the goal of fomenting an insurgency among Kashmiri Muslims. However, the strategy went awry from the outset due to poor coordination, and the infiltrators were soon discovered.

The operation sparked the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, the first major engagement between the two neighbors since the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947.