



INSIGHTSIAS

SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

- I A S S E L F S T U D Y G U I D E -

STATIC QUIZ

Indian History

India & World Geography

Indian Polity & Governance



Series I

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INSIGHTS IAS

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1. INDIAN HISTORY

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Brahmanism emphasizes on the rites performed by, and the status of priestly class
2. Brahmanism emerged from Vedanta principles

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

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

Solution: a)

Brahmanism, ancient Indian religious tradition that emerged from the earlier Vedic religion. In the early 1st millennium BCE, Brahmanism emphasized the rites performed by, and the status of, the Brahman, or priestly, class as well as speculation about brahman (the Absolute reality) as theorized in the Upanishads (speculative philosophical texts that are considered to be part of the Vedas, or scriptures). In contrast, the form of Hinduism that emerged after the mid-1st millennium BCE stressed devotion (bhakti) to particular deities such as Shiva and Vishnu.

The term Brahmanism is considered synonymous with Hinduism, by some scholars. Others consider the transition from ancient Brahmanism into schools of Hinduism that emerged later as a form of evolution, which happened imperceptibly, and one that preserved many of the central ideas and theosophy in the Vedas, and synergistically integrated new ideas.[8] Of the major traditions that emerged from Brahmanism are the six darshanas, particular the Vedanta, Samkhya and Yoga schools of Hinduism.

2. *Pratyakṣa* (perception), *anumāṇa* (inference) and *śabda* (*āptavacana*, word/testimony of reliable sources) are accepted as the only reliable means of gaining knowledge in which of the following schools of the Hindu philosophy ?

- (a) Yoga
- (b) Samkhya
- (c) Nyaya
- (d) Both b and c

Solution: d)

Samkhya or *Sankhya* is one of the six āstika schools of Hindu philosophy. It is most related to the Yoga school of Hinduism, and it was influential on other schools of Indian philosophy. Sāmkhya is an enumerationist philosophy whose epistemology accepts three of six pramanas (proofs) as the only reliable means of gaining knowledge. These include pratyakṣa (perception), anumāṇa (inference) and śabda (āptavacana, word/testimony of reliable sources). Sometimes described as one of the rationalist schools of Indian philosophy, this ancient school's reliance on reason was exclusive but strong.

The **Nyaya** school holds that there are four valid means of knowledge: perception (pratyaksha), inference (anumana), comparison (upamana), and sound, or testimony (shabda). Invalid knowledge involves memory, doubt, error, and hypothetical argument.

3. Which of the following schools of thought maintained that though events (*dharmas*) have only momentary existence, there is a transmigrating substratum of consciousness that contains within it seeds of goodness that are in every person ?
- (a) *Sautrāntika*
 (b) *Sammitiya*
 (c) *Vaisheshika*
 (d) None of the above

Solution: a)

This was asked in CS Prelims – 2017 in different form.

Sautrāntika, ancient school of Buddhism that emerged in India about the 2nd century BC as an offshoot of the Sarvāstivāda (“All-Is-Real Doctrine”). The school is so called because of its reliance on the sutras, or words of the Buddha, and its rejection of the authority of the Abhidharma, a part of the canon.

The Sautrāntikas maintained that though events (*dharmas*) have only momentary existence, there is a transmigrating substratum of consciousness that contains within it seeds of goodness that are in every person. The Sautrāntika sometimes is characterized as a transitional school that led to the development of the Mahāyāna tradition, and many of its views influenced later Yogācāra thought.

4. The major form of Buddhism practised in Tibet, China, Korea, and Japan is
- (a) Theravada
 (b) Vajrayana
 (c) Mahayana
 (d) Hinayana

Solution: c)

<https://www.biographyonline.net/spiritual/buddhism/traditions-buddhism.html>

The **Mahāyāna** tradition is the largest major tradition of Buddhism existing today, with 53.2% of practitioners, compared to 35.8% for Theravada and 5.7% for Vajrayana in 2010. In the course of its history, Mahāyāna Buddhism spread from India to various other South, East and Southeast Asian countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Taiwan, Mongolia, Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. Mahayana Buddhism also spread to other South and Southeast Asian countries, such as Afghanistan, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, the Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Burma, Iran and other Central Asian countries before being replaced by Theravada Buddhism or other religions

5. With reference to *Avalokiteshvara*, consider the following statements:

1. *Avalokiteshvara* is a divine and compassionate depiction of Jina in certain parts of coastal Karnataka
2. *Avalokiteshvara* is the earthly manifestation of the self-born eternal Amitabha (another name for Bahubali)

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

Source: AN INTRODUCTION TO INDIAN ART NCERT

Avalokiteshvara, (Sanskrit: avalokita, “looking on”; ishivara, “lord”) Chinese (Pinyin) Guanyin or (Wade-Giles romanization) Kuan-yin, Japanese Kannon, in Buddhism, and primarily in Mahayana (“Greater Vehicle”) Buddhism, the bodhisattva (“buddha-to-be”) of infinite compassion and mercy, possibly the most popular of all figures in Buddhist legend. Avalokiteshvara is beloved throughout the Buddhist world—not only in Mahayana Buddhism but also in Theravada (“Way of the Elders”), the branch of Buddhism that largely does not recognize bodhisattvas, and in Vajrayana (“Diamond Vehicle”), the Tantric (or Esoteric) branch of Buddhism.

Avalokiteshvara, Padmapani, Vajrapani, . Amitabha, and Maitreya Buddha are all Boddhisattvas.

6. Consider the following statements:

1. *Animism* believes that even objects have objects and places possess a distinct spiritual essence
2. Jainism’s philosophical roots can be traced to animism

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

- Animism is the religious belief that objects, places and creatures all possess a distinct spiritual essence. Potentially, animism perceives all things—animals, plants, rocks, rivers, weather systems, human handiwork and perhaps even words—as animated and alive.
- There is no proof that philosophy of Jainism or Buddhism have roots in animism.

7. With reference to *Shaktism*, consider the following statements:

1. It is a major tradition of Buddhism
2. It considers metaphysical reality as feminine

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

- Shaktism (Sanskrit: Śāktah,; lit., “doctrine of energy, power, the Goddess”) is a major tradition of Hinduism, wherein the metaphysical reality is considered feminine and the Devi (goddess) is supreme.
- It includes a variety of goddesses, all considered aspects of the same supreme goddess.
- Shaktism has different sub-traditions, ranging from those focussed on gracious Lakshmi to fierce Kali, and some Shakti sub-traditions associate their goddess with Shiva or Vishnu.

8. Consider the following statements:

1. Theravada Buddhism is strongest in Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos and Myanmar
2. Theravada school of Buddhism believes that it has remained closest to the original teachings of the Buddha

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Theravada Buddhism is strongest in Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos and Burma (Myanmar). It is sometimes called 'Southern Buddhism'.

The name means 'the doctrine of the elders' – the elders being the senior Buddhist monks.

This school of Buddhism believes that it has remained closest to the original teachings of the Buddha. However, it does not over-emphasise the status of these teachings in a fundamentalist way – they are seen as tools to help people understand the truth, and not as having merit of their own.

9. Consider the following statements:

1. The Mathurā school was contemporaneous with the school of Gandhara art
2. The material used in Mathura school of art was green phyllite and gray-blue mica schist

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

- Mathurā art, style of Buddhist visual art that flourished in the trading and pilgrimage centre of Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, India, from the 2nd century BC to the 12th century AD; its most distinctive contributions were made during the Kushān and Gupta periods (1st–6th century AD). Images in the mottled red sandstone from the nearby Sīkri quarries are found widely distributed over north central India, attesting to Mathurā's importance as an exporter of sculpture.
- The Mathurā school was contemporaneous with a second important school of Kushān art, that of Gandhāra in the northwest, which shows strong Greco-Roman influence.
- The materials used for Gandhara sculpture were green phyllite and gray-blue mica schist which in general, belong to an earlier phase, and stucco, which was used increasingly after the 3rd century CE. The sculptures were originally painted and gilded.

10. The famous headless statue of Kanishka, was found in/near

- (a) Mathura
- (b) Peshawar
- (c) Taxila
- (d) None of the above

Solution: a)

- A statue of Kanishka was found in the village Mat, near Mathura by Pandit Radha Krishna in 1911.
- At first glance, the statue appears very ordinary without much details which are usually present in Indian art.
- However, it is interesting to note that nearly every scholar of ancient Indian history has commented on this piece of art.
- According to Romila Thapar, the statue represents “the king as an impressive figure in boots and coat.”
- The boots and the coat are mentioned in most of the commentaries on this sculpture.
- For example, Edith Tömöry notes that they were inappropriate to the hot climate of Mathura and were most probably brought from their native place and worn during ceremonies

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kanishka_enhanced.jpg

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kanishka>

11. With reference to Samkhya philosophy, consider the following statements:

1. Samkhya adopts a consistent dualism of matter (*prakriti*) and the eternal spirit (*purusha*)
2. Unlike many Western counterparts Samkhya is atheistic

Which of the above statements is/correct?

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

Solution: c)

Similar question was asked by UPSC in CSP – 2013

Sāṅkhya (often spelled **Sāṁkhya**) is one of the major “orthodox” (or Hindu) Indian philosophies. Two millennia ago it was the representative Hindu philosophy. Its classical formulation is found in Īśvarakṛṣṇa’s Sāṅkhya-Kārikā (ca. 350 C.E.), a condensed account in seventy-two verses. It is a strong Indian example of metaphysical dualism, but unlike many Western counterparts it is atheistic. The two types of entities of Sāṅkhya are Prakṛti and puruṣa-s, namely Nature and persons. Nature is singular, and persons are numerous. Both are eternal and independent of each other. Persons (puruṣa-s) are essentially unchangeable, inactive, conscious entities, who nonetheless gain something from contact with Nature.

12. With reference to *Tirumurai*, consider the following statements:

1. It is predominantly secular in nature
2. These are compendium of songs or hymns in praise of Vishnu

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

It is a twelve volume compendium of songs or hymns in praise of Shiva in the Tamil language from the 6th to the 11th century by various poets in South India.

It is not secular like Sangam literature.

13. With reference to Sangam literature, consider the following statements:

1. Sangam literature deals with emotional and material topics such as love, war, governance, trade and bereavement
2. The greatest Tamil scholar, Thiruvalluvar, lived during the Sangam age

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Sangam literature deals with emotional and material topics such as love, war, governance, trade and bereavement. Some of the greatest Tamil scholars, like Thiruvalluvar, who wrote on ethics, and on the various issues of life like virtue, wealth and love, or the Tamil poet Mamulanar, who explored historical incidents that happened in India, lived during the Sangam period.

14. With reference to Tantra, consider the following statements:

1. Icons, puja and temple building were introduced into Hinduism by Tantra
2. In Buddhism, the Theravada tradition is known for its extensive tantra ideas and practices

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

In Buddhism, the Vajrayana tradition is known for its extensive tantra ideas and practices. Tantric Hindu and Buddhist traditions have influenced other Eastern religious traditions such as Jainism, Sikhism, the Tibetan Bön tradition, Daoism, and the Japanese Shintō tradition. Tantra introduced icons, puja and temple building into Hinduism. The Hindu texts that describe these topics are called Tantras, Āgamas or Samhitās.

15. With reference to the Gommateshwara Statue, consider the following statements:

1. It is dedicated to the Jain god Bahubali
2. It was constructed by Hoysala ruler Chavundaraya

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

The statue Gommateshwara is dedicated to the Jain god Bahubali. It was built around 983 A.D. and is one of the largest free standing statues in the world. The construction of the statue was commissioned by the Ganga dynasty minister and commander, Chavundaraya. Neighboring areas have Jain temples known as basadis and several images of the Tirthankaras.

16. With reference to the Vedic period, consider the following statements:

1. The end of the Vedic period witnessed the rise of Mahajanapada
2. The Vedic period preceded the Indus Valley Civilisation
3. Early Vedic culture was tribal and pastoral

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

- The Vedic period or Vedic age (c. 1500 – c. 600 BCE) is the period in the history of the Indian subcontinent intervening between the end of the urban Indus Valley Civilization, and a second urbanisation which began in c. 600 BCE. It gets its name from the Vedas, which are liturgical texts containing details of life during this period that have been interpreted to be historical and constitute the primary sources for understanding the period. The Vedas were composed and orally transmitted by speakers of an Old Indo-Aryan language who had migrated into the northwestern regions of the Indian subcontinent early in this period.
- The associated Vedic culture was tribal and pastoral until c. 1200 or 1100 BCE, and centred in the Punjab. It then spread eastward to the Ganges Plain, becoming more agricultural and settled. The Vedic period saw the emergence of a hierarchy of social classes and coalesce into *Janapada* (monarchical, state-level polities). Archaeological cultures identified with phases of Vedic material culture include the Ochre Coloured Pottery culture, the Gandhara Grave culture, the Black and red ware culture and the Painted Grey Ware culture.
- The end of the Vedic period witnessed the rise of *Mahajanapada* (large, urbanised states) as well as shramana movements (including Jainism and Buddhism) which challenged the Vedic orthodoxy. Around the beginning of the Common Era, the Vedic tradition formed one of the main constituents of the so-called “Hindu synthesis”.

17. With reference to the Painted Grey Ware culture (PGW), consider the following statements:

1. It is a Bronze Age culture of the western Gangetic plain and the Ghaggar-Hakra valley
2. It is associated with the rise of the great mahajanapada states and of the Magadha Empire.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

- The Painted Grey Ware culture (PGW) is an Iron Age culture of the western Gangetic plain and the **Ghaggar-Hakra valley**, lasting from roughly 1200 BCE to 600 BCE. It is a successor of the Black and red ware culture (BRW) within this region, and contemporary with the continuation of the BRW culture in the eastern Gangetic plain and Central India.[4] Characterized by a style of fine, grey pottery painted with geometric patterns in black,[5] the PGW culture is associated with village and town settlements, domesticated horses, ivory-working, and the advent of iron metallurgy.
- The PGW Culture probably corresponds to the middle and late Vedic period, i.e., the Kuru-Panchala kingdom, the first large state in South Asia after the decline of the Indus Valley

Civilization. It is succeeded by Northern Black Polished Ware from c. 700-500 BCE, associated with the rise of the great mahajanapada states and of the Magadha Empire.

18. The Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC) was a

- (a) Iron-age civilization (b) Bronze-age civilisation
(c) Copper-age civilization (d) None of the above

Solution: b)

The Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC), or Harappan Civilisation, was a Bronze Age civilisation (3300–1300 BCE; mature period 2600–1900 BCE) mainly in the northwestern regions of South Asia, extending from what today is northeast Afghanistan to Pakistan and northwest India. Along with Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, it was one of three early cradles of civilisations of the Old World, and of the three, the most widespread.

19. Ganweriwala is spread over 80 hectares and comparable in size with the largest sites of the Indus Valley Civilization, such as Mohenjo-daro. It is located in

- (a) India (b) Afghanistan (c) Pakistan (d) Iran

Solution: c)

Ganweriwala is situated near the Indian border on the dry river bed of the Ghaggar-Hakra (in Pakistan's Punjab province), now a part of vast desert. It is spread over 80 hectares and comparable in size with the largest sites of the Indus Valley Civilization, such as Mohenjo-daro. But it is not excavated and only identified and it may turn up as top five largest towns of Indus Valley Civilisation.

20. Sramana movement is mainly associated with

- (a) Jainism (b) Buddhism (c) Ajivikas (d) All of the above

Solution: d)

Sramaṇa (Sanskrit; Pali: samaṇa) means “seeker, one who performs acts of austerity, ascetic”.

The term refers to several Indian religious movements parallel to but separate from the historical Vedic religion. The śramaṇa tradition includes Jainism, Buddhism, and others such as the Ājīvikas, Ajñanas and Cārvākas.

The śramaṇa movements arose in the same circles of mendicants in ancient India that led to the development of yogic practices, as well as the popular concepts in all major Indian religions such as saṃsāra (the cycle of birth and death) and moksha (liberation from that cycle).

21. Paryushana is the most important annual holy events for

- (a) Buddhists (b) Jains (c) Hindus (d) Parsis

Solution: b)

Paryushana is the most important annual holy events for Jains and is usually celebrated in August or September in Hindi calendar Bhadrapad Month's Shukla Paksha.

It lasts 8 Days for *swetambara* and 10 days for *digambara* sect of Jains .

Jains increase their level of spiritual intensity often using fasting and prayer/meditation to help. The five main vows are emphasized during this time. There are no set rules, and followers are encouraged to practice according to their ability and desires.

22. Jain ethical code prescribes five fundamental vows. Which of the following is/are **not** one of them?

1. Ahimsa 2. Satya
3. Aparigriha 4. Brahmacharya

Select the correct answer using codes below:

- (a) 1 and 2 Only
(b) 3 Only
(c) 4 Only
(d) None of the above

Solution: d)

Jain ethical code prescribes two dharmas or rules of conduct. One for those who wish to become ascetic and another for the śrāvaka (householders).

Five fundamental vows are prescribed for both votaries. These vows are observed by **śrāvakas** (householders) partially and are termed as **anuvratas** (small vows). Ascetics observe these five vows more strictly and therefore observe complete abstinence.

These five vows are:- **Ahimsā** (Non-violence) **Satya** (Truth) **Asteya** (Non-stealing) **Brahmacharya** (Chastity) **Aparigraha** (Non-possession)

23. With reference to Ajivikas (Ajivakas), consider the following statements:

1. The most important sects to arise at the time of the Buddha were the Ajivikas
2. They emphasized the rule of fate (niyati)

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Ajivika, an ascetic sect that emerged in India about the same time as Buddhism and Jainism and that lasted until the 14th century; the name may mean “following the ascetic way of life.” It was founded by Goshala Maskariputra (also called Gosala Makkhaliputta), a friend of Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara (“Ford-maker,” i.e., saviour) of Jainism.

His doctrines and those of his followers are known only from Buddhist and Jain sources, which state that he was lowborn and died after a quarrel with Mahavira shortly before the Buddha died.

24. The oldest and smallest of the three sections of the Buddhist canonical *Tipiṭaka* (“Triple Basket”) and the one that regulates monastic life and the daily affairs of monks and nuns according to rules attributed to the Buddha is

- (a) Vinaya Piṭaka
- (b) Abhidhamma Piṭaka
- (c) Sutta Piṭaka
- (d) All of the above

Solution: a)

Vinaya Piṭaka, (Pāli and Sanskrit: “Basket of Discipline”), the oldest and smallest of the three sections of the Buddhist canonical Tipiṭaka (“Triple Basket”) and the one that regulates monastic life and the daily affairs of monks and nuns according to rules attributed to the Buddha. It varies less from school to school than does either the Sutta (discourses of the Buddha and his disciples) or Abhidhamma (scholastic) sections of the canon, and the rules themselves are basically the same even for Mahāyāna schools, although some of the latter greatly extended the accompanying narrative and commentarial material.

25. The Samayasāra and the Pravacanasāra are considered the bible of

- (a) Shwetambara
- (b) Digambara
- (c) Ajivaka
- (d) Charvaka

Solution: b)

Digambara (/diˈɡʌmbərə/; “sky-clad”) is the oldest extant universal religion stream and one of the two major branches of Jainism. The Samayasāra and the Pravacanasāra are considered the bible of Digambaras. The word Digambara (Sanskrit) is a combination of two words: dig (directions) and

ambara (sky), referring to those whose garments are of the element that fills the four quarters of space. Digambara monks do not wear any clothes.

26. Why did Buddhism start declining in India in the early medieval times?

1. Vaishnavism, Shaivism and other Hindu traditions became increasingly popular, and Brahmins developed a new relationship with the state
2. The invading tribes from Central Asia till the time of last Gupta king adopted Hinduism and persecuted Buddhists.
3. The Kings of Gupta dynasty were strongly opposed to Buddhism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

With the Gupta dynasty (~4th to 6th century), the growth in ritualistic Mahayana Buddhism, and the adoption of Buddhist ideas into Hindu schools, the differences between Buddhism and Hinduism blurred. Vaishnavism, Shaivism and other Hindu traditions became increasingly popular, and Brahmins developed a new relationship with the state.

As the system grew, Buddhist monasteries gradually lost control of land revenue. In parallel, the Gupta kings built Buddhist temples such as the one at Kushinagara, and monastic universities such as those at Nalanda, as evidenced by records left by three Chinese visitors to India.

According to Hazra, Buddhism declined in part because of the rise of the Brahmins and their influence in socio-political process.

Statements 2 and 3 are wrong.

27. The Chinese traveller Yuan Chwang (Hiuen Tsang) who visited India recorded the general conditions and culture of India at that time. In this context, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The roads and river-routes were completely immune from robbery.
2. As regards punishment for offences, ordeals by fire, water and poison were the instruments for determining the innocence or guilt of a person.
3. The tradesmen had to pay duties at ferries and barrier stations.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Solution: b)

CSP – 2013

He was victim of robberies on Indian roads. So, statement 1 is wrong.

If you want to know more about Chinese travellers to India

http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/special/travel_records.pdf (Very good source)

28. Āpastamba Dharmasūtra, one of the four Shulba Sutras, is related to

- (a) For its broad minded and liberal views on women and all social classes
- (b) Grammar
- (c) Geometry
- (d) For its rigid views on rituals

Solution: a)

Similar question was asked in CSP-2008 (on Baudhayana)

The **Shulba Sutras** are part of the larger corpus of texts called the **Shrauta Sutras**, considered to be appendices to the Vedas. They are the only sources of knowledge of Indian mathematics from the Vedic period. Unique fire-altar shapes were associated with unique gifts from the Gods. For instance, “he who desires heaven is to construct a fire-altar in the form of a falcon”; “a fire-altar in the form of a tortoise is to be constructed by one desiring to win the world of Brahman” and “those who wish to destroy existing and future enemies should construct a fire-altar in the form of a rhombus”.

The four major Shulba Sutras, which are mathematically the most significant, are those attributed to Baudhayana, Manava, Apastamba and Katyayana. Their language is late Vedic Sanskrit, pointing to a composition roughly during the 1st millennium BCE. The oldest is the sutra attributed to Baudhayana, possibly compiled around 800 BCE to 600 BCE. while the youngest content may date to about 200 CE

29. Regarding the Indus valley civilization , consider the following statements ?

1. It was predominantly a secular civilization and the religious element, though present, did not dominate the scene.
2. During this period, cotton was used for manufacturing textiles in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: c)

CSP – 2011

NCERT Class XII Themes in Indian History, Theme – I, Chapter 1 (page 22 – cotton)

30. The *Vessantara Jātaka* is one of the most popular apadānas of Theravada Buddhism. These Jatakas are carved on which of the following stupas?

- (a) Kushinagar
- (b) Sanchi
- (c) Bodh Gaya
- (d) Anuradhapura

Solution: b)

NCERT Class XII Themes in Indian History, Theme – I, (Page – 99-100)

2. INDIA & WORLD GEOGRAPHY

1. With reference to the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), consider the following statements:

1. The western Indian Ocean becomes alternately warmer and then colder than the eastern part of the ocean
2. A study has found that IOD results drought in the southern half of Australia

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), also known as the Indian Niño, is an irregular oscillation of sea-surface temperatures in which the western Indian Ocean becomes alternately warmer and then colder than the eastern part of the ocean.

A 2009 study by Ummenhofer et al. at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Climate Change Research Centre has demonstrated a significant correlation between the IOD and drought in the southern half of Australia, in particular the south-east. Every major southern drought since 1889 has coincided with positive-neutral IOD fluctuations including the 1895–1902, 1937–1945 and the 1995–2009 droughts.

2. Consider the following statements:

1. River Narmada runs through only three states
2. Kaveri River's basin covers three states and a Union Territory

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

INSIGHTS QUIZ ON STATIC SYLLABUS

The Kaveri river basin covers three states and a Union Territory as follows: Tamil Nadu, 43,856 square kilometres (16,933 sq mi); Karnataka, 34,273 square kilometres (13,233 sq mi); Kerala, 2,866 square kilometres (1,107 sq mi), and Puducherry, 160 square kilometres (62 sq mi)

Narmada river runs through Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat.

3. Which of the following ports is/are **not** located in the Bay of Bengal?

1. Mongla
2. Paradip
3. Mundra
4. Tuticorin
5. Chittagong

Select correct answer using codes below:

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

Solution: c)

The Bay of Bengal occupies an area of 2,172,000 square kilometres (839,000 sq mi). A number of large rivers flow into the Bay of Bengal: the Ganges, the Padma, the Jamuna, the Meghna, the Irrawaddy, the Godavari, the Mahanadi, the Brahmani, the Baitarani, the Krishna and the Kaveri. Among the important ports are Chennai, Chittagong, Colombo, Kolkata, Mongla, Paradip Port, Port Blair, Tuticorin, Visakhapatnam and Yangon. Among the smaller ports are Dhamra, Kakinada and Payra.

Mundra Port is the largest private port of India located on the north shores of the Gulf of Kutch near Mundra, Kutch district, Gujarat.

4. With reference to the Brahmani River, consider the following statements:

1. The Brahmani is a major seasonal river in Telangana
2. Together with the rivers Mahanadi and Baitarani, it forms a large delta before emptying into the Bay of Bengal at Dhamra.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The Brahmani is a major seasonal river in the Odisha state of Eastern India. The Brahmani is formed by the confluence of the Sankh and South Koel rivers, and flows through the districts of Sundargarh, Deogarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Jajapur and Kendrapara. Together with the rivers Mahanadi and Baitarani, it forms a large delta before emptying into the Bay of Bengal at Dhamra.

5. With reference to the Chabahar Port, consider the following statements:

1. It is located on the Gulf of Oman
2. It is operated by India Ports Global Private Limited (IPGPL) along with its Iranian partner

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Chabahar Port is a seaport in Chabahar located in southeastern Iran, on the **Gulf of Oman**. It serves as Iran's only oceanic port, and consists of two separate ports named Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti, each of which has five berths.

It is operated by India Ports Global Private Limited (IPGPL) and Aria Banader Iranian.

6. Consider the following statements:

1. Many of the world's deserts are caused by climatological high-pressure areas
2. Horse latitudes are the product of the global air circulation cell known as the Hadley Cell

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

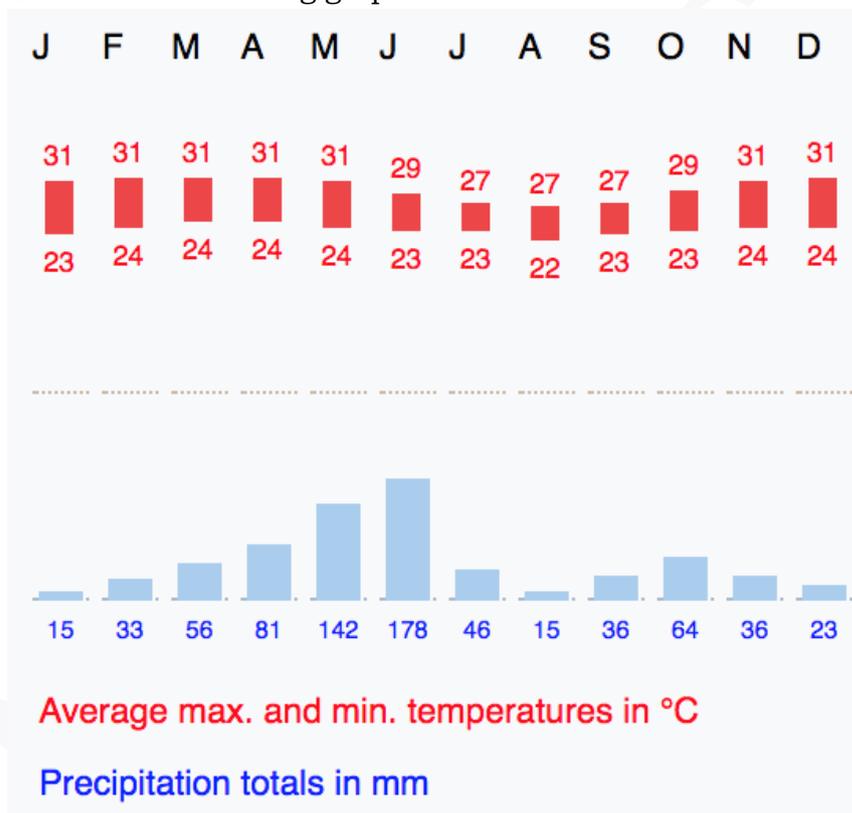
Solution: c)

The subtropical ridge, also known as the subtropical high or horse latitudes, is a significant belt of atmospheric high pressure situated around the latitudes of 30°N in the Northern Hemisphere and 30°S in the Southern Hemisphere. It is the product of the global air circulation cell known as the

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Hadley Cell. The subtropical ridge is characterized by mostly calm winds, which act to reduce air quality under its axis by causing fog overnight, and haze during daylight hours as a result of the stable atmosphere found near its location. The air descending from the upper troposphere flows out from its center at surface level toward the upper and lower latitudes of each hemisphere, creating both the trade winds and the westerlies. The subtropical ridge moves poleward during the summer, reaching its most northern latitude in early fall, before moving equatorward during the cold season. The El Niño southern climate oscillation (ENSO) can displace the northern hemisphere subtropical ridge, with La Niñas allowing for a more northerly axis for the ridge, while El Niños show flatter, more southerly ridges. The change of the ridge position during ENSO cycles changes the tracks of tropical cyclones that form around their equatorward and western peripheries. As the subtropical ridge varies in position and strength, it can enhance or depress monsoon regimes around their low-latitude periphery. The term “horse latitudes” refers to and is synonymous with the subtropical ridge or subtropical high. Many of the world’s deserts are caused by these climatological high-pressure areas.

7. Observe the following graph:



Which of the following climates is represented in the above graph?

- (a) Tropical Rainforest
- (b) Tropical Savanna
- (c) Mediterranean Climate
- (d) None of the above

Solution: b)

Tropical savanna climates have monthly mean temperatures above 18 °C (64 °F) in every month of the year and typically a pronounced dry season, with the driest month having precipitation less than 60 mm and also less than 100 – [total annual precipitation {mm}/25] of precipitation. This latter fact is in direct contrast to a tropical monsoon climate, whose driest month sees less than 60 mm of precipitation but has more than 100 – [total annual precipitation {mm}/25] of precipitation. In essence, a tropical savanna climate tends to either see less rainfall than a tropical monsoon climate or have more pronounced dry seasons.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tropical_savanna_climate

- 8.** With reference to the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), consider the following statements:
1. ITCZ is also known as doldrums
 2. ITCZ is an area encircling the Earth near the Equator, where the northeast and southeast trade winds converge
 3. ITCZ has no effect on tropical cyclone formation

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

The Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), known by sailors as the doldrums, is the area encircling Earth near the Equator, where the northeast and southeast trade winds converge.

Tropical cyclogenesis depends upon low-level vorticity as one of its six requirements, and the ITCZ fills this role as it is a zone of wind change and speed, otherwise known as horizontal wind shear. As the ITCZ migrates more than 500 kilometres (300 mi) from the equator during the respective hemisphere's summer season, increasing Coriolis force makes the formation of tropical cyclones within this zone more possible. Surges of higher pressure from high latitudes can enhance tropical disturbances along its axis.[7] In the north Atlantic and the northeastern Pacific oceans, tropical waves move along the axis of the ITCZ causing an increase in thunderstorm activity, and under weak vertical wind shear, these clusters of thunderstorms can become tropical cyclones.

- 9.** With reference to dew point, consider the following statements:
1. The dew point gives an indication of the humidity
 2. Dew point is the temperature at which the atmosphere is saturated with water vapour, when it is cooled without changing its pressure or vapour content

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Dew point, the temperature at which the atmosphere is saturated with water vapour, when it is cooled without changing its pressure or vapour content. A given volume of air containing much water vapour has a higher dew point than the same volume of drier air; thus the dew point gives an indication of the humidity. In meteorology the dew point is applied, for example, in predicting the height of the base of certain types of clouds.

10. Consider the following Rivers:

- 1. Kabini
- 2. Hemavathi
- 3. Shimsha
- 4. Indravati
- 5. Vamsadhara

Which of the above is/are tributaries of River Kaveri?

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

Solution: a)

River Kaveri tributaries:

Harangi River, Hemavati River, Lakshmana Tirtha, Kabini River, Shimsha River, Bhavani River, Sarabanga River, Noyyal River, Amaravati River

11. Which of the following provinces of China are part of the Tibetan Plateau?

- 1. Sichuan
- 2. Uygur Autonomous Region of Xinjiang
- 3. Qinghai
- 4. Tibet autonomous region

Select the correct answer using codes below:

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

Solution: d)

Plateau of Tibet, also called Tibetan Highlands or Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, vast high plateau of southwestern China. It encompasses all of the Tibet Autonomous Region and much of Qinghai province and extends into western Sichuan province and southern Uygur Autonomous Region of Xinjiang.

12. Consider the following statements:

1. From the Pamirs of Tajikistan, it runs east along the border between Xinjiang and Tibet autonomous regions to the Sino-Tibetan ranges in Qinghai province
2. A number of important rivers flow from it including the Karakash River ('Black Jade River') and the Yurungkash River ('White Jade River')

Above statements refer to?

- (a) Takla Makan
- (b) Tarim Basin
- (c) Gobi Desert
- (d) Kunlun Mountains

Solution: d)

From the Pamirs of Tajikistan, Kunlun runs east along the border between Xinjiang and Tibet autonomous regions to the Sino-Tibetan ranges in Qinghai province. It stretches along the southern edge of what is now called the Tarim Basin, the infamous Takla Makan or "sand-buried houses" desert, and the Gobi Desert. A number of important rivers flow from it including the Karakash River ('Black Jade River') and the Yurungkash River ('White Jade River'), which flow through the Khotan Oasis into the Taklamakan Desert.

13. The Golden Crescent is the name given to one of Asia's two principal areas of illicit opium production. Its space overlaps with

- (a) Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran
- (b) Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkmenistan
- (c) Myanmar, Laos and Thailand
- (d) Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam

Solution: a)

The Golden Crescent is the name given to one of Asia's two principal areas of illicit opium production (with the other being the Golden Triangle), located at the crossroads of Central, South, and Western Asia. This space overlaps three nations, Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, whose mountainous peripheries define the crescent.

14. Siachen Glacier, one of the world's longest mountain glaciers, is part of

- (a) Pamirs
- (b) Karakoram Range
- (c) Himalayas
- (d) The Zaskar

Solution: b)

Siachen Glacier, one of the world's longest mountain glaciers, lying in the Karakoram Range system of Kashmir near the India–Pakistan border, extending for 44 mi (70 km) from north-northwest to south-southeast. It has a number of fast-flowing surface streams and at least 12 medial moraines. It is the source for the 50-mi-long Nubra River, a tributary of the Shyok, which is part of the Indus River system.

15. Consider the following statements:

1. It forms the western anchor of the Himalayan Range
2. It lies just south of the Indus River

To which of the following mountains does above statements refer?

- (a) Nanga Parbat
- (b) Makalu
- (c) K2
- (d) Gasherbrum

Solution: a)

Nanga Parbat forms the western anchor of the Himalayan Range and is the westernmost eight-thousander. It lies just south of the Indus River in the Diamer District of Gilgit–Baltistan in Pakistan. Not far to the north is the western end of the Karakoram range.

Nanga Parbat, also called Diamir, one of the world's tallest mountains, 26,660 feet (8,126 metres) high, situated in the western Himalayas 17 miles (27 km) west-southwest of Astor, in the Pakistani-administered sector of the Kashmir region. The mountain's steep south wall rises nearly 15,000 feet

(4,600 metres) above the valley immediately below, and the north side drops about 23,000 feet (7,000 metres) to the Indus River.

16. The mass nesting of the endangered olive ridley turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) has crossed all records in Rushikulya rookery in 2018. With reference to Rushikulya, consider the following statements:

1. Rushikulya is one of the major rivers in Andhra Pradesh
2. Olive Ridley Turtles which are not native to Rushikulya were brought here as part of conservation efforts by the Indian government

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

The Rushikulya River is one of the major rivers in the state of Odisha and covers entire catchment area in the districts of Kandhamal and Ganjam district of Odisha. The Rushikulya originates at an elevation of about 1000 metres from Daringbadi hills of the Eastern Ghats range.

In 1993, biologists from the Odisha Forest Department and the Wildlife Institute of India learned that large scale nesting of Olive Ridley turtles was taking place near the mouth of the Rushikulya river. This area is the location of one of the largest mass nesting (*arribada*) sites of olive ridley sea turtles in India. The villages near the mouth are Pali Bandha, Puruna Bandha, Gokhara Kuda and Kantia Pada, where one can find the nesting sites of the olive ridley turtles. These villages basically are fishermen's villages.

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/states/odisha/turtle-arrival-record-212051>

17. Daringbadi, a famous hill station situated at a height of 3000 ft or 915 mts which has pine jungles, coffee gardens and beautiful valleys, is located in

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Kerala
- (d) None of the above

Solution: d)

Daringbadi is a hill station in Odisha state of eastern India. It is widely known as "Kashmir of Odisha", situated at a height of 3000 ft or 915 m in Kandhamal district, the place has pine jungles, coffee

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gardens and beautiful valleys. Daringbadi is set in a beautiful spot surrounded by thick rain forests with wild animals, and is a popular summer resort. Back in the days of the British rule, there was a British officer named Daring Saheb who was in charge of this place. Over the years, this place was named after him, which spelled "DaringBadi with Badi meaning village. More than 50% of the population here constitutes ST community of aboriginal tribal races or indigenous residents who have been living since the time immemorial. The climatic conditions have earned this place the sobriquet- The Kashmir of Odisha.

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/daringbadi-phulbani-coldest-place-in-odisha/1225634>

18. The Kashmir Valley is located between

- (a) The Main Himalayas and Zaskar Range
- (b) The Pir Panjal Range and the Main Himalayas
- (c) The Ladakh Range and Karakoram Ranges
- (d) None of the above

Solution: b)

The Kashmir Valley, also known as the Vale of Kashmir, is a valley in the portion of the Kashmir region administered by India. The valley is bounded on the southwest by the Pir Panjal Range and on the northeast by the main Himalayas range. It is approximately 135 km long and 32 km wide, and is drained by the Jhelum River

19. Which of the following tributaries of the River Indus is/are its Left Bank tributaries?

- 1. Shyok
- 2. Beas
- 3. Gilgit
- 4. Kabul
- 5. Ravi

Select the correct answer using codes below:

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

Solution: c)

In the plains, its left bank tributary is the Panjnad which itself has five major tributaries, namely, the Chenab, Jhelum, the Ravi, the Beas, and the Sutlej. Its principal right bank tributaries are the Shyok, the Gilgit, the Kabul, the Gomal, and the Kurram.

20. *Platanista indicus minor*, a sub-species of dolphin, is found only in

- (a) River Ganges
- (b) River Yamuna
- (c) River Brahmaputra
- (d) None of the above

Solution: d)

The Indus river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica minor*) is a subspecies of freshwater river dolphin found in the Indus river (and its Beas and Sutlej tributaries) of India and Pakistan. This dolphin was the first discovered side-swimming cetacean. It is patchily distributed in five small, sub-populations that are separated by irrigation barrages. The Indus dolphin does not form easily defined groups who interact. Instead, they're typically found in loose aggregations.

21. According to the UNESCO definition, the buffer zone of a biosphere reserve has which of the following function?

- (a) Region used for activities compatible with sound ecological practices that can reinforce scientific research, monitoring, training and education
- (b) Area comprising a strictly protected ecosystem that contributes to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation
- (c) Part of the reserve where the greatest activity is allowed, fostering economic and human development that is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable
- (d) None of the above

Solution: a)

Biosphere reserves have three interrelated zones that aim to fulfil three complementary and mutually reinforcing functions:

- The core area(s) comprises a strictly protected ecosystem that contributes to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation.
- The buffer zone surrounds or adjoins the core areas, and is used for activities compatible with sound ecological practices that can reinforce scientific research, monitoring, training and education.
- The transition area is the part of the reserve where the greatest activity is allowed, fostering economic and human development that is socio-culturally and ecologically sustainable.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/>

22. Which of the following Biosphere Reserves in India is/are located south of the Tropic of Cancer?

1. Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve
2. Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
3. Simlipal Biosphere Reserve
4. Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve

Select the correct answer using codes below:

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

Solution: d)

All four are located south of the tropic of cancer

The Sundarbans is a vast forest in the coastal region of the Bay of Bengal and considered one of the natural wonders of the world

The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve is an International Biosphere Reserve in the Western Ghats and Nilgiri Hills ranges of South India.

The Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve is a non-use conservation area and biosphere reserve in the Satpura Range of Madhya Pradesh state in central India.

Simlipal National Park is a national park and a tiger reserve in the Mayurbhanj district in the Indian state of Odisha.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biosphere_reserves_of_India

23. Which of the following state capitals is/are located north of the Tropic of Cancer?

1. Aizawl
2. Raipur
3. Bhopal
4. Agartala
5. Gandhinagar
6. Ranchi

Select the correct answer using codes below:

- (a) 1, 3, 4 and 6 Only
- (b) 1 and 4 Only
- (c) 4 and 6 Only
- (d) 1 and 6 Only

Solution: b)



Look at the map.

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- 24.** Which one of the following pairs of states of India indicates easternmost and southernmost state?
- (a) Assam and Kerala
 - (b) Assam and Tamil Nadu
 - (c) Arunachal Pradesh and Kerala
 - (d) Arunachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

Solution: d)

Similar question was asked by UPSC in 2015.

- 25.** Consider the following statements:

1. One of the last tracts of virgin wilderness in the country, this national park sustains a unique ecosystem where tropical, sub-tropical, sub-temperate, and temperate vegetative system still harbours a wealth of flora and fauna
2. It is the land of the elegant red panda

To which of the following National Parks does above statements refer?

- (a) Namdapha National Park
- (b) Khangchendzonga National Park
- (c) Neora Valley National Park
- (d) Kaziranga National Park

Solution: c)

Similar question was asked by UPSC Prelims in 2015

- Neora Valley National Park is situated in the Kalimpong district, West Bengal, India and was established in 1986. It spreads over an area of 88 km² and is one of the richest biological zones in the entire Eastern India. It is the land of the elegant red panda in the pristine undisturbed natural habitat with rugged inaccessible hilly terrain and rich diverse flora and fauna making this park an important wilderness zone
- Neora Valley, one of the last tracts of virgin wilderness in the country, sustains a unique ecosystem where tropical, sub-tropical, sub-temperate, and temperate vegetative system still harbours a wealth of flora and fauna. The forests consists of mixed species like rhododendron, bamboo, oak, ferns, sal, etc. The valley also has numerous species of orchids.

- 26.** With reference to the Mohorovicic discontinuity, consider the following statements:
1. It is the boundary between the Earth's crust and the mantle
 2. The depth of Mohorovicic discontinuity is higher under the oceanic crust than it is below continental crust

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

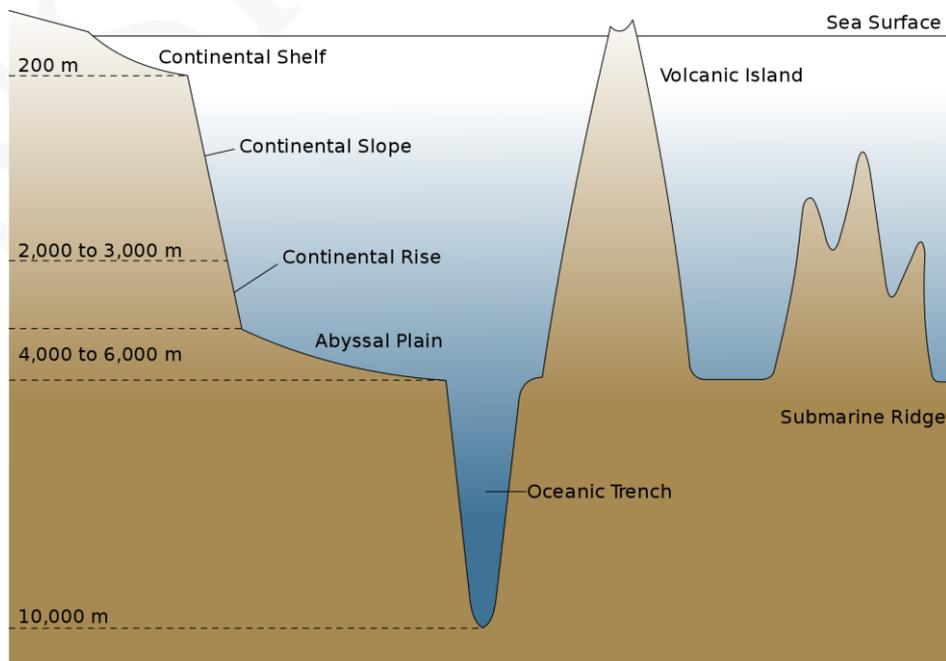
Solution: a)

There was a question on Mohorovičić discontinuity, in CSP-2012.

Moho, or Mohorovičić discontinuity, boundary between the **Earth's crust and its mantle**. The Moho lies at a depth of about 22 mi (**35 km**) below continents and about 4.5 mi (**7 km**) beneath the oceanic crust. Modern instruments have determined that the **velocity of seismic waves increases rapidly** at this boundary. The Moho was named for Andrija Mohorovičić.

- 27.** The continental rise is an underwater feature found between
- (a) The continental shelf and continental slope
 - (b) The continental slope and abyssal plain
 - (c) The abyssal plain and oceanic trench
 - (d) None of the above

Solution: b)



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The continental rise is an underwater feature found between the continental slope and the abyssal plain. This feature can be found all around the world, and it represents the final stage in the boundary between continents and the deepest part of the ocean. The environment in the continental rise is quite unique, and many oceanographers study it extensively in the hopes of learning more about the ocean and geologic history.

28. Consider the following statements:

1. The Earth rotates faster at the Equator than it does at the poles
2. The Coriolis Force is more affected by Earth's revolution than its rotation

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

The key to the Coriolis effect lies in the Earth's rotation. The Earth rotates faster at the Equator than it does at the poles. This is because the Earth is wider at the Equator. A point on the Equator has farther to travel in a day.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/coriolis-effect/>

29. With reference to tropical cyclones, consider the following statements:

1. They occur during January–March in the Southern Hemisphere
2. They rotate in a clockwise (or anticyclonic) direction in the Southern Hemisphere

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Many questions on tropical cyclones have been asked in UPSC CSP.

Every year during the late summer months (July–September in the Northern Hemisphere and January–March in the Southern Hemisphere), cyclones strike regions as far apart as the Gulf Coast of North America, northwestern Australia, and eastern India and Bangladesh.

Tropical cyclones are compact, circular storms, generally some 320 km (200 miles) in diameter, whose winds swirl around a central region of low atmospheric pressure. The winds are driven by this low-pressure core and by the rotation of Earth, which deflects the path of the wind through a phenomenon known as the Coriolis force. As a result, tropical cyclones rotate in a counterclockwise (or cyclonic) direction in the Northern Hemisphere and in a clockwise (or anticyclonic) direction in the Southern Hemisphere.

30. Which of the following factors have an impact on Earth's shape?

1. Distribution of mass on Earth
2. Postglacial rebound
3. Gravitational pull of the moon and sun

Select the correct answer using codes below:

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

Solution: d)

Earth's shape also changes over time due to a menagerie of other dynamic factors. Mass shifts around inside the planet, altering those gravitational anomalies. Mountains and valleys emerge and disappear due to plate tectonics. Occasionally meteors crater the surface. And the gravitational pull of the moon and sun not only cause ocean and atmospheric tides but earth tides as well.

In addition, the changing weight of the oceans and atmosphere can cause deformations of the crust "on the order of a centimeter or so," notes geophysicist Richard Gross at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. "There's also postglacial rebound, with the crust and mantle that were depressed by the huge ice sheets that sat on the surface during the last ice age now rebounding upward on the order of a centimeter a year."

Moreover, to even out Earth's imbalanced distribution of mass and stabilize its spin, "the entire surface of the Earth will rotate and try to redistribute mass along the equator, a process called true polar wander".

Source: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/earth-is-not-round/>

3. INDIAN POLITY & GOVERNANCE

1. With reference to the BeruBari case(1960), consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court observed that the Preamble is an integral part of the Preamble
2. The Supreme Court observed that the Preamble acts as source of substantive power conferred on the Government

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solutions: d)

The SC made following observation in the Berubari case:

There is no doubt that the declaration made by the people of India in exercise of their sovereign will in the preamble to the Constitution is, in the words of Story, “a key to open the mind of the makers” which may show the general purposes for which they made the several provisions in the Constitution; but nevertheless the preamble is not a part of the Constitution, and, as Willoughby has observed about the preamble to the American Constitution, “it has never been regarded as the source of any substantive power conferred on the Government of the United States, or on any of its departments. Such powers embrace only those expressly granted in the body of the Constitution and such as may be implied from those so granted”.

<https://indiankanoon.org/doc/1120103/>

2. Whose small signature does the original preamble page of the original Indian Constitution bears in lower right corner?

- (a) Nandalal Bose
- (b) B R Ambedkar
- (c) Beohar Rammanohar Sinha
- (d) Prem Behari Narain Raizada

Solution: c)

The preamble-page, along with other pages of the original Constitution of India, was designed and decorated by the renowned painter Beohar Rammanohar Sinha of Jabalpur who was at Shantiniketan

with acharya Nandalal Bose at that time. Nandalal Bose endorsed Beohar Rammanohar Sinha's artwork without any alteration whatsoever. As such, the page bears Beohar Rammanohar Sinha's short signature Ram in Devanagari lower-right corner. The calligraphy was done by Prem Behari Narain Raizada.

Beohar Rammanohar Sinha was an Indian artist who is very well known for his illustrations in the original final manuscript of Constitution of India, including the complete Preamble-page, which was brought to fruition in 1949 as one of the most beautiful Constitution in the world in addition to being the most comprehensive one. He is also known as a cultural ambassador of India who disseminated Indian art in the Far East, and brought Oriental Art to India. His works are housed in numerous prestigious public and private collections throughout the world and his murals still adorn the walls and gigantic dome of Jabalpur's historic Shaheed-Smarak or Martyrs'-Memorial Auditorium even after more than half a century, though now demanding conservation. Rammanohar always signed his artworks in the cursive Devanagari-script, either in short Ram or in full Rammanohar, but rarely scribed his surname. Most of his later paintings bear a unique red seal with his surname Sinha, primarily in Devanagari-script but also sometimes in the Pinyin-script, in addition to his said signatures in ink.

3. Which of the following word is/are missing in the Preamble to the Constitution of India?

1. Faith
2. Belief
3. Cultural
4. Women
5. Worship

Select the correct word using codes below:

- (a) 1 and 4 Only
- (b) 2 and 4 Only
- (c) 2 and 5 Only
- (d) 3 and 4 Only

Solution: d)

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens:

JUSTICE, social, economic and political;

LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this 26th day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

4. The recognition of Indians' right to frame their own constitution was made by
- The August offer
 - The Cabinet Mission
 - Cripps Mission
 - Mountbatten Plan

Solution: a)

The August offer was a proposal made by the British government in 1940 promising the expansion of the Executive Council of the Viceroy of India to include more Indians, the establishment of an advisory war council, giving full weight to minority opinion, and the recognition of Indians' right to frame their own constitution (after the end of the war). In return, it was hoped that all parties and communities in India would cooperate in Britain's efforts in World War II. However this proposal was denied by the Congress as the minorities especially the Muslim League was assured that no constitutional scheme was acceptable to the government without their assurance. The Muslim League did not accept the offer as it did not give a clear assurance for the establishment of Pakistan.

5. Which of the following words was/were **not** originally included in the Preamble drafted by the Constituent Assembly?
- Secular
 - Socialist
 - Unity
 - Integrity

Select the correct answer using codes below:

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

Solution: c)

The preamble has been amended only once so far. On 18 December 1976, during the Emergency in India, the Indira Gandhi government pushed through several changes in the Forty-second Amendment of the constitution. A committee under the chairmanship of Sardar Swaran Singh recommended that this amendment be enacted after being constituted to study the question of

amending the constitution in the light of past experience. Through this amendment the words “socialist” and “secular” were added between the words “Sovereign” and “democratic” and the words “unity of the Nation” were changed to “unity and integrity of the Nation”

6. Consider the following statements:

1. Fundamental rights are same as natural rights in their nature and origin
2. All fundamental rights can be construed as basic human rights

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

For statement-1:

The basic difference between the concept of Fundamental Rights and that of the Natural Rights is regarding their origin. Fundamental Rights are created by the state and guaranteed by its constitution. They exist in the state of society. But Natural Rights are believed to have existed before the state came into being. They are prior to it. Fundamental Rights lie at the very foundation of human existence, while the Natural Rights lie in the nature of man or of the universe. Secondly, Fundamental Rights are sanctioned by the state through its judicial organ, while the Natural Rights are enforced by the nature, which rely means they are not enforced at all.

Regarding statement-2,

The Fundamental Rights are defined as basic human freedoms that every Indian citizen has the right to enjoy for a proper and harmonious development of personality. These rights universally apply to all citizens, irrespective of race, place of birth, religion, caste or gender.

7. Right to Education is inserted as part of the Fundamental Rights within the

- (a) Right to Freedom
- (b) Right to Equality
- (c) Cultural and Educational Rights
- (d) Right against Exploitation

Solution: a)

Right to Education is inserted as Article 21A through the Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002. It is inserted under Right to Freedom category.

8. Which of the following policies or rules have their roots in the Fundamental Right of Right to Equality ?
1. Reservation policy for SCs and STs
 2. Abolition of untouchability
 3. Reservation for women in Parliament

Select the correct answer using codes below:

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

Solution: d)

Right to equality: Which includes equality before law, prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, gender or place of birth, and equality of opportunity in matters of employment, abolition of untouchability and abolition of titles. Right to equality is provided from Article 14 to Article 18 of Indian constitution.

Right to equality extends to reservation policy as it's guaranteed by the Constitution within Right to Equality provisions.

9. Which of the following are envisaged by the Right against Exploitation in the Constitution of India?
1. Right to life and personal liberty
 2. Abolition of untouchability
 3. Protection of the interests of minorities
 4. Protection against arrest and detention in certain cases

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 4 Only
- (b) 1 and 2 Only
- (c) 2 Only
- (d) None

Solution: d)

Right against exploitation: Which prohibits all forms of forced labour, child labour and trafficking of human beings. It is provided under Articles 23 and 24 of Indian constitution.

10. Natural rights are universal and inalienable. Which means
- (a) They cannot be repealed or restrained by human laws
 - (b) They can not be abrogated by state
 - (c) Natural right are more or less similar to human rights
 - (d) All the above

Solution: d)

Natural and legal rights are two types of rights. Natural rights are those that are not dependent on the laws or customs of any particular culture or government, and so are universal and inalienable (they cannot be repealed or restrained by human laws). Legal rights are those bestowed onto a person by a given legal system (they can be modified, repealed, and restrained by human laws).

The idea of human rights is also closely related to that of natural rights: some acknowledge no difference between the two, regarding them as synonymous, while others choose to keep the terms separate to eliminate association with some features traditionally associated with natural rights. Natural rights, in particular, are considered beyond the authority of any government or international body to dismiss. The 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an important legal instrument enshrining one conception of natural rights into international soft law. Natural rights were traditionally viewed as exclusively negative rights, whereas human rights also comprise positive rights. Even on a natural rights conception of human rights, the two terms may not be synonymous.

11. Over the years, the scope of Right to Life and Personal Liberty has been expanded by the Supreme Court. Which of the following is/are included under the Right to Life and Personal Liberty?
1. Right to live with human dignity
 2. Right to live free from exploitation
 3. Right to privacy
 4. Right to shelter and livelihood
 5. Right to good health

Select the correct answer using codes below:

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

Solution: d)

<https://lawnn.com/article-21-indian-constitution-right-life-indian-constitution/>

12. Which of the following laws are related to use or misuse of Preventive Detention?

1. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act
2. MISA
3. COFEPOSA
4. Arms Act 1959
5. National Security Act (NSA) 1980
6. Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) 2002

Select the correct answer using codes below:

- (a) 1,3, 4 and 5 Only
- (b) 1,2,4 and 5 Only
- (c) 1, 4, 5 and 6 Only
- (d) 1,2,3, 5 and 6 Only

Solution: d)

The Arms Act, 1878 is an Act of the Parliament of India to consolidate and amend the law relating to arms and ammunition in order to curb illegal weapons and violence stemming from them

All others are related to preventive detention:

In the normal course of things preventive detention laws should have lapsed after India attained Independence; but perhaps as the Republic of India had its birth amidst the ravages of civil commotion involving huge loss of lives and property, the framers of our Constitution decided to retain preventive detention as a means to curb anti-national activity. Thus, the Preventive Detention Act was passed by Parliament in 1950. After the expiry of this Act in 1969, the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) was enacted in 1971, followed by its economic adjunct the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act (COFEPOSA) in 1974 and the Terrorism and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA) in 1985. Though MISA and TADA have been repealed, COFEPOSA continues to be operative along with other similar laws such as the National Security Act (NSA) 1980, the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Essential Commodities Act 1980 and the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) 2002; not to mention laws with similar provisions enacted by the State governments.

<http://www.thehindu.com/op/2004/09/07/stories/2004090700101500.htm>

13. “Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him”

The above Right is found in exact form in the:

- (a) Indian Constitution
- (b) UN Declaration of Human Rights
- (c) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- (d) European Convention on Human Rights

Solution: b)

This is just to let you know it's not part of the Indian constitution. Now don't assume you should read all these laws!!

- The right to a fair trial is a norm of international human rights law and also adopted by many countries in their procedural law. Countries like U.S.A., Canada, U.K., and India have adopted this norm and it is enshrined in their Constitution. The right to a fair trial has been defined in numerous international instruments. The major features of fair criminal trial are preserved in Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.
- **Article 10[i]**- Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.
- **Article 11[ii]**- (1) Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence. (2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.
- Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights reaffirmed the objects of UDHR and provides that “Everyone shall be entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law. Article 14(2) provides for the presumption of innocence, and article 14(3) sets out a list of minimum fair trial rights in criminal proceedings. Article 14(5) establishes the rights of a convicted person to have a higher court review the conviction or sentence, and article 14(7) prohibits double jeopardy
- Section 11 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, protects a person's basic legal rights in criminal prosecution.
- Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights provides the minimum rights, adequate time and facilities to prepare their defence, access to legal representation, right to examine witnesses against them or have them examined, right to the free assistance of an interpreter to everyone charged with a criminal offence.
- The Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides in all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and

district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

- As far as Indian legal system is concerned, the international promise of fair trial is very much reflected in its constitutional scheme as well as its procedural law. Indian judiciary has also highlighted the pivotal role of fair trial in a number of cases. It is designed to protect individuals from the unlawful and arbitrary curtailment or deprivation of their basic rights and freedoms, the most prominent of which are the right to life and liberty of the person. The concept of fair trial is based on the basic principles of natural justice

14. The Freedom of Conscience enshrined in the Indian Constitution implies that

1. A person may choose any religion or may choose not to follow any religion
2. A person may choose not to reveal his/her religion even to state authorities

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

First statement is from NCERT Class XI Indian Constitution at Work (Page 38)

No citizen can be compelled to declare her religion in any form or declaration, the Bombay High Court ruled here on Tuesday. "Freedom of conscience under Article 25 of the Constitution encompasses in itself a freedom to an individual to take a view that he does not belong to any religion. No authority which is a State can infringe the fundamental right to freedom of conscience," the division bench of Justices Abhay Oka and Girish Kulkarni held.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/bombay-hc-ruling-on-freedom-of-conscience-hailed/article6445380.ece>

15. The government can impose restrictions on the practice of freedom of religion in order to protect

1. Health
2. Morality
3. Public order
4. Minority religions

Select the correct answer using codes below:

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

Solution: a)

Article 25 says “all persons are equally entitled to **freedom of conscience** and the right to freely profess, practice, and propagate religion subject to public order, morality and health.”

NCERT Class XI Indian Constitution at Work (Page 38)

16. Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution of India states that the Directive Principles of State Policy are “fundamental to the governance of the country”
2. The Constitution of India imposes an obligation on the State to apply the Directive Principles of State Policy in matters of legislation

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Article 37, while stating that the **Directive Principles are not enforceable in any court of law**, declares them to be “fundamental to the governance of the country” and imposes an obligation on the State to apply them in matters of legislation.

17. The Directive Principles of State Policies serve or aim to establish which of the following principles?

1. Welfare state
2. Economic and social democracy
3. Socialist state

Select the right answer using codes below:

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

Solution: a)

A socialist state or socialist republic (sometimes workers' state or workers' republic) refers to any state that is constitutionally dedicated to the establishment of socialism. **India is NOT a socialist state in its strict sense.** Socialist state refers to communist states (Leninist/Marxist/Maoist).

The Directive Principles of State Policy, embodied in Part IV of the Constitution, are directions given to the state to guide the establishment of an economic and social democracy, as proposed by the Preamble. They set forth the humanitarian and socialist instructions that were the aim of social revolution envisaged in India by the Constituent Assembly.

DPSPs serve to emphasise the welfare state model of the Constitution and emphasise the positive duty of the state to promote the welfare of the people by affirming social, economic and political justice, as well as to fight income inequality and ensure individual dignity, as mandated by Article 38.

18. Which of the following is/are **not** Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) as enshrined in the Constitution of India?
1. Free legal aid
 2. Prohibiting the slaughter, of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle
 3. Promoting women in management of industries
 4. Provision for early childhood care
 5. Separation of judiciary from legislature

Select the right answer using codes below:

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

Solution: b)

43A. Participation of workers in management of industries.—The State shall take steps, by suitable legislation or in any other way, to secure the participation of workers in the management of undertakings, establishments or other organisations engaged in any industry.

50. Separation of judiciary from executive.—The State shall take steps to separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services of the State.

19. Consider the following statements:

1. The Fundamental Duties of citizens were added to the Constitution by the 42nd Amendment in 1976
2. Article 51A brings the Indian Constitution into conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The **Fundamental Duties** of citizens were added to the Constitution by the **42nd Amendment in 1976**, upon the recommendations of the **Swaran Singh Committee** that was constituted by the government earlier that year. Originally ten in number, the Fundamental Duties were increased to eleven by the **86th Amendment in 2002**, which added a duty on every parent or guardian to ensure that their child or ward was provided opportunities for education between the ages of six and fourteen years. The other Fundamental Duties obligate all **citizens to respect the national symbols** of India, including the Constitution, to cherish its heritage, preserve its composite culture and assist in its defense. They also obligate all Indians to promote the spirit of common **brotherhood**, protect the **environment** and public property, develop scientific temper, abjure violence, and strive towards excellence in all spheres of life. However, many of these are non-justifiable, without any legal sanction in case of their violation or non-compliance. There is reference to such duties in international instruments such as the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**, and **Article 51A** brings the Indian Constitution into conformity with these treaties.

20. Which of the following is the only Indian state to have a uniform civil code?

- (a) Jammu and Kashmir
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Goa
- (d) West Bengal

Solution: c)

Personal laws are distinguished from public law and cover marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption and maintenance. Goa has a common family law, thus being the only Indian state to have a uniform

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civil code. The Special Marriage Act, 1954 permits any citizen to have a civil marriage outside the realm of any specific religious personal law.

The Goa Civil Code, also called the Goa Family Law, is the set of civil laws that governs the residents of the Indian state of Goa. In India, as a whole, there are religion-specific civil codes that separately govern adherents of different religions. Goa is an exception to that rule, in that a single code governs all Goans, irrespective of religion, ethnicity or linguistic affiliation.

21. With reference to the Proportional representation (PR), consider the following statements:

1. In the Proportional representation (PR) system a party gets the same proportion of seats as its proportion of votes
2. India uses a variant of PR system for the election to the Rajya Sabha
3. In Israel where PR system is used, entire country is treated as a single constituency in the national election

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

All three statements are correct (Refer Page 57 – 58 of NCERT Class XI Polity book)

In India, we have adopted PR system on a limited scale for indirect elections. The Constitution prescribes a third and complex variation of the PR system for the election of **President, Vice President**, and for the election to the **Rajya Sabha** and **Vidhan Parishads**.

Proportional representation, electoral system that seeks to create a representative body that reflects the overall distribution of public support for each political party. Where majority or plurality systems effectively reward strong parties and penalize weak ones by providing the representation of a whole constituency to a single candidate who may have received fewer than half of the votes cast (as is the case, for example, in the United States), proportional representation ensures minority groups a measure of representation proportionate to their electoral support. Systems of proportional representation have been adopted in many countries, including Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

22. Which of the following is/are the features of First Past the Post system?

1. Every constituency elects one representative
2. Voter votes for the party
3. Candidate who wins the elections gets majority of votes

Select the correct answer using codes below:

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

Solution: a)

23. Which of the following is/are reasons why the makers of our Constitution *didn't* opt for Proportional representation (PR) election system in India?

1. They believed PR based election may not be suitable for giving a stable government in a parliamentary system
2. A PR system would encourage each community to form its own nation-wide party

Select the correct answer using codes below:

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

Solution: c)

- More importantly, the makers of our Constitution also felt that PR based election may not be suitable for giving a stable government in a parliamentary system.
- Finally, the FPTP system encourages voters from different social groups to come together to win an election in a locality. In a diverse country like India, a PR system would encourage each community to form its own nation-wide party. This may also have been at the back of the mind of our constitution makers.

Refer Page 62 of NCERT Class XI Polity book.

24. With reference to the Delimitation Commission, consider the following statements:

1. It is constituted by the Election Commission of India
2. It is appointed for the purpose of drawing up the boundaries of constituencies all over the country
3. It draws or redraws the boundaries of only Lok Sabha constituencies

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The Delimitation commission or Boundary commission of India is a commission established by the Government of India (by The **President of India**) under the provisions of the **Delimitation Commission Act**. The main task of the commission is redrawing the boundaries of the various **assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies** based on a **recent census**. The **representation from each State is not changed** during this exercise. However, the **number of SC and ST seats in a state are changed in accordance with the census**. The present delimitation of constituencies has been done on the basis of **2001 census** under the provisions of **Delimitation Act, 2002**.

25. Consider the following statements:

1. The Constituent Assembly guaranteed every adult citizen above age of 18 the right to vote in the elections to ensure that all citizens are able to participate in the process of selecting their representative
2. The universal adult suffrage is consistent with the principle of equality and non-discrimination

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Till **1989**, an adult Indian meant an Indian citizen above the age of 21. Hence, it was NOT the constituent assembly that decided age of 18 (hence, statement 1 is wrong). An amendment to the Constitution in 1989, reduced the eligibility age to 18. Adult franchise ensures that all citizens are able to participate in the process of selecting their representative. This is consistent with the principle of equality and non-discrimination that we studied in the chapter on rights.

26. Consider the following with respect to the powers of the Rajya Sabha :

1. Considers and approves non money bills and suggests amendments to money bills.
2. Approves constitutional amendments.
3. Exercises control over executive by asking questions, introducing motions and resolutions.
4. It cannot alone initiate the procedure for removal of Vice President.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution (c)

Powers of Rajya Sabha: Considers and approves non money bills and suggests amendments to money bills. Approves constitutional amendments. Exercises control over executive by asking questions, introducing motions and resolutions. It can alone initiate the procedure for removal of Vice President. It can give the Union parliament power to make laws on matters included in the State list.

Reference : Page 109(Indian Constitution at Work Class XI)

27. In which of the following cases are the powers of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha co-equal?

1. Election and impeachment of the President
2. Approval of ordinances issued by the President
3. Removal of Judges of Supreme Court and High Court

Select the correct code from below options:

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

Solution (d)

In all other spheres, including passing of non-money bills, constitutional amendments, and impeaching the President and removing the Vice President the powers of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are co-equal. Participates in the election and removal of the President, Vice President, Judges of Supreme Court and High Court.

Reference :Page 109,110 (Indian Constitution at Work Class XI)

28. Consider the following statements:

1. The Rajya Sabha cannot initiate, reject or amend money bills.
2. The President cannot send back an amendment bill for reconsideration of the Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution (c)

Only Lok Sabha can initiate, reject or amend money bills. If it is a money bill, the Rajya Sabha can either approve the bill or suggest changes but cannot reject it. If it takes no action within 14 days the bill is deemed to have been passed. Amendments to the bill, suggested by Rajya Sabha, may or may not be accepted by the Lok Sabha.

The Constitutional Amendment Bills can only be ratified i.e., it cannot be rejected or returned.

Reference : Page 110, 113 (Indian Constitution at Work Class XI)

29. Indian Constitution has adopted a system of Checks and Balance for smooth functioning of the three organs of the government. Which of the following are the instruments of parliamentary control over the executive?

1. No Confidence Motion
2. Both Zero Hour and Half-an-hour discussion
3. Comptroller and Auditor General
4. Public Accounts Committee
5. Emergency provisions

Select the correct code.

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

Solution (d)

Instruments of Parliamentary Control

- The legislature in parliamentary system ensures executive accountability at various stages: policy making, implementation of law or policy and during and post implementation stage. The legislature does this through the use of a variety of devices:
- **Deliberation and discussion- Zero Hour** where members are free to raise any matter that they think is important (though the ministers are not bound to reply), **half-an – hour** discussion on matters of public importance, adjournment motion etc. are some instruments of exercising control.

Approval or Refusal of laws

- **Financial control-** before granting money the Lok Sabha can discuss the reasons for which the government requires money. It can enquire into cases of misuse of funds on the basis of the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General and Public Accounts committees.
- **No confidence motion:** The most powerful weapon that enables the Parliament to ensure executive accountability is the no-confidence motion. As long as the government has the support

of its party or coalition of parties that have a majority in the Lok Sabha, the power of the House to dismiss the government is fictional rather than real.

Reference : Page 116, 117 (Indian Constitution at Work Class XI)

30. With reference to Parliamentary Standing Committees consider the following:

1. Standing Committees not only supervise the work of various departments but also their budget.
2. Public Accounts Committee is an example of Standing Committee.
3. Members of the Standing committees are selected from both Houses.
4. Standing Committees are permanent in nature.
5. Standing Committees are means of parliamentary control over the executive.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution (c)

Standing Committees not only supervise the work of various departments but also their budget, their expenditure and bills that come up in the house relating to the department.

It is a permanent and regular committee which is constituted from time to time according to the provisions of an Act of Parliament or Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business. The work done by the Indian Parliament is not only voluminous but also of a complex nature, hence a good deal of its work is carried out in these Parliamentary Committees. There are two types of Parliamentary Committee, the Standing Committee and the Ad hoc Committee. Public Accounts Committee is an example of Standing Committee. Members of the Standing committees are selected from both Houses, except for Estimates Committee where all the members are from Lok Sabha Only.

Reference : Page 118, 119 (Indian Constitution at Work Class XI) & Wikipedia.

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