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## 1. Polity

- 1) Consider the following statements regarding Nominated members of Rajya Sabha.
1. The President nominates members to the Rajya Sabha as recommended by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
  2. Nominated members have the same rights and privileges as elected members of Rajya Sabha.

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 Rajya Sabha has 12 nominated members from different walks of life.
- The broad **criterion for their nomination is that they should have distinguished themselves in fields like literature, science, art, and social service.**
- The **President nominates such individuals as recommended by the Centre.**
- Nominated members have the same rights and privileges as elected members, with one notable difference — **they cannot vote in the election of the President.**

- 2) The Constitution of India lays down which of the following criteria to disqualify a Member of Parliament (MP)?

1. Holding an office of profit under government of India.
2. Being of unsound mind.
3. Being an undischarged insolvent
4. Acquiring citizenship of another country

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: c)

### What are the basic criteria to disqualify an MP or MLA?

Basic disqualification criteria for an MP are laid down in **Article 102 of the Constitution**, and for an MLA in **Article 191**.

- **They can be disqualified for:** a) Holding an office of profit under government of India or state government; b) Being of unsound mind; c) Being an undischarged insolvent; d) Not being an Indian citizen or for acquiring citizenship of another country.

- 3) Consider the following statements regarding office of profit.
1. The expression “office of profit” has been defined in the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
  2. The office of profit law seeks to enforce the principle of separation of power between the legislature and the executive.
  3. According to the Constitution of India, the Member of Parliament (MP) cannot hold any office of profit under the Central Government, but can hold such an office from the State government.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Under Article 102 (1) and Article 191 (1) of the Constitution, **an MP or an MLA (or an MLC) is barred from holding any office of profit under the Central or State government.**

If an MLA or an MP holds a government office and receives benefits from it, then that office is termed as an "office of profit".

- A person will be disqualified if he holds an office of profit under the central or state government, other than an office declared not to disqualify its holder by a law passed by Parliament or state legislature.
- The expression "office of profit" has **not been defined in the Constitution or in the Representation of the People Act, 1951.**
- **It is for the courts to explain the significance and meaning of this concept.** Over the years, courts have decided this issue in the context of specific factual situations.

The office of profit law simply seeks to **enforce a basic feature of the Constitution- the principle of separation of power between the legislature and the executive**

4) According to the rules of CBI

1. The Supreme Court and High Courts can authorize CBI to investigate a crime in a state only with the consent of the concerned state government.

2. The central government can order CBI to investigate a crime anywhere in the country without the consent of the state government.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: d)

The CBI manual says, "**The central government can authorize CBI to investigate such a crime in a state but only with the consent of the concerned state government. The Supreme Court and High Courts, however, can order CBI to investigate such a crime anywhere in the country without the consent of the state.**"

5) Consider the following statements.

1. The term 'Minority' is not defined in the Indian Constitution.

2. The Constitution of India recognises religious, linguistic and ethnic minorities.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: a)

**The Constitution uses the word 'minorities' in some articles but does not define it anywhere.**

Article 29 speaks of "any section of citizens having a distinct language script and culture". This may be a whole community generally seen as a minority or group within a majority community.

Article 30 speaks specifically of two categories of minorities – **religious and linguistic.**

350 A and 350 B relate to linguistic minorities.

- 6) Consider the following statements regarding Supreme Court's ruling in 'Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu And Others' (1992) case.
1. The court upheld the discretion available to the Speaker in deciding cases of disqualification of MLAs.
  2. Judicial review can be availed at any stage of making a decision by the Speaker/Chairman regarding disqualification of MLAs.

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)

**Supreme Court's ruling in 'Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu And Others' (1992) case:**

- The court upheld the sweeping discretion available to the Speaker in deciding cases of disqualification of MLAs.
- While the Speaker's decisions can be challenged subsequently, the court cannot stay or prevent the process.

Hence, **judicial review cannot be available at a stage prior to the making of a decision by the Speaker/Chairman and a quia timet action would not be permissible. Nor would interference be permissible at an interlocutory stage of the proceedings.**

- Besides, the Court can review only infirmities based on violation of constitutional mandate, mala fides, non-compliance with rules of natural justice, and perversity.

- 7) Consider the following statements regarding Contempt of Courts.
1. Contempt of court is the offense of being disobedient to or disrespectful towards a court of law and its officers.
  2. Criminal contempt means publication of any matter that scandalises or lowers the authority of any court.
  3. The Constitution of India does not mention anything about Contempt of Courts, whereas all the provisions are included in the Contempt of Courts Act of 1971.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

- **Contempt of court is the offense of being disobedient to or disrespectful towards a court of law and its officers** in the form of behavior that opposes or defies the authority, justice and dignity of the court.

**Civil contempt** means wilful disobedience of any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other process of a court, or wilful breach of an undertaking given to a court.

**Criminal contempt** is attracted by the **publication** (whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representations, or otherwise) of any matter or the doing of any other act whatsoever which:

1. **Scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of, any court;** or
2. Prejudices, or interferes or tends to interfere with, the due course of any judicial proceeding; or
3. Interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct, the administration of justice in any other manner.

**Relevant provisions:**

- **Articles 129 and 215** of the Constitution of India empowers the Supreme Court and High Court respectively to punish people for their respective contempt.

- **Section 10 of The Contempt of Courts Act of 1971** defines the power of the High Court to punish contempts of its subordinate courts.
- The Constitution also includes contempt of court as a **reasonable restriction to the freedom of speech and expression under Article 19**, along with elements like public order and defamation.

8) Consider the following statements.

1. Article 356 of the Constitution of India deals with the failure of constitutional machinery in a State.
2. According to the Constitution of India, the High Court can enquire and recommend President's rule in a State.

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 **Supreme Court** had stayed an **Andhra Pradesh High Court order intending to embark on a judicial enquiry into whether there is a constitutional breakdown in the State machinery.**

**What has the Supreme Court said?**

- It was **not up to the High Court to enquire and recommend President's rule in a State.**
- It is **Article 356** that deals with failure of constitutional machinery in a State. This is a power [to impose President's rule] exclusively vests in the Executive.

9) Consider the following statements regarding the concept of secularism.

1. The Indian Constitution embodies the negative concept of secularism.
2. The Western concept of secularism connotes a complete separation between the religion and the state.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The **Western concept of secularism connotes a complete separation between the religion (the church) and the state (the politics).** This **negative concept of secularism** is inapplicable in the Indian situation where the society is multi-religious.

Hence, the **Indian Constitution** embodies the **positive concept of secularism, i.e., giving equal respect to all religions or protecting all religions equally.**

10) Consider the following statements regarding formation of states in India.

1. Article 3 empowers the Parliament to 'admit into the Union of India, or establish, new states on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit'.
2. President has to refer the bill to the state legislature concerned for expressing its views within a specified period and he is bound by the views of the state legislature.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: c)

**Article 3** authorizes the Parliament to:

- (a) form a new state by separation of territory from any state or by uniting two or more states or parts of states or by uniting any territory to a part of any state;
- (b) increase the area of any state;
- (c) diminish the area of any state;
- (d) alter the boundaries of any state; and
- (e) alter the name of any state.

However, Article 3 lays down two conditions in this regard: one, a bill contemplating the above changes can be introduced in the Parliament **only with the prior recommendation of the President**; and two, before recommending the bill, the **President has to refer the same to the state legislature concerned for expressing its views within a specified period**.

Article 2 empowers the Parliament to 'admit into the Union of India, or establish, new states on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit'.

Notably, Article 2 relates to the admission or establishment of new states that are not part of the Union of India. Article 3, on the other hand, relates to the formation of or changes in the existing states of the Union of India. In other words, Article 3 deals with the internal re-adjustment inter se of the territories of the constituent states of the Union of India.

The President is not bound by the views of the state legislature and may either accept or reject them, even if the views are received in time.

## 2. Geography

- 1) Winter rainfall in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and western Uttar Pradesh occurs mainly due to
  1. Northeast monsoon crossing over the Bay of Bengal
  2. Arrival of weak temperate cyclones from the Mediterranean Sea

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: b)

**Winter monsoons do not cause rainfall as they move from land to the sea.** It is because firstly, they have little humidity; and secondly, due to anti cyclonic circulation on land, the possibility of rainfall from them reduces. So, most parts of India do not have rainfall in the winter season. However, there are **some exceptions to it**:

- In northwestern India, some **weak temperate cyclones from the Mediterranean Sea** cause rainfall in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and western Uttar Pradesh.
- During October and November, northeast monsoon while crossing over the Bay of Bengal, picks up moisture and causes torrential rainfall over the Tamil Nadu coast, southern Andhra Pradesh, southeast Karnataka and southeast Kerala.

- 2) Consider the following pairs of rivers and their origin.
  1. Sabarmati: Amarkantak
  2. Brahmaputra: Kailash Range
  3. Krishna: Mahabaleshwar

Which of the above is/are correctly matched?

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

Solution: c)

The **Sabarmati river** is one of the major west-flowing *rivers* in India. It originates in the **Aravalli Range**.

**Brahmaputra** river originates from the **Kailash ranges** of Himalayas.

**Krishna** river's source is at **Mahabaleshwar**.

3) Which of the following fall under the Peninsular block of India?

- 1. Rajmahal Hills
- 2. Aravali Range
- 3. Meghalaya Plateau
- 4. Karbi Anglong Plateau

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

The northern boundary of the Peninsular Block may be taken as an irregular line running from Kachchh along the western flank of the **Aravali Range** near Delhi and then roughly parallel to the Yamuna and the Ganga as far as the **Rajmahal Hills** and the Ganga delta.

Apart from these, the **Karbi Anglong and the Meghalaya Plateau** in the northeast and Rajasthan in the west are also extensions of this block.

The north-eastern parts are separated by the Malda fault in West Bengal from the Chotanagpur plateau. In Rajasthan, the desert and other desert-like features overlay this block.

4) Which of the following are ferrous minerals?

- 1. Bauxite
- 2. Nickel
- 3. Copper
- 4. Cobalt

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

Ferrous minerals are the metallic minerals containing iron. While non-ferrous minerals are also metallic, but they do not contain iron.

Examples of Ferrous minerals: Iron ore, Manganese, **Nickel**, **Cobalt** etc.

Examples of Non-ferrous minerals: Gold, silver, **copper**, lead, **bauxite**, tin, magnesium etc.

- 5) Nations sharing a coastline with the Red Sea include
1. Oman
  2. Yemen
  3. Sudan
  4. Jordan

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Oman is towards the side of Persian Gulf and Jordan is landlocked.



- 6) Consider the following statements.

1. During **Neap tides**, the high tides are a little lower and low tides are a little higher than usual.
2. Unlike Spring tides, the Neap tides occur twice a month, one on full moon period and another during new moon period.

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)

Spring tides: The position of both the sun and the moon in relation to the earth has direct bearing on tide height. When the sun, the moon and the earth are in a straight line, the height of the tide will be higher. These are called spring tides and they occur twice a month, one on full moon period and another during new moon period.

Seven days after a spring tide, the sun and moon are at right angles to each other. When this happens, the bulge of the ocean caused by the sun partially cancels out the bulge of the ocean caused by the moon. This produces moderate tides known as **neap tides**, meaning that high tides are a little lower and low tides are a little higher than average. Neap tides occur during the first and third quarter moon, when the moon appears "half full."

[Source](#)

- 7) Sun's halo is produced by the refraction of light in
- a) dust particles in Stratus clouds
  - b) ice crystals in Cirro-Cumulus clouds

- c) ice crystals in Cirrus clouds
- d) water vapour in Stratus clouds

Solution: c)

A halo is a ring of light that forms around the sun as the sun light refracts off ice crystals present in a thin veil of cirrus clouds. The halo is usually seen as a bright, white ring although sometimes it can have colour.

8) Consider the following statements.

1. The earth neither warms up nor does it get cooled over a period of time.
2. The amount of heat received by different parts of the earth is not the same.
3. The transfer of heat from one region to the other takes place through winds.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

The earth receives almost all of its energy from the sun. The earth in turn radiates back to space the energy received from the sun. As a result, the earth neither warms up nor does it get cooled over a period of time. Thus, the amount of heat received by different parts of the earth is not the same. This variation causes pressure differences in the atmosphere. This leads to transfer of heat from one region to the other by winds.

9) Consider the following statements regarding Temperature Inversion.

1. Temperature Inversion is a situation where the temperature increases with increasing altitude.
2. A long summer night with cloudy skies and moving air is ideal situation for inversion.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: b)

Normally, temperature decreases with increase in elevation. It is called **normal lapse rate**. At times, the situations are reversed and the normal lapse rate is inverted. It is called **Inversion of temperature**.

Inversion is usually of short duration but quite common nonetheless. A long **winter night with clear skies and still air** is ideal situation for inversion. The heat of the day is radiated off during the night, and by early morning hours, the earth is cooler than the air above.

10) Consider the following statements regarding Temperature Inversion.

1. Over polar areas, temperature inversion takes place only during winter season.
2. Temperature Inversion in hills and mountains protects plants from frost damages.

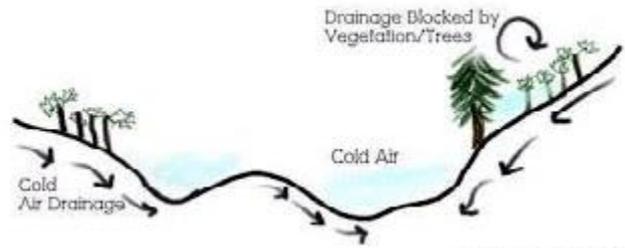
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Over polar areas, temperature inversion is normal throughout the year. Surface inversion promotes stability in the lower layers of the atmosphere. Smoke and dust particles get collected beneath the inversion layer and spread horizontally to fill the lower strata of the atmosphere.

- Dense fogs in mornings are common occurrences especially during winter season. This inversion commonly lasts for few hours until the sun comes up and beings to warm the earth.
- The inversion takes place in hills and mountains due to air drainage. Cold air at the hills and mountains, produced during night, flows under the influence of gravity. Being heavy and dense, the cold air acts almost like water and moves down the slope to pile up deeply in pockets and valley bottoms with warm air above. This is called **air drainage**. It protects plants from frost damages.



### 3. Economy

- 1) Consider the following statements regarding Fiscal Policy in India.
1. Fiscal policy plays a key role in elevating the rate of capital formation in the public sector.
  2. It helps in providing stimulus to elevate the savings rate.
  3. It aims to achieve full employment, or near full employment.
  4. It does not deal with the capital formation in the private sector.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

#### Main objectives of Fiscal Policy in India:

- **Economic growth:** Fiscal policy helps maintain the economy's growth rate so that certain economic goals can be achieved.
- **Price stability:** It controls the price level of the country so that when the inflation is too high, prices can be regulated.
- **Full employment:** It aims to **achieve full employment, or near full employment**, as a tool to recover from low economic activity.

#### Importance of Fiscal Policy in India:

- In a country like India, fiscal policy plays a key role in **elevating the rate of capital formation both in the public and private sectors.**
- Through taxation, the fiscal policy helps mobilise considerable amount of resources for financing its numerous projects.
- Fiscal policy also helps in **providing stimulus to elevate the savings rate.**
- The fiscal policy gives **adequate incentives to the private sector to expand its activities.**
- Fiscal policy aims to minimise the imbalance in the dispersal of income and wealth.

- 2) Consider the following statements regarding Monetary policy.
1. Responsibility of conducting monetary policy is vested with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) through an Act of parliament.
  2. The inflation target is set by the Reserve Bank in consultation with Government of India, once in every five years.

3. RBI primarily factors in retail inflation while making its bi-monthly monetary policy.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is vested with the responsibility of conducting monetary policy. This responsibility is explicitly mandated under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.**
- **The primary objective of monetary policy is to maintain price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth.**
- In May 2016, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934 was amended to provide a statutory basis for the implementation of the flexible inflation targeting framework.
- The amended RBI Act also provides for the **inflation target to be set by the Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank, once in every five years.**
- **RBI primarily factors in retail inflation while making its bi-monthly monetary policy.**

3) Consider the following statements regarding Counter-cyclical fiscal policy.

1. It becomes critical during an economic crisis.
2. It stabilizes the business cycle by reducing spending during recessions.

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)

While counter-cyclical fiscal policy is necessary to smooth out economic cycles, **it becomes critical during an economic crisis.**

**Counter-cyclical fiscal policy stabilizes the business cycle by being contractionary (reduce spending/increase taxes) in good times and expansionary (increase spending/reduce taxes) in bad times.** On the other hand, a pro-cyclical fiscal policy is the one wherein fiscal policy reinforces the business cycle by being expansionary during good times and contractionary during recessions.

4) Consider the following statements regarding Treasury bills or T-bills in India.

1. Treasury bills are short term debt instruments issued by the RBI.
2. Treasury bills are zero coupon securities that pay no interest.

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)

**Treasury bills or T-bills, which are money market instruments, are short term debt instruments issued by the Government of India and are presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91-day, 182 day and 364 day.** Treasury bills are **zero coupon securities and pay no interest.** Instead, they are **issued at a discount and redeemed at the face value at maturity.** For example, a 91 day Treasury bill of ₹100/- (face value) may be issued at say ₹ 98.20, that is, at a discount of say, ₹1.80 and would be redeemed at the face value of ₹100/-.

5) Consider the following statements regarding Government Security (G-Sec).

1. A Government Security (G-Sec) is a tradeable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments.
2. Government Securities are always long-term investment instruments.
3. They are risk-free gilt-edged Securities.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

A **Government Security (G-Sec)** is a **tradeable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments**. It acknowledges the Government's debt obligation.

- Such securities are **short term** (usually called treasury bills, with original maturities of less than one year) or **long term** (usually called Government bonds or dated securities with original maturity of one year or more).
- In India, the Central Government issues both, treasury bills and bonds or dated securities while the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the State Development Loans (SDLs). **G-Secs carry practically no risk of default and, hence, are called risk-free gilt-edged instruments.**

## 4. Art and Culture

- 1) This ruler convened a Buddhist Council at Kashmir which eventually led to the recognition of the Mahayana sect of Buddhism. He is?
- a) Yavana
  - b) Kumaragupta
  - c) Kanishka
  - d) Ashoka

Solution: c)

The Fourth Buddhist Council was held at Kundalvana, Kashmir in 72 AD under the patronage of Kushan king **Kanishka**.

- The president of this council was Vasumitra.
  - This council distinctly divided the Buddhism into 2 sects **Mahayana** and Hinayana.
- 2) This mudra is called "The Gesture of Debate". The tips of thumb and index finger touch forming a circle, and all the other fingers are extended upwards. This is
- a) Shramana mudra
  - b) Abhaya mudra
  - c) Varada mudra
  - d) Vitarka mudra

Solution: d)

Vitarka Mudra.

This Buddhist mudra is called "The Gesture of Debate" or "discussion" mudra.

It is a mystic gesture of Taras and Bodhisattvas in which tips of thumb and index finger touch forming a circle, and all the other fingers are extended upwards.



- 3) Consider the following statements regarding Old Stone Age sites.
1. The Old Stone age sites were generally located away from water sources to avoid flooding.
  2. Most of these Old stone age sites are concentrated in Southern India with the exception of Adamgarh hill and Bhimbetka.

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 **Old Stone age sites are generally located near water sources** because water sources were the lifeline of the Old stone age people and thus the communities lived and hunted close to water sources.

Several rock shelters and caves used by the Paleolithic people are scattered across the subcontinent.

Some of the famous sites of Old Stone Age in India are:

- The Soan valley and Potwar Plateau on the northwest India.
- The Siwalik hills on the north India.
- Bhimpetka in Madhya Pradesh.
- Adamgarh hill in Narmada valley.
- Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh and
- Attirampakkam near Chennai.

- 4) The Kailasa Temple located in Ellora is well known for its
- a) Peculiar construction style of garbhagrihas
  - b) Use of sandstone and limestone
  - c) Monolithic vertical excavation
  - d) Highly erected shikharas and entry gates

Solution: c)

The **Kailasa Temple is a megalith carved out of one single rock** and considered as one of the most remarkable cave temples in India because of its size, architecture and sculptural treatment.

It is notable for its vertical excavation - carvers started at the top of the original rock, and excavated downward. The traditional methods were rigidly followed by the master architect which could not have been achieved by excavating from the front.

Its construction is generally attributed to the 8th century Rashtrakuta king Krishna I. The temple architecture shows traces of Pallava style.

- 5) The core tenets of Mimamsa philosophy are
1. Ritualism
  2. Asceticism
  3. Belief in God

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: b)

Mimamsa is the name of one of the six astika ("orthodox") schools of Hindu philosophy, whose primary inquiry is into the nature of dharma (duty) based on close hermeneutics of the Vedas. Its core tenets are **ritualism** (orthopraxy), anti-asceticism, and anti-mysticism.

## 5. History

- 1) Consider the following statements regarding the opinions voiced by different leaders on the question of Indian support to British war efforts during Second World War.
1. Gandhiji advocated an unconditional support to the Allied powers.
  2. Jawaharlal Nehru advocated that it was the ideal time to launch a civil disobedience movement.
  3. Subhas Chandra Bose was of the opinion that it was the right time to take advantage of the situation and snatch freedom from Britain.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

Different opinions were voiced on the question of Indian support to British war efforts.

**Gandhiji**, who had all sympathy for Britain in this war because of his total dislike of the fascist ideology, **advocated an unconditional support to the Allied powers**. He said that he was not willing to embarrass the British government during the war.

**Subhas Chandra Bose and other socialists**, such as Acharya Narendra Dev and Jayaprakash Narayan had no sympathy for either side in the war. They thought it was the **ideal time to launch a civil disobedience movement**, to thus take advantage of the situation and snatch freedom from Britain.

**Jawaharlal Nehru** was not ready to accept the opinion of either Gandhiji or of the socialists. He advocated **no Indian participation till India itself was free**. However, at the same time, **no advantage was to be taken of Britain's difficulty by starting an immediate civil disobedience movement**.

- 2) Consider the following statements regarding August Offer, 1940.
1. It laid down the dominion status as the objective for India.
  2. For the first time it recognized the right of the Indians to frame a Constitution.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: d)

Linlithgow announced the August Offer (August 1940) which proposed:

- **dominion status as the objective for India;**
- expansion of viceroy's executive council which would have a majority of Indians (who would be drawn from major political parties);
- setting up of a constituent assembly after the war where mainly Indians would decide the constitution according to their social, economic and political conceptions, subject to fulfilment of the obligation of the government regarding defence, minority rights, treaties with States, all India services; and
- no future constitution to be adopted without the consent of minorities.

**For the first time, the inherent right of Indians to frame their constitution was recognised** and the Congress demand for a constituent assembly was conceded. Dominion status was explicitly offered.

- 3) Gandhiji decided to launch "Individual Satyagraha" due to dissatisfaction with
- a) Government of India Act, 1935 which eroded autonomy of local bodies
  - b) State of untouchables in the country
  - c) August offer made by the British during the course of the Second World War
  - d) Religious intolerance in the countryside

Solution: c)

During the course of the Second World War in order to secure the cooperation of the Indians, the British Government made an announcement on August 1940, which came to be known as the 'August Offer'.

**Gandhiji was not satisfied with this offer and decided to launch Individual Satyagraha.**

Individual Satyagraha was limited, symbolic and non-violent in nature and it was left to Gandhiji to choose the Satyagrahis.

- 4) The plan of Sir Stafford Cripps envisaged that after the Second World War
- a) India should be made a republic with the condition that she will join the Commonwealth
  - b) India should be granted complete independence
  - c) India should be partitioned into two before granting independence
  - d) India should be given Dominion status

Solution: d)

The main proposals of the mission were as follows.

1. **An Indian Union with a dominion status would be set up;** it would be free to decide its relations with the Commonwealth and free to participate in the United Nations and other international bodies.
  2. After the end of the war, a constituent assembly would be convened to frame a new constitution. Members of this assembly would be partly elected by the provincial assemblies through proportional representation and partly nominated by the princes.
  3. The British government would accept the new constitution subject to two conditions: (i) any province not willing to join the Union could have a separate constitution and form a separate Union, and (ii) the new constitution making body and the British government would negotiate a treaty to effect the transfer of power and to safeguard racial and religious minorities.
  4. In the meantime, defence of India would remain in British hands and the governor-general's powers would remain intact.
- 5) Consider the following statements regarding the proposals of the Cripps Mission.
1. An Indian Union with a dominion status would be set up.
  2. After the end of the war, a constituent assembly would be convened with all the members elected by the provincial assemblies.
  3. Defence of India would remain in British hands.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2

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

Solution: c)

In March 1942, a mission headed by Stafford Cripps was sent to India with constitutional proposals to seek Indian support for the war.

The main proposals of the mission were as follows.

1. **An Indian Union with a dominion status would be set up**; it would be free to decide its relations with the Commonwealth and free to participate in the United Nations and other international bodies.
2. After the end of the war, a constituent assembly would be convened to frame a new constitution. **Members of this assembly would be partly elected by the provincial assemblies** through proportional representation and partly nominated by the princes.
3. The British government would accept the new constitution subject to two conditions: (i) any province not willing to join the Union could have a separate constitution and form a separate Union, and (ii) the new constitution making body and the British government would negotiate a treaty to effect the transfer of power and to safeguard racial and religious minorities.
4. In the meantime, **defence of India would remain in British hands** and the governor-general's powers would remain intact.

6) Consider the following statements about Quit India Movement.

1. Quit India Movement was a corollary of the failure of the Cabinet Mission Plan.

2. A significant feature of the Quit India Movement was the emergence of what came to be known as parallel governments in some parts of the country.

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)

- It was in 1942 when the world was going through the havoc caused by World War II. India too was facing the heat and after the **Cripps Mission** had failed, and on 8 August 1942, Mahatma Gandhi made a Do or Die call through the Quit India movement.
- On August 8, 1942, Mahatma Gandhi made a Do or Die call in his Quit India speech which was delivered in Bombay at the Gowalia Tank Maidan.
- Even though the speech caused some turmoil within the party and even leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru and Maulana Azad were apprehensive and critical of the call, but backed it and stuck with Gandhi's leadership until the end.

A significant feature of the Quit India Movement was the **emergence of what came to be known as parallel governments in some parts of the country**. The first one was proclaimed in Ballia, in East UP, in August 1942 under the leadership of Chittu Pande. In Tamluk in the Midnapur district of Bengal, the Jatiya Sarkar came into existence on 17 December, 1942 and lasted till September 1944. Satara, in Maharashtra, emerged as the base of the longest lasting and effective parallel government.

7) During Quit India Movement, which of the following were Gandhi's general instructions spelt out to various sections of society?

1. Government servants must resign and declare true allegiance to the Congress.
2. If zamindars are anti-government, pay mutually agreed rent, and if zamindars are pro-government, do not pay rent.
3. People of the Princely states must support the ruler only if he is anti-government.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Gandhi's special instructions were spelt out at the Gowalia Tank meeting but not actually issued. They were directed at various sections of society.

- **Government servants: Do not resign but declare your allegiance to the Congress.**
- Soldiers: Do not leave the Army but do not fire on compatriots.
- Students: If confident, leave studies.
- **Peasants: If zamindars are anti-government, pay mutually agreed rent, and if zamindars are pro government, do not pay rent.**
- Princes: Support the masses and accept sovereignty of your people.
- **Princely states' people: Support the ruler only if he is anti-government and declare yourselves to be a part of the Indian nation.**

8) During Quit India Movement, who among the following leaders carried out Underground activities.

1. Aruna Asaf Ali
2. Usha Mehta
3. Jayaprakash Narayan
4. Lala Lajpat Rai

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: a)

The main personalities taking up underground activity were Rammanohar Lohia, **Jayaprakash Narayan, Aruna Asaf Ali, Usha Mehta**, Biju Patnaik, Chhotubhai Puranik, Achyut Patwardhan, Sucheta Kripalani and R.P. Goenka. Usha Mehta started an underground radio in Bombay. This phase of underground activity was meant to keep up popular morale by continuing to provide a line of command and guidance to distribute arms and ammunition.

*Lala Lajpat Rai died on November 17, 1928, after suffering grievous injuries during a lathi-charge carried out by the police during the Protests against Simon Commission.*

9) Which of the following were the proposals of the Wavell Plan?

1. Indianization of Executive council.
2. Removing any caste and religion-based quota in the Executive council.
3. Discretionary powers to the Governor-general to exercise his veto.

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: a)

The main proposals of the Wavell Plan were as follows.

- **With the exception of the governor-general and the commander-in-chief, all members of the executive council were to be Indians.**
- **Caste Hindus and Muslims were to have equal representation.**
- The reconstructed council was to function as an interim government within the framework of the 1935 Act (i.e. not responsible to the Central Assembly).
- **Governor-general was to exercise his veto on the advice of ministers.**
- Representatives of different parties were, to submit a joint list to the viceroy for nominations to the executive.

10) Arrange the following historical events in the chronological order.

1. Proposal of Rajagopalachari Formula
2. Quit India Movement
3. Wavell Plan
4. Proposal of Desai-Liaqat Pact

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: b)

11) Consider the following statements regarding Desai-Liaqat pact.

1. It recommended for an equal number of persons nominated by the Congress and the Muslim League in the central legislature.
2. It recommended the abolition of reserved seats for minorities.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: b)

Bhulabhai Desai, leader of the Congress Party in the Central Legislative Assembly, met Liaqat Ali Khan, deputy leader of the Muslim League in that Assembly, and both of them came up with the draft proposal for the formation of an interim government at the centre, consisting of—

- **an equal number of persons nominated by the Congress and the League in the central legislature.**
- **20% reserved seats for minorities.**

No settlement could be reached between the Congress and the League on these lines, but the fact that a sort of parity between the Congress and the League was decided upon had far-reaching consequences.

12) The Defence of INA prisoners in the court of law was organised by

1. B. R. Ambedkar
2. Tej Bahadur Sapru
3. Jawaharlal Nehru

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

**Congress Support for INA Prisoners**

- At the first post-War Congress session in September 1945 at Bombay, a strong resolution was adopted declaring Congress support for the INA cause.
- Defence of INA prisoners in the court was organised by **Bhulabhai Desai, Tej Bahadur Sapru, Kailash Nath Katju, Jawaharlal Nehru and Asaf Ali.**
- INA Relief and Enquiry Committee distributed small sums of money and food, and helped arrange employment for the affected.
- Fund collection was organised.

13) The Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946 included

1. Partition of India
2. A nominated Constituent Assembly
3. Provinces were to have full autonomy and residual powers.
4. Princely states under paramountcy of British Government.

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: b)

Cabinet Mission Plan—Main Points

- **Rejection of the demand for a full-fledged Pakistan.**
- A **constituent assembly to be elected** by provincial assemblies by proportional representation (voting in three groups—General, Muslims, Sikhs).
- **Provinces were to have full autonomy and residual powers.**
- **Princely states were no longer to be under paramountcy of British Government.** They would be free to enter into an arrangement with successor governments or the British Government.

14) The main point(s) outlined in the Clement Attlee's statement, 1947 was/were

1. The British would relinquish power only to a Central government and rejected the idea of autonomous provincial governments.
2. Even after India's independence, the princely states would continue to remain a part of British Empire.

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

**Main Points of Attlee's Statement**

- A deadline of June 30, 1948 was fixed for transfer of power even if the Indian politicians had not agreed by that time on the constitution.
- The **British would relinquish power either to some form of central government or in some areas to the existing provincial governments if the constituent assembly was not fully representative**, i.e., if the Muslim majority provinces did not join.
- **British powers and obligations vis-a-vis the princely states would lapse with transfer of power**, but these would not be transferred to any successor government in British India.

15) Consider the following statements regarding Mountbatten Plan.

1. Freedom to come on August 15, 1947.
2. A boundary commission to be set up if partition was to be effected.

3. Accession of Hyderabad to Pakistan.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Mountbatten Plan

- (i) **independence for princely states ruled out**—they would join either India or Pakistan;
- (ii) independence for Bengal ruled out;
- (iii) **accession of Hyderabad to Pakistan ruled out**
- (iv) **freedom to come on August 15, 1947**; and
- (v) a **boundary commission to be set up if partition was to be effected.**

16) Consider the following statements regarding Young Bengal Movement.

- 1. The movement was launched by Surendranath Banerjea and later gained prominence with the participation of Henry Vivian Derozio.
- 2. The movement had influence of Russian Revolution.
- 3. The movement failed to have a long-term impact.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

- **Young Bengal Movement was launched by Henry Louis Vivian Derozio (1809-1831)**, who had come to Calcutta in 1826 and was appointed in the Hindu College as a teacher.
- **Drawing inspiration from the great French Revolution**, Derozio inspired his pupils to think freely and rationally, question all authority, love liberty, equality and freedom, and oppose decadent customs and traditions. The Derozians also supported women's rights and education.
- The Derozians, however, **failed to have a long-term impact**. Derozio was removed from the Hindu College in 1831 because of his radicalism. The main reason for their limited success was the prevailing social conditions at that time, which were not ripe for the adoption of radical ideas.
- Further, there was no support from any other social group or class.

17) Consider the following statements regarding Queen Victoria's Proclamation of 1858.

- 1. It announced the end of East India Company's rule in India and the Queen's assumption of the Government of India.
- 2. It endorsed the treaty made by the East India Company with Indian princes and promised to respect their rights, dignity and honour.

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 Proclamation of Queen Victoria was announced by Lord Canning at Allahabad.

- This royal Proclamation was translated into Indian languages and publicly read in many important places. **It announced the end of Company's rule in India and the Queen's assumption of the Government of India.**
- **It endorsed the treaty made by the Company with Indian princes and promised to respect their rights, dignity and honour.**
- It assured the Indian people equal and impartial protection of law and freedom of religion and social practices.
- The Proclamation of Queen Victoria gave a practical shape to the Act of 1858.

18) Consider the following statements.

1. Indigo rebellion in 1859 was caused due to acquisition of cultivable Indigo land by British industrial projects.
2. Pabna agrarian leagues was established in East Bengal in 1873 to resist against Zamindar's efforts to charge high rents and evict tenants.

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 Indigo rebellion in 1859 was caused due to harsh agri-economic conditions under which Indigo cultivators were put by the British planters.**

#### **Pabna Agrarian Leagues:**

During the 1870s and 1880s, large parts of Eastern Bengal witnessed agrarian unrest caused by oppressive practices of the zamindars. **The zamindars resorted to enhanced rents beyond legal limits and prevented the tenants from acquiring occupancy rights.** The peasants of Yusufshahi Pargana in Patna district formed an agrarian league or combination to resist the demands of the zamindars. The league organised a rent strike—the ryots refused to pay the enhanced rents, challenging the zamindars in the courts. Funds were raised by ryots to fight the court cases. The struggles spread throughout Patna and to other districts of East Bengal. The main form of struggle was that of legal resistance; there was very little violence.

19) Consider the following statements regarding Delhi Proposals, 1927.

1. It demanded to make Sindh a separate province.
2. Joint electorates with reserved seats for Muslims.
3. Representation to Muslims in Punjab and Bengal in proportion to their population.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

Earlier, in December 1927, a large number of Muslim leaders had met at Delhi at the Muslim League session and evolved four proposals for their demands to be incorporated into the draft constitution. These proposals, which were accepted by the Madras session of the Congress (December 1927), came to be known as the 'Delhi Proposals'. These were:

- **joint electorates** in place of separate electorates with **reserved seats for Muslims**;
- one-third representation to Muslims in Central Legislative Assembly;
- **representation to Muslims in Punjab and Bengal in proportion to their population**;
- formation of three new **Muslim majority provinces**— **Sindh**, Baluchistan and North-West Frontier Province.

20) Consider the following statements

1. Khudai Khidmatgar was a serious violent struggle against the British Empire by the Pashtuns in North West frontier province.
2. Ambedkar coined the term Harijan to address the depressed classes.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: c)

**Khudai Khidmatgar was non-violent struggle** against the British Empire by the Pashtuns in North West frontier province.

**M K Gandhi coined the term Harijan** to address the depressed classes.

21) Given are the reasons below why rebels failed in attaining their goal during the 1857 revolt. Which of them are correct?

1. The rebels had no political perspective or a definite vision of the future.
2. They were poorly served by their leaders with the exception of few.
3. Almost half the Indian soldiers fought against their own countrymen.

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

Although the rebels received the sympathy of the people, the country as a whole was not behind them. The merchants, intelligentsia and Indian rulers not only kept aloof, but actively supported the British. Meetings were organized in Calcutta and Bombay by them to pray for the success of the British. **Despite the Doctrine of Lapse, the Indian rulers who expected their future to be safer with the British liberally provided them with men and materials.** Indeed, the sepoys might have made a better fight of it if they had received their support. Almost half the Indian soldiers not only did not Revolt but **fought against their own countrymen.**

**Apart from some exceptions like the Rani of Jhansi, Kunwar Singh and Maulvi Ahmadullah, the rebels were poorly served by their leaders.** Most of them failed to realize the significance of the Revolt and simply did not do enough.

Bahadur Shah and Zeenat Mahal had no faith in the sepoys and negotiated with the British to secure their safety. Most of the taluqdars tried only to protect their own interests. Some of them, like Man Singh, changed sides several times depending on which side had the upper hand. Apart from a commonly shared hatred for alien rule, **the rebels had no political perspective or a definite vision of the future.** They were all prisoners of their own past, fighting primarily to regain their lost privileges. Unsurprisingly, they proved incapable of ushering in a new political order.

22) The General Services Establishment Act was one of the main causes for the Uprising of 1857. The Act

- a) Mandated a soldier to be recruited from every peasant family in the villages
- b) Provided special status to the European recruits and downgraded the position of Indian sepoys
- c) Required every Indian soldier to go overseas for deployment if required.
- d) Provided for a salary cut for the sepoys and increased the taxes on the Indian peasants

Solution: c)

The General Service Enlistment Act of 1856 was introduced by Charles Canning in 1856. **It required every Indian soldier to go overseas for deployment if required.** It was one of the main causes for the Uprising of 1857, as it was a taboo for Brahmins in those days to cross the seas, it was known as Samudrolanghana or Sagarollanghana.

23) Consider the following statements regarding the Government of India Act 1858.

1. It abolished the East India Company Rule in India.
2. It changed the entire structure of government in India that was prevailing earlier.
3. As per the Act, Indian Government was to be supervised and controlled in England.
4. It created a new office, Secretary of State for India, vested with complete authority and control over Indian administration.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

This significant Act was enacted in the wake of the Revolt of 1857. The act known as the **Act for the Good Government of India, abolished the East India Company rule**, and transferred the powers of government, territories and revenues to the British Crown.

#### Features of the Act

1. It provided that India henceforth was to be governed by, and in the name of, Her Majesty. It changed the designation of the Governor-General of India to that of Viceroy of India. He (viceroy) was the direct representative of the British Crown in India. Lord Canning thus became the first Viceroy of India.
2. It ended the system of double government by abolishing the Board of Control and Court of Directors.
3. **It created a new office, Secretary of State for India, vested with complete authority and control over Indian administration.** The secretary of state was a member of the British cabinet and was responsible ultimately to the British Parliament.
4. It established a 15-member Council of India to assist the secretary of state for India. The council was an advisory body. The secretary of state was made the chairman of the council.
5. It constituted the secretary of state-in-council as a body corporate, capable of suing and being sued in India and in England.

**The Act of 1858 was, however, largely confined to the improvement of the administrative machinery by which the Indian Government was to be supervised and controlled in England. It did not alter in any substantial way the system of government that prevailed in India.**

24) Consider the following statements regarding Tatya Tope.

1. He was a general in the Indian Rebellion of 1857.
2. He was defeated in the battle over the Indian troops of the East India Company at Kanpur.
3. He collaborated with Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi to seize Gwalior.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Tatya Tope

Also known as Ramachandra Pandurang Tope, he was one of the most notable Indian freedom fighters and a **general in the Rebellion of 1857.**

• In May 1857, Tatya Tope **won the battle over the Indian troops of the East India Company at Kanpur.**

- He forced General Windham to retreat from the city of Gwalior.
- He **collaborated with Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi to seize Gwalior.**

Tatya Tope was defeated by Sir Colin Campbell (later Baron Clyde) on December 6, 1857. He was hanged on April 18, 1859, in General Meade's camp at Shivpuri.

25) Which of the following were annexed by the British citing the Doctrine of Lapse?

1. Jhansi
2. Nagpur
3. Satara
4. Udaipur
5. Sambalpur

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

The final wave of annexations occurred under Lord Dalhousie who was the Governor-General from 1848 to 1856. The Doctrine of Lapse declared that if an Indian ruler died without a male heir his kingdom would “lapse”, that is, become part of Company territory. One kingdom after another was annexed simply by applying this doctrine: **Satara (1848), Sambalpur (1850), Udaipur (1852), Nagpur (1853) and Jhansi (1854)**. Finally, in 1856, the Company also took over **Awadh**. This time the British had an added argument – they said they were “obliged by duty” to take over Awadh in order to free the people from the “misgovernment” of the Nawab! Enraged by the humiliating way in which the Nawab was deposed, the people of Awadh joined the great revolt that broke out in 1857.

26) The main objective of the Prarthana Samaj was to

- a) Establish a swatantra (free) India
- b) Securing social justice for the oppressed
- c) Spiritually purify the Hindu community from western pollution
- d) Revive the Gurukul education system in India

Solution: b)

Prarthana Samaj was founded by Aatma Ram Pandurang in 1867 with an aim to make people believe in one God and worship only one God. The main reformers were the intellectuals who advocate reforms of the social system of the Hindus.

**It sought to remove caste restrictions, abolish child marriage, encourage the education of women, and end the ban on widow remarriage.**

The religious meetings of the Samaj drew upon Hindu, Buddhist and Christian texts.

27) Kuka Revolt of Punjab is aimed at

- a) Making Sikh land independent from British control
- b) Achieve justice for the martyrs of Punjab in the 1857 Revolt
- c) Freeing the Gurdwaras (Sikh temples) from the control of ignorant and corrupt Mahants
- d) Reforming the Sikh religion by removing all the abuses, superstitions and ill-practices

Solution: d)

The Kuka Movement was founded in 1840 by Bhagat Jawahar Mal (also called Sian Saheb) in western Punjab. A major leader of the movement after him was Baba Ram Singh. (He founded the Namdhari Sikh sect.) After the British took Punjab, the movement got transformed from a religious purification campaign to a political

campaign. Its basic tenets were **abolition of caste and similar discriminations among Sikhs, discouraging the consumption of meat and alcohol and drugs, permission for intermarriages, widow remarriage, and encouraging women to step out of seclusion.**

28) Consider the following statements.

1. During the end of the eighteenth century and the early nineteenth century, a class of rich peasants known as jotedars consolidated their position in the villages and acquired vast areas of land.
2. Jotedars were loyal to the zamindars and helped them collect revenue from the ryots.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: b)

While many zamindars were facing a crisis at the end of the eighteenth century, a **group of rich peasants were consolidating their position in the villages. This class of rich peasants were known as jotedars.** By the early nineteenth century, jotedars had acquired vast areas of land – sometimes as much as several thousand acres. They **controlled local trade as well as moneylending, exercising immense power over the poorer cultivators of the region.**

A large part of their land was cultivated through sharecroppers (adhiyars or bargadars) who brought their own ploughs, laboured in the field, and handed over half the produce to the jotedars after the harvest.

They fiercely resisted efforts by zamindars to increase the jama of the village, prevented zamindari officials from executing their duties, mobilised ryots who were dependent on them, and deliberately delayed payments of revenue to the zamindar.

The jotedars were most powerful in North Bengal. In some places they were called haoladars, elsewhere they were known as gantidars or mandals. **Their rise inevitably weakened zamindari authority.**

29) During the time of British Raj, the term 'Amlah' refer to

- a) Village headman
- b) Officer of the Zamindar
- c) Sharecropper
- d) Rich Peasants

Solution: b)

At the time of rent collection, **an officer of the zamindar, usually the amlah,** came around to the village. But rent collection was a perennial problem. Sometimes bad harvests and low prices made payment of dues difficult for the ryots. At other times ryots deliberately delayed payment.

30) Consider the following statements regarding Bhoodan Movement.

1. The Bhoodan Movement attempted to persuade wealthy landowners to voluntarily give a percentage of their land to landless people.
2. It was initiated by Mahatma Gandhi.
3. It widened the concept of gramdan and advocated common ownership of land.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The Bhoodan Movement (Land Gift Movement) also known as the Bloodless Revolution was a **voluntary land reform movement in India**. It was initiated by Gandhian **Acharya Vinoba Bhave in 1951** at Pochampally village, which is now in Telangana.

The Bhoodan Movement attempted to **persuade wealthy landowners to voluntarily give a percentage of their land to landless people**. Philosophically, Bhave was influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's Sarvodaya movement and Gram Swarajya.

The initial objective of the movement was to secure voluntary donations and distribute it to the landless but soon came to demand 1/6 of all private land. In 1952, the movement widened the concept of **gramdan ("village in gift" or the donation of an entire village) and had started advocating common ownership of land**.

- 31) During the Mughal period of Indian history, the term Parwana refer to
- Proceedings of the provincial court.
  - Order of the emperor.
  - Orders issued by higher authorities.
  - Order of a member of the royal family

Solution: c)

Nishan- order of a member of the royal family.

Farman- order of the emperor.

**Parwana- orders issued by higher authorities.**

Siyaha huzur- proceedings of the provincial court.

- 32) Consider the following statements regarding Carnatic Wars.

- The First Carnatic War (1744-48) was triggered by the War of the Austrian Succession.
- Under the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, Madras was restored to the French.
- The battle of Wandiwash ended the French threat to British in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 1, 2
- 1, 3
- 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

**The First Carnatic (1744-48) war** was fought between Britishers and the French due to **Austrian war of succession** in Europe. The French forces under Dupleix defeated the English and captured Madras. Then, in 1748 AD, the peace **treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle** was signed and **Madras was restored to the British** and the exchange of war prisoners took place.

**Battle of Wandiwash:** This was the Third Carnatic War fought between the French and the British. Having made substantial gains in Bengal and Hyderabad, the British, after collecting a huge amount of revenue, were fully equipped to face the French in Wandiwash, whom they defeated.

- 33) Black Hole Tragedy is associated with

- The Carnatic wars
- The Anglo Maratha wars
- The Battle of Buxar
- The Battle of Plassey

Solution: d)

One of Kolkata's historical monuments, Fort William was built during the time of the Bengal Presidency. Named after William III, the fort sits on the banks of the Hooghly River and was at the centre of the **Battle of Plassey** fought between the British and the Nawab of Bengal, Siraj-ud-Daulah. It is also the site of an infamous dungeon called the **Black Hole of Calcutta** (the city of Kolkata was erstwhile known as Calcutta).

34) As a result of the Battle of Plassey

1. The British started wielding influence over the Bengal Nawabs and consequently acquired significant concessions for revenue from trade.
2. It resulted in the East India Company (EIC) gaining greater military might which allowed them to push other European colonial powers away from Bengal.

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: c)

The Battle of Plassey was essentially due the conflicts between the Bengal Nawab and the East India Company. It resulted in the **victory of East India Company (EIC)** leading greater powers to extract revenue and its consolidation of its presence in Bengal. The British now wielded enormous influence over the Nawab and consequently **acquired significant concessions for previous losses and revenue from trade.**

The British further used this revenue to **increase their military might and push the other European colonial powers such as the Dutch and the French out of South Asia, thus expanding the British Empire.**

35) Which of the following battle ended with the Treaty of Allahabad?

- a) Battle of Plassey
- b) Battle of Buxar
- c) Second Carnatic War
- d) First Anglo-Sikh war

Solution: b)

The **Treaty of Allahabad** was signed on August 16, **1765** between Mughal **Emperor Shah Alam II of Bengal and Lord Clive of the British East India Company after the Battle of Buxar (1764)**. Based on the terms of the agreement, Shah Alam II granted Diwani rights to the East India Company.

36) Consider the following statements regarding Ryotwari System.

1. It was introduced by Robert Clive.
2. Major areas of introduction include Madras, Bombay, parts of Assam and Coorg provinces of British India.
3. The ownership rights were handed over to the peasants.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The **Ryotwari system was a land revenue system** in British India, introduced by **Sir Thomas Munro** in 1820 based on system administered by Captain Alexander Read. This system was **exactly opposite to the Zamindari system**. In this system, **peasants were given the ownership**. It was first introduced in **Madras presidency**. It was later extended to **Bombay, Parts of Bengal, Assam, Coorg** etc.

- 37) Whitley Commission established in British India was mandated to report on
- Financial reforms needed in British administration
  - Police and military reforms needed in the wake of the 1857 mutiny
  - Trade and commerce within the princely states
  - Existing conditions of labour and to make recommendations

Solution: d)

The **Royal Commission on Labour or the Whitley Commission** on Labour was set up in 1929 to **inquire into the existing conditions of labour in industrial undertakings and plantations in India**. The Commission was chaired by John Henry Whitley. The commission submitted its report in 1931. The report surprised many by concurring with the criticisms of Mahatma Gandhi and others that poverty was the cause of India's social and industrial problems. It was also critical of British employers' role in perpetuating the problems.

- 38) Warren Hastings Plan of 1772 was concerned with
- Judicial reforms
  - Educational reforms
  - Local government reforms
  - Civil Service reforms

Solution: a)

Warren Hastings Administrative plan divided territory of Bengal, Bihar and Odisha into number of Districts. As per Warren Hastings plan a Mofussil Diwani Adalat was established in every district with collector as the Judge. The court was authorized to decide all civil cases like disputes regarding properties, inheritance, marriage, caste, debts, disputed accounts, contracts, partnerships and demands of rent. Where ever possible religious laws of Muslim as well as Hindus were followed and applied .E.g. Caste, marriage, inheritance etc.

- 39) Consider the following statements regarding The Indian Factory Act, 1881.
- The Indian Factory Act, 1881 dealt primarily with the problem of child labour.
  - It ruled that no children below the age of 14 years could be employed in a factory.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: a)

**The Indian Factory Act, 1881 dealt primarily with the problem of child labour** (between 7 and 12 years of age).

Its significant provisions were:

- **employment of children under 7 years of age prohibited,**
- working hours restricted to 9 hours per day for children,
- children to get four holidays in a month,
- hazardous machinery to be properly fenced off

- 40) Which of the following factors was/were responsible for impoverishment of Indian agriculture in British times?

- Land revenue system
- Administrative and judicial system of British
- Ruin of handicrafts industries

Select the correct answer code:

- 1, 2

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

Solution: d)

The impoverishment of the Indian peasantry was a direct result of the transformation of the agrarian structure due to—

- colonial economic policies,
- **ruin of the handicrafts** leading to overcrowding of land,
- the new **land revenue system**,
- colonial **administrative and judicial system**

41) Consider the following statements regarding Pitt's India Act of 1784.

1. Pitt's India Act was also known as the Act of Settlement.
2. It established a system of double government.
3. British Government was given the supreme control over Company's affairs and its administration in

India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

In a bid to rectify the defects of the Regulating Act of 1773, the British Parliament passed the **Amending Act of 1781, also known as the Act of Settlement**. The next important act was the Pitt's India Act of 1784.

Features of the Act:

1. It distinguished between the commercial and political functions of the Company.
2. It allowed the Court of Directors to manage the commercial affairs but created a new body called Board of Control to manage the political affairs. Thus, **it established a system of double government**.
3. It empowered the Board of Control to supervise and direct all operations of the civil and military government or revenues of the British possessions in India.

Thus, the act was significant for two reasons: first, the Company's territories in India were for the first time called the 'British possessions in India'; and second, the **British Government was given the supreme control over Company's affairs and its administration in India**.

42) Consider the following statements regarding Deccan Riots.

1. The main motive of riots was to destroy the account books of the moneylender.
2. Deccan Agriculturists Relief Act was passed which ensured that the farmers could not be arrested and imprisoned if they were unable to pay their debts.
3. The movement was highly criticised by Poona Sarvajanik Sabha.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

In May and June 1875, peasants of Maharashtra in some parts of Pune and Ahmednagar districts revolted against increasing agrarian distress. The **Deccan Riots of 1875** targeted conditions of debt peonage (kamiuti) to moneylenders. The rioters' specific purpose was to obtain and **destroy the bonds, decrees, and other documents in the possession of the moneylenders**.

The movement also got **support from the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha co-founded by M G Ranade.**

It took several months for the police to restore order in the countryside. The Bombay government initially dismissed the uprising as trivial. However, the Government of India pressurised Bombay to enquire into the matter.

Accordingly, the Deccan Riots Commission was set up which presented a report to the British Parliament in 1878. In 1879, the **Agriculturists Relief Act was passed which ensured that the farmers could not be arrested and imprisoned if they were unable to pay their debts.**

43) The Ilbert Bill Controversy is said to be a high watermark in the history of Indian National Movement. This is because it invoked issues of

1. Racial discrimination between Indian and Europeans.
2. Suppression of Indian media houses and their nationalization by the Government.
3. Security lapse on the Indian borders, especially the North-Western frontier.

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: a)

Lord Ripon wanted to remove two kinds of law that had been prevalent in India. According to the system of law, a European could be tried only by a European Judge or a European Magistrate.

The disqualification was unjust and it was sought to cast a needless discredit and dishonour upon the Indian-born members of the judiciary.

C.P. Ilbert, Law Member, introduced a bill in 1883 to abolish this discrimination in judiciary. But Europeans opposed this Bill strongly. They even raised a fund of one lakh fifty thousand rupees and established an organisation called the Defence Association.

They also suggested that it was better to end the English rule in India than to allow the English to be subjected to the Indian Judges and Magistrates. The press in England joined the issue. Hence, Ripon amended the bill to satisfy the English in India and England.

44) Which of the following were the main objectives of the Khilafat movement?

1. To rouse anti-British feelings among the Muslims of India.
2. To demand separate electorates and preserve the Khilafat
3. To save the Ottoman empire and preserve the Khilafat.

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

The main objective was to correct the Khilafat wrong, to **save the ottoman empire and save the holy places of Muslims.** Through this movement they also expressed their anti-British feelings.

45) During Salt Disobedience, after Gandhi's arrest, the Congress Working Committee sanctioned:

1. Payment of revenue only in ryotwari areas.
2. No-chowkidara-tax campaign in zamindari areas
3. Violation of forest laws in the Central Provinces

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2

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

Solution: b)

Gandhi's arrest came on May 4, 1930 when he had announced that he would lead a raid on Dharasana Salt Works on the west coast. Gandhi's arrest was followed by massive protests in Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and in Sholapur, where the response was the most fierce. After Gandhi's arrest, the CWC sanctioned:

- **non-payment of revenue in ryotwari areas;**
- **no-chowkidara-tax campaign in zamindari areas; and**
- **violation of forest laws in the Central Provinces.**

46) Consider the following statements regarding the composition of Constituent assembly.

1. The Constituent Assembly was constituted in November 1946 under the scheme formulated by the August offer.
2. Constituent Assembly was a partly elected and partly nominated body.
3. Seats were allotted on the basis of population at that time.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

The Constituent Assembly was constituted in November 1946 under the scheme formulated by the **Cabinet Mission Plan**.

The representatives of princely states were to be nominated by the heads of the princely states.

**Constituent Assembly was to be a partly elected and partly nominated body.** Moreover, the members were to be indirectly elected by the members of the provincial assemblies, who themselves were elected on a limited franchise.

**Seats were allotted on the basis of population at that time.**

47) Which of the following regions were integrated by referendum in India?

1. Nagaland
2. Sikkim
3. Junagarh
4. Hyderabad

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: a)

**Hyderabad was integrated by means of police action** whereas **Junagarh and Sikkim by means of referendum**. Kashmir was integrated by an instrument of accession. Nagaland was part of Indian Union later separated from Assam.

48) Consider the following statements regarding India's political status post-independence.

1. From August 15, 1947 to January 26, 1950, India's political status was that of a dependency in the British Commonwealth of Nations.

2. India ceased to be a British dominion on January 26, 1950, by declaring herself a sovereign republic.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: a)

Till the passage of the Indian Independence Act, 1947, India was a dependency (colony) of the British Empire. **From August 15, 1947 to January 26, 1950, India's political status was that of a dominion in the British Commonwealth of Nations. India ceased to be a British dominion on January 26, 1950, by declaring herself a sovereign republic.** However, Pakistan continued to be a British Dominion until 1956.

49) Privy Pledge system allowed

- a) Local administration to abolish zamindari from erstwhile permanent settlement regions
- b) Government to confiscate private land based on the principle of 'eminent domain'
- c) Princely state rulers to retain certain private property and grant in hereditary
- d) None of the above

Solution: c)

Abolition of Privy Pledge was a major issue in post-independent India.

**The integration of India was preceded by an assurance that after the dissolution of princely rule, the then rulers' families would be allowed to retain certain private property, and given a grant in hereditary or government allowance, measured on the basis of the extent, revenue and potential of the merging state.** This grant was called the Privy Pledge.

50) The Delhi Agreement of 1952 is remarkable in Modern Indian History because

- a) It settled the Line of control between India and Pakistan to reduce border skirmishes.
- b) It gave the Union territory of Delhi greater power to function as an autonomous unit.
- c) It was crucial to the integration of the state of Jammu and Kashmir in India.
- d) None of the above

Solution: c)

This agreement endorsed the main decisions of the Constituent Assembly of the then State of J&K. It was reached between the representatives of Kashmir Government and the Indian Government. This arrangement was later on known as the "Delhi Agreement, 1952".

This led to the conferment of special status to Kashmir, including a separate flag, jurisdiction of the Parliament and Supreme court over the state etc.

51) Consider the following statements.

1. She is regarded as the first female teacher of India.
2. She was associated with Satyashodhak Samaj.
3. She along with her husband recognised that education was one of the central planks through which women and the depressed classes could become empowered.

The above statements refer to

- a) Savitribai Phule
- b) Usha Mehta
- c) Kadambini Ganguly
- d) Sarojini Naidu

Solution: a)

Savitribai Phule, the social reformer who is considered to be one of India's first modern feminists, was born on January 3, 1831. Among her accomplishments, she is especially remembered for being **India's first female teacher who worked for the upliftment of women and untouchables in the field of education and literacy.**

Phule was born in Naigaon, Maharashtra in 1831 and married activist and social-reformer Jyotirao Phule when she was nine years old. After marriage, with her husband's support, Phule learned to read and write and both of them eventually went on to found India's first school for girls called Bhide Wada in Pune in 1948. Before this, she started a school with Jyotirao's cousin Saganbai in Maharwada in 1847.

Essentially, both Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule recognised that **education was one of the central planks through which women and the depressed classes could become empowered** and hope to stand on an equal footing with the rest of the society.

The Phules also started the Literacy Mission in India between 1854-55. The Phules started the **Satyashodhak Samaj** (Society for Truth-Seeking), through which they wanted to initiate the practice of Satyashodhak marriage, in which no dowry was taken.

52) The Wavell Plan, arrived at the Simla Conference 1945 provided for which of the following?

1. Indianization of the Viceroy's Executive Council
2. Removing any caste and religion-based quota in the Executive Council
3. Partition of India

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: c)

As per the Plan, all the members of the Council, except the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief, would be Indians. It said, in the Council there would be equal representation of caste Hindus and Muslims. It proposed for a future constitution of India, not its partition.

53) The Radcliffe Line was

- a) Boundary demarcation line between India and Pakistan
- b) Frontier between East Pakistan and West-Pakistan
- c) Line between Indo-China border as historically demarcated by the British.
- d) Agreed line on the partition of Bengal

Solution: a)

**The Radcliffe Line was the boundary demarcation line between the Indian and Pakistani portions of the Punjab and Bengal provinces of British India.**

The demarcation line was published on 17 August 1947 upon the Partition of India.

54) Which of the following historical commissions were related to States Reorganisation in India?

1. JVP Committee
2. Dhar Commission
3. Fazl Ali Commission
4. Gokhale Committee

Select the correct answer code:

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

d) 1, 3, 4

Solution: a)

- The integration of princely states with the rest of India has purely an ad hoc arrangement. There has been a demand from different regions, particularly South India, for reorganisation of states on linguistic basis.
- Accordingly, in June 1948, the Government of India appointed the **Linguistic Provinces Commission under the chairmanship of S K Dhar** to examine the feasibility of this.
- The commission submitted its report in December 1948 and recommended the reorganisation of states on the basis of administrative convenience rather than linguistic factor.
- This created much resentment and led to the appointment of another Linguistic Provinces Committee by the Congress in December 1948 itself to examine the whole question afresh. It consisted of **Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel and Pattabhi Sitaramayya and hence, was popularly known as JVP Committee**
- It submitted its report in April 1949 and formally rejected language as the basis for reorganisation of states. The creation of Andhra state intensified the demand from other regions for creation of states on linguistic basis.
- This forced the Government of India to appoint (in December 1953) a **three-member States Reorganisation Commission under the chairmanship of Fazl Ali** to re-examine the whole Question.
- But, it rejected the theory of 'one language-one state'. Its view was that the unity of India should be regarded as the primary consideration in any redrawing of the country's political units.

55) Lal Bahadur Shastri was associated with

1. Salt Satyagraha
2. Macaulay minutes
3. Servants of the People Society
4. Tashkent Declaration

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

Lal Bahadur Shastri was born in 1904, whereas the Macaulay deliberations were held in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> CE (1850s).

**He signed Tashkent Declaration** on 10 January, 1966 with the Pakistan President, Muhammad Ayub Khan to end the 1965 war.

He introduced a slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" and played a pivotal role in shaping India's future.

He became a life **member of the Servants of the People Society** (Lok Sevak Mandal), founded by Lala Lajpat Rai. There he started to work for the upliftment of backward classes, and later he became the President of that Society.

**He participated in the non-cooperation movement and the Salt Satyagraha.**

56) Consider the following statements regarding Royal Indian Navy (RIN) mutiny of 1946.

1. It started as a strike in the Royal Indian Navy.
2. The INC unequivocally supported the mutiny.
3. The objective behind the mutiny was to get complete Independence for India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The **Royal Indian Navy mutiny** or **revolt**, also called the **1946 Naval Uprising**, was an insurrection of Indian naval ratings, soldiers, police personnel and civilians against the British government in India. From the initial flashpoint in Bombay, the revolt spread and found support throughout British India, from Karachi to Calcutta.

The mutiny was suppressed by British troops and Royal Navy warships. The **Indian National Congress and the Muslim League condemned the mutiny**, while the Communist Party of India was the only party that supported the rebellion.

The **RIN Revolt started as a strike by ratings of the Royal Indian Navy** on 18 February in protest against general conditions. The immediate issues of the revolt were living conditions and food.

57) Attlee's statement got lot of importance in India's Freedom Struggle. What is the significance of it?

- a) It declared the British intention of leaving the Indian subcontinent.
- b) Release of political prisoners of Freedom struggle
- c) It transferred the power completely to the princely states.
- d) To secure the interests of Minorities by ensuring more representation in the Parliament.

Solution: a)

Clement Attlee, the British prime minister, sensing the trouble all around, made an announcement on February 20, 1947. **The British House of Commons declared the British intention of leaving the Indian subcontinent.** A deadline of June 30, 1948 was fixed for transfer of power even if the Indian politicians had not agreed by that time on the constitution.

58) Which of following are the core principles of Panchsheel?

1. Non-Alignment
2. Mutual non-aggression
3. Neighbourhood First Policy
4. Peaceful co- existing

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: c)

The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, known as the Panchsheel Treaty: Non-interference in others internal affairs and respect for each other's territorial unity integrity and sovereignty, are a set of principles to govern relations between states.

The Five Principles, as stated in the Sino-Indian Agreement 1954, are listed as:

- mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty,
- **mutual non-aggression**,
- mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs,
- equality and mutual benefit, and
- **peaceful co- existing**

[Source](#)

59) Which of the following could be considered as the policy of the early days of the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM)?

1. Staying out of wars

2. Staying away from joining any of the military alliances
3. Not acting as a mediator to any bilateral or international conflict

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: c)

The policy of staying away from alliances should not be considered isolationism or neutrality. Non-alignment is not isolationism since isolationism means remaining aloof from world affairs.

In comparison, **the non-aligned countries, including India, played an active role in mediating between the two rival alliances in the cause of peace and stability.**

NAM did not advocate joining either the NATO or Warsaw pact.

**Non-aligned states, including India, were actually involved in wars for various reasons.**

They also worked to prevent war between others and tried to end wars that had broken out.

60) Consider the following statements.

1. In the first seven five-year plans, trade was characterised by import substitution strategy.
2. The Second Five Year Plan tried to build the basis for a socialist pattern of society.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: d)

Industrial Policy Resolution 1956 (IPR 1956): In accordance with the goal of the state controlling the commanding heights of the economy, the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 was adopted. This resolution formed the basis of the **Second Five Year Plan, the plan which tried to build the basis for a socialist pattern of society.**

• **In the first seven plans, trade was characterised by what is commonly called an inward-looking trade strategy. Technically, this strategy is called import substitution.** This policy aimed at replacing or substituting imports with domestic production.

61) Consider the following statements regarding Five Year Plans in India.

1. The duration of plan holiday was from 1966 to 1969.
2. "Garibi Hatao" slogan was given during Second Five Year Plan.
3. Third Five Year Plan was based on the P.C. Mahalanobis Model.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Due to failure of the Third Plan the government was forced to declare "plan holidays" (from 1966 to 1967, 1967–68, and 1968–69).

Third Five Year Plan was based on Gadgil Yojna.

“Garibi Hatao” slogan was given during Fourth Five Year Plan.

62) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

1. Lee Commission - Civil services
2. Macdonnel commission - Press
3. Sargent plan – Education

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: c)

Lee Commission - Civil services

- Sargent plan – Education.
- Macdonnel commission – Famine

The **Lee Commission**, in their report in the year 1924, recommended that the statutory **Public Service Commission** contemplated by the Government of India Act, 1919 should be established without delay.

The **Sargent Scheme**, formally known as the **Report of the Sargent Commission on Post-War Education Development in India** outlined the future development of literacy and education in India.

The **MacDonnell Commission was the famine commission** appointed by Lord Curzon in 1901.

63) Consider the following statements.

1. *Indus Water treaty is the only instance where* India and Pakistan have allowed a third-party to help resolve their issues.
2. Tashkent Declaration is a peace agreement between India and China signed after the *Sino-Indian War* that occurred in 1962.
3. Shimla Agreement, was signed between India and Pakistan following the Bangladesh Liberation war in 1971.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: a)

There have been precedents when India and Pakistan have allowed a third-party to help resolve their issues.

**Both nations were able to reach agreements through third party mediators in case of the Indus Waters Treaty and the negotiations on the Rann of Kutch dispute.**

The **Shimla Agreement**, was signed between India and Pakistan on 2 July 1972 in Shimla. It followed from the **Bangladesh Liberation war in 1971** that led to the independence of Bangladesh, which was earlier known as East Pakistan and was part of the territory of Pakistan.

The **Tashkent Declaration** was a peace agreement between India and Pakistan signed on 10 January 1966 that resolved the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965.

64) Consider the following statements regarding Indo–Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation.

1. Indo–Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation was a significant deviation from India's previous position of non-alignment during the Cold War.
2. The treaty played an important role in Sino-Indian War of 1962.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: b)

The Indo–Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation was a treaty signed **between India and the Soviet Union** in August 1971 that specified mutual strategic cooperation. That was a significant deviation from India's previous position of non-alignment during the Cold War and was a factor in the 1971 Indo-Pakistani war. **The treaty was caused by increasing Pakistani ties with China and the United States and played an important role in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War.**

65) Operation Searchlight is related to

- a) First Kashmir War
- b) Bangladesh Liberation War
- c) Sino-Indian War
- d) Second World War

Solution: b)

Bangladesh Liberation War began after the Pakistani military junta based in West Pakistan launched Operation Searchlight against the people of East Pakistan on the night of 25 March 1971.

66) Consider the following statements regarding “no first use nuclear doctrine”.

1. It refers to a pledge or a policy by a nuclear power not to use nuclear weapons as a means of warfare unless first attacked by an adversary using nuclear weapons.
2. India became the first nation to propose and pledge no first use nuclear policy.

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)

No first use nuclear doctrine refers to a pledge or a policy by a nuclear power not to use nuclear weapons as a means of warfare unless first attacked by an adversary using nuclear weapons. Earlier, the concept had also been applied to chemical and biological warfare.

- **China became the first nation to propose and pledge NFU policy** when it first gained nuclear capabilities in 1964, stating “not to be the first to use nuclear weapons at any time or under any circumstances”.
- **India first adopted a “No first use” policy after its second nuclear tests, Pokhran-II, in 1998.**

67) Which of the following operations by Indian Military were related to Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) complex?

1. Operation Black Thunder
2. Operation Blue Star
3. Operation Polo

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1 only

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

Solution: b)

Operation Blue Star was the code name of an Indian military action which was carried out between 1 and 10 June, 1984, in order to capture the Sikh leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his followers hidden inside the buildings of Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) complex in Amritsar, Punjab.

Operation Black Thunder is the name given to two operations that took place in India in the late 1980s to flush out remaining Kharku Sikh militants from the Golden Temple using 'Black Cat' commandos of the National Security Guards. Like Operation Blue Star, these attacks were on Kharku Sikhs who were based in the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Punjab.

Operation Polo: Indian armed forces ended the rule of the Nizam of Hyderabad and led to the incorporation of the princely state of Hyderabad into the Indian Union

- 68) Jayaprakash Narayan's Concept of Total Revolution was aimed at
- a) Removing landlessness from rural areas completely by Bhoodan and forced acquisitions
  - b) Exposing the totalitarian nature of the incumbent government
  - c) Bringing a change in the existing society in tune with the ideals of the Sarvodaya
  - d) None of the above

Solution: c)

Jaya Prakash once stated that Total Revolution is a combination of seven revolutions, viz., political, social, economic, cultural, ideological or intellectual, educational and spiritual; and the main motive being to bring in a change in the existing society that is in tune with the ideals of the Sarvodaya.

- 69) Consider the following statements regarding Chipko Movement.
1. Chipko movement was a Gandhian form of protest against deforestation by locals in the Himalayan region.
  2. The movement was led by Sunderlal Bahuguna.
  3. The support for the movement came mainly from the women.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

The Chipko movement was a Gandhian form of protest against deforestation by locals in the Himalayan region. To stop deforestation, locals - primarily women - would make circles around trees and stop men from cutting them down.

The first Chipko action took place in April 1973 in Mandal village, now in Uttarakhand, and spread over the next five years to many Himalayan districts.

The movement sparked after the government decided to allot a plot of forest area in the Alaknanda valley to a sports goods company.

With the help from a local NGO, the women of the area went into the forest and formed a circle around the trees, protecting them from the men who came to cut down the trees.

Sunderlal Bahuguna, who was leading the movement, appealed to then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to implement a ban on cutting down the trees. His appeal resulted in a 15-year ban on chopping green trees in 1980.

- 70) During the Cold war period, the term 'Third World' referred to
- Colonies of Europe
  - Middle Eastern region
  - Countries that were not aligned with either USA or Soviet Union
  - Poor or developing countries

Solution: c)

Third World countries were labelled during the Cold War to reference those nations that were not aligned with either the United States or the Soviet Union.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, the term Third World has decreased in use. It is being replaced with terms such as developing countries, least developed countries or the Global South.

- 71) According to the terms of the 'Subsidiary Alliance', Indian rulers were
- Not allowed to have their independent armed forces
  - Supposed to protect the British representatives in the princely states

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: b)

According to the terms of this alliance, **Indian rulers were not allowed to have their independent armed forces.** They were to be protected by the Company but had to pay for the "subsidiary forces" that the Company was supposed to maintain for the purpose of this protection. If the Indian rulers failed to make the payment, then part of their territory was taken away as penalty.

- 72) In 1720, the British government enacted the Calico Act. What is it related to?
- Barring of company officials from private trade
  - Disallowing Indians from entering Civil Services
  - Banning the use of printed cotton textile imported from India.
  - Compulsory use of English language in Company affairs

Solution: c)

The **Calico Act banned the import of most cotton textiles into England**, followed by the restriction of sale of most cotton textiles. It was a form of economic protectionism, largely in response to India (particularly Bengal), which dominated world cotton textile markets at the time. The Act was a precursor to the Industrial Revolution, when Britain eventually surpassed India as the world's leading textile manufacturer in the 19th century.

- 73) Consider the following statements regarding the Young Bengal Movement
- Attacked old traditions and decadent customs
  - Organized debates against idol worship and casteism.
  - Advocated women's rights and their education

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1, 2
- 2, 3
- 1, 3
- 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

Henry Vivian Derozio was the founder of the Young Bengal Movement. He taught in the Hindu College, Calcutta. His followers were known as the Derozians and their movement the Young Bengal Movement. They **attacked old traditions and decadent customs**. They also **advocated women's rights and their education**. They founded associations and **organized debates against idol worship**, casteism and superstitions.

74) Consider the following statements

1. Maulana Azad established Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College.
2. Kuka movement in Punjab aimed at purifying the Sikh religion by removing all the abuses, superstitions and ill-practices

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: a)

**Syed Ahmad Khan established Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College.**

75) Consider the following statements regarding Theosophical Society.

1. It was founded in Calcutta by Bhikaji Cama.
2. Main aim was to promote the study of ancient religions and philosophies.
3. Central Hindu School was chosen as the parent organization that acted as a catalyst for the growth of this society.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The **Theosophical Society was founded in New York (USA)** in 1875 by Madam H.P. Blavatsky, a Russian lady, and Henry Steel Olcott, an American colonel.

Their main objectives were to form a universal brotherhood of man without any distinction of race, colour or creed and to **promote the study of ancient religions and philosophies**. They arrived in India and established their headquarters at Adyar in Madras in 1882.

Later in 1893, Mrs. Annie Besant arrived in India and took over the leadership of the Society after the death of Olcott. Mrs. Annie Besant founded the Central Hindu School along with Madan Mohan Malaviya at Benaras which later developed into the Banaras Hindu University.

76) Match List-1 and List-2 and select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- | List-1              | List-2           |
|---------------------|------------------|
| A. Moplah revolt    | 1. Uttar Pradesh |
| B. Eka movement     | 2. Bengal        |
| C. Pabna revolt     | 3. Bihar         |
| D. Bakasht Movement | 4. Kerala        |

Codes:

- a) A - 2; B - 1; C - 3; D - 4
- b) A - 2; B - 3; C - 4; D - 1

- c) A - 4; B - 1; C - 2; D - 3  
 d) A - 4; B - 2; C - 1; D - 3

Solution: c)

The Malabar rebellion of 1921 (also known as **Moplah revolt**) started as a resistance against the British colonial rule in Malabar region of **Kerala**.

**Eka Movement** or Unity Movement is a peasant movement which surfaced in Hardoi, Bahraich and Sitapur during the end of 1921.

**Pabna Peasant Uprising** (1873–76) was a resistance movement by the peasants against the zamindars in **Bengal** in the Yusufshahi pargana (now the Sirajganj District, Bangladesh) in Pabna.

Swami Sahajanand Saraswati organised the **Bakasht Movement in Bihar** in 1937–1938. "Bakasht" means self-cultivated. The movement was against the eviction of tenants from Bakasht lands by zamindars and led to the passing of the Bihar Tenancy Act and the Bakasht Land Tax.

- 77) There was no independent development of industries in India during British rule because of the:
- preference of the rich to invest in land
  - scarcity of natural resources
  - scarcity of foreign capital
  - absence of heavy industries

Solution: d)

The primary motive of Britishers were to make India a net exporter of raw materials to the British industries at a cheap rate and to sell British products at a higher rate in the Indian market.

British rulers neither permitted modernisation nor did they encourage the growth of industries. Besides, there was a **scarcity of basic and heavy industries**.

- 78) The aim of education as stated by the Wood's despatch of 1854 was:
- the spread of western culture In India
  - spreading English learning and female education in India
  - the introduction of scientific research and rationalism in the traditional Indian education
  - the creation of employment opportunities for native Indians

Solution: b)

Sir Charles Wood, the President of the Board of Control, played an important role in **spreading English learning and female education in India**.

Wood suggested that primary schools must adopt vernacular languages, high schools must adopt Anglo-vernacular language and at college-level English should be the medium of education. This is known as Wood's despatch. Vocational and women's education were also stressed upon.

One of the most favourable steps taken was to create an English class among Indian people to be used as workforce in the company's administration.

- 79) With reference to the colonial rule in India, "Home Charges" formed an important part of drain of wealth from India. Which of the following funds constituted Home Charges?
- Funds used to pay salaries and pensions of British personnel engaged in India.
  - Funds used to support the India office in London.
  - Funds used for waging wars outside India by the British.

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

With reference to the colonial rule in India, "Home Charges" formed an important part of drain of wealth from India. **Home Charges refer to the expenditure incurred in Britain by the Secretary of State on behalf of India.** They include:

1. Funds used to pay salaries and pensions of British personnel engaged in India.
2. Funds used to support the India office in London.
3. Funds used for waging wars outside India by the British.

80) Who among the following was a proponent of Fabianism as a movement?

- a) Sarojini Naidu
- b) Annie Besant
- c) Surendranath Banerjea
- d) A.O. Hume

Solution: b)

**Fabianism**, socialist movement and theory that emerged from the activities of the Fabian Society, which was founded in London in 1884.

Annie Besant was a member of the Fabian Society.

## 6. Environment

1) Consider the following statements regarding Biomass gasification.

1. Biomass gasification is a process of converting solid biomass fuel into a gaseous combustible gas through a sequence of thermo-chemical reactions.
2. Coconut shells, groundnut shells and wheat straw can be used in biomass gasification.
3. The combustible gases generated from biomass gasification consist of only hydrogen and carbon dioxide.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Biomass, a renewable organic resource, includes agriculture crop residues (such as corn stover or wheat straw), forest residues, special crops grown specifically for energy use (such as switchgrass or willow trees), organic municipal solid waste, and animal wastes.

**Biomass Gasification is a process that converts organic or fossil-based carbonaceous materials at high temperatures, without combustion, with a controlled amount of oxygen and/or steam into carbon monoxide, hydrogen, and carbon dioxide.** The carbon monoxide then reacts with water to form carbon dioxide and more hydrogen.

- 2) The ocean acidification will lead to which of the following?
1. The growth and survival of calcareous phytoplankton will be adversely affected.
  2. The growth and survival of coral reefs will be adversely affected.
  3. It favours the formation of clouds and also the process of cloud seeding.

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: a)

- As carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) dissolves in sea water, it forms **carbonic acid, decreasing the ocean's pH**, a process collectively known as **ocean acidification**.

Increased sea water acidity has been demonstrated to **affect the formation and dissolution of calcium carbonate shells and skeletons in a range of marine species, including corals**, molluscs such as oysters and mussels, and many phytoplankton and zooplankton species that form the base of marine food webs.

**Ocean Acidification would lead certain marine organisms to emit less of the sulphur compounds** that help to seed the formation of clouds and so keep the planet cool.

- 3) The carbon dioxide in the atmosphere slowly raises the temperature of the atmosphere. This is because it absorbs
- a) all the solar radiations
  - b) the ultraviolet part of the solar radiation
  - c) the water vapour of the air and retains its heat
  - d) the infrared part of the solar radiation

Solution: d)

Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere (such as water vapor and carbon dioxide) **absorb most of the Earth's emitted longwave infrared radiation**, which heats the lower atmosphere.

- 4) Smog is a kind of air pollution caused by
1. Burning of large amounts of coal.
  2. Slash-and-burning of crops.
  3. Pollutants generated from paint and hairspray.

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

**Smog can be caused by:**

- **Large amounts of coal-burning in an area**
- **Slash-and-burning of crops** (a major source in Delhi)
- Smog-forming pollutants generate from automobile exhausts, power plants, fireworks, even **paint, hairspray**, charcoal starter fluid, and plastic popcorn packaging.

- 5) Which of the following is/are the characteristics that the pollutant should possess in order for bio magnification to occur?
1. A pollutant should be biologically active.

2. A pollutant should be long lived.
3. A pollutant should not be soluble in fats.

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: a)

Bio magnification stands for Biological Magnification, which means the increase of contaminated substances or toxic chemicals that take place in the food chains. These substances often arise from intoxicated or contaminated environments.

- The contaminants include heavy metals namely mercury, arsenic, pesticides such as DDT, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) compounds which are then taken up by organisms because of the food they consume or the intoxication of their environment.
- Pollutant needs to satisfy characteristics like **long life, biologically active, soluble in fat** etc. to make bio magnification possible.

- 6) Depending upon the source and composition of the coal being burned, the components of fly ash vary considerably. But all fly ash substantially includes which of the following compounds?
1. Silicon dioxide
  2. Cadmium
  3. Aluminium oxide
  4. Mercury

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: b)

- Depending upon the source and composition of the coal being burned, the components of fly ash vary considerably, but **all fly ash includes substantial amounts of silicon dioxide (SiO<sub>2</sub>), aluminium oxide (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) and calcium oxide (CaO), the main mineral compounds in coal-bearing rock strata.**
  - **Minor constituents include:** arsenic, beryllium, boron, **cadmium**, chromium, hexavalent chromium, cobalt, lead, manganese, **mercury**, molybdenum, selenium, strontium, thallium, and vanadium, along with very small concentrations of dioxins and PAH compounds. It also has unburnt carbon.
- 7) Fly ash can be used in which of the following ways
1. Substitute material for Sand.
  2. Stabilization of soft soils.
  3. Fertilizers
  4. Cattle feeders
  5. Embankments and other structural fills

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

**However, fly ash can be used in the following ways:**

- Concrete production, as a **substitute material for Portland cement, sand**.
- Fly-ash pellets which can replace normal aggregate in concrete mixture.
- **Embankments and other structural fills**.
- Cement clinker production – (as a substitute material for clay).
- **Stabilization of soft soils**.
- Road subbase construction.
- As aggregate substitute material (e.g. for brick production).
- Agricultural uses: soil amendment, **fertilizer, cattle feeders**, soil stabilization in stock feed yards, and agricultural stakes.
- Loose application on rivers to melt ice.
- Loose application on roads and parking lots for ice control.

- 8) Consider the following statements regarding the mechanisms to reduce emissions forms.
1. Electrostatic precipitator is used to remove over 90 per cent particulate matter present in the exhaust from a thermal power plant.
  2. A scrubber can remove gases like oxides of sulfur.
  3. Catalytic converters are used to convert unburnt hydrocarbons into carbon dioxide and water.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

**Smokestacks** of thermal power plants, smelters and other industries **release particulate and gaseous air pollutants** together with harmless gases, such as **nitrogen, oxygen**, etc. These **pollutants must be separated/filtered out before releasing the harmless gases into the atmosphere**.

There are several ways of removing particulate matter; the most widely used of which is the **electrostatic precipitator, which can remove over 99 per cent particulate matter present in the exhaust from a thermal power plant**.

A **scrubber** can remove gases like **Sulphur dioxide**. In a scrubber, the exhaust is passed through a **spray of water or lime**.

**Catalytic converters**, having expensive metals namely **platinum-palladium** and **rhodium** as the **catalysts**, are fitted into automobiles for **reducing emission of poisonous gases**.

- 9) Consider the following statements regarding Ozone.
1. Ozone found in the lower troposphere acts as a shield absorbing ultraviolet radiation from the sun.
  2. The thickness of the ozone in a column of air from the ground to the top of the atmosphere is measured in terms of Dobson units (DU).

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)

**Ground level or tropospheric ozone** is created by chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub> gases) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The combination of these chemicals in the presence of sunlight form ozone. About 90% of total ozone in the atmosphere is in the stratosphere, and 10% is in the troposphere.

**Ozone in the troposphere is considered a greenhouse gas, and may contribute to global warming.**

There is 'good' ozone; this ozone is found in the **upper part of the atmosphere called the stratosphere**, and it **acts as a shield absorbing ultraviolet radiation from the sun.**

**The thickness of the ozone in a column of air from the ground to the top of the atmosphere is measured in terms of Dobson units (DU).**

10) Consider the following statements.

1. The natural reservoir of phosphorus is rock.
2. Animals need large quantities of Phosphorus to make shells, bones and teeth.
3. Like carbon cycle, there is respiratory release of phosphorus into atmosphere.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

- Phosphorus is a major constituent of biological membranes, nucleic acids and cellular energy transfer systems. Many animals also need large quantities of this element to make shells, bones and teeth. **The natural reservoir of phosphorus is rock**, which contains phosphorus in the form of phosphates. When rocks are weathered, minute amounts of these phosphates dissolve in soil solution and are absorbed by the roots of the plants.
- Herbivores and other animals obtain this element from plants. The waste products and the dead organisms are decomposed by phosphate-solubilising bacteria releasing phosphorus. **Unlike carbon cycle, there is no respiratory release of phosphorus into atmosphere.**

11) Consider the following statements regarding Gangetic river dolphin.

1. It is India's national aquatic animal.
2. It has rudimentary eyes, which helps the dolphin in preying.
3. They are distributed across the states where the River Ganga flows through.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

**Key facts- Gangetic dolphin:**

1. **Platanista gangetica** has been declared **endangered by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).**
2. It has **rudimentary eyes**. From preying to surfing, dolphins do it through ultrasonic sound.
3. It is **India's national aquatic animal** and is popularly known as '**Susu**'
4. **They are distributed across seven states in India:** Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

The Ganges River flow through the states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal.

12) Which of the following are the reasons for the decline in the population of Gangetic river dolphin?

1. Illegal sand mining
2. Changing River course
3. Overuse of river water
4. Inland waterways

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

**Reasons for the decline:**

- Illegal sand mining.
- Overuse of river water.
- Changing River course.
- Inland waterways / Movement of large cargo vessels.
- Various anthropogenic / religious activities.
- Accidental killing – by catch/ fisheries related entanglements.

13) Consider the following statements.

1. In India, Wetlands are regulated under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. The number of wetlands in India listed under the Ramsar Convention is less than 50.
3. The aim of the Ramsar list is to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Four more Indian sites - two each from Haryana and Gujarat - have been recognised as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, taking the number of such sites in the country to **46**.

For the first time, two wetlands in Haryana - Sultanpur National Park in Gurgaon and Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary in Jhajjar - have been included in the Ramsar list.

**The aim of the Ramsar list is “to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits”.**

**In India, Wetlands are regulated under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.**

[Source](#)

14) Which of the following wetlands in India are listed under the Ramsar Convention?

1. Chilika Lake
2. Keoladeo National Park
3. Harike Lake
4. Loktak Lake
5. Wular Lake

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

The 46 Ramsar sites in India include the Chilika Lake in Odisha, Keoladeo National Park in Rajasthan, Harike Lake in Punjab, Loktak Lake in Manipur and Wular Lake in Jammu and Kashmir.

Source

15) Consider the following statements regarding Geologic Sequestration Trapping Mechanisms

1. Mineral Carbonation refers to the process where carbon dioxide can react with the minerals, fluids, and organic matter in a geologic formation to form stable compounds/minerals.
2. Hydrodynamic Trapping refers to the process where carbon dioxide can be dissolved into a liquid, such as water or oil.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: b)

#### Geologic Sequestration Trapping Mechanisms

- **Hydrodynamic Trapping:** Carbon dioxide can be trapped as a gas under low-permeability cap rock (much like natural gas is stored in gas reservoirs).
- **Solubility Trapping:** Carbon dioxide can be dissolved into a liquid, such as water or oil.
- **Mineral Carbonation:** Carbon dioxide can react with the minerals, fluids, and organic matter in a geologic formation to form stable compounds/minerals; largely calcium, iron, and magnesium carbonates.



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