



# ACADEMY OF CIVIL SERVICES

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### UPSC PREVIOUS YEARS PRELIMS QUESTIONS (2011-2018)

**2011**

**1) Consider the following:**

1. Carbon dioxide
2. Oxides of Nitrogen
3. Oxides of Sulphur

**Which of the above is/are the emission/emissions from coal combustion at thermal power plants?**

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

**2) Satellites used for telecommunication relay are kept in a geostationary orbit. A satellite is said to be in such an orbit when:**

1. The orbit is geosynchronous
2. The orbit is circular
3. The orbit lies in the plane of the Earth's equator.
4. The orbit is at an altitude of 22,236 km

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**3) At present, scientists can determine the arrangement or relative positions of genes or DNA sequences on a chromosome. How does this knowledge benefit us?**

- 1. It is possible to know the pedigree of livestock.
- 2. It is possible to understand the causes of all human diseases.
- 3. It is possible to develop disease-resistant animal breeds.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**4) Microbial fuel cells are considered a source of sustainable energy. Why?**

- 1. They are living organisms as catalysts to generate electricity from certain substrates.
- 2. They use a variety of inorganic materials as substrates.
- 3. They can be installed in waste water treatment plants to cleanse water and produce electricity.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**5) Regarding “carbon credits”, which one of the following statements is not correct?**

- a) The carbon credit system was ratified in conjunction with the Kyoto Protocol
- b) Carbon credits are awarded to countries or groups that have reduced greenhouse gases below their emission quota

- c) The goal of the carbon credit system is to limit the increase of carbon dioxide emissions.
  - d) Carbon credits are traded at a price fixed from time to time by the United Nations Environment Programme
- 6) When the bark of a tree is removed in a circular fashion all around near its base, it gradually dries up and dies because**
- a) Water from soil cannot rise to aerial parts
  - b) Roots are starved of energy
  - c) Tree is infected by soil microbes
  - d) Roots do not receive oxygen for respiration
- 7) A genetically engineered form of brinjal, known as the Bt-brinjal, has been developed. The objective of this is**
- a) To make it pest-resistant
  - b) To improve the taste and nutritive qualities
  - c) To make it drought-resistant
  - d) To make its shelf life longer
- 8) The function of heavy water in a nuclear reactor is to**
- a) Slow down the speed of neutrons
  - b) Increase the speed of neutrons
  - c) Cool down the reactor
  - d) Stop the nuclear reaction
- 9) Consider the following:**
1. Photosynthesis
  2. Respiration
  3. Decay of organic matter
  4. Volcanic action

**Which of the above add carbon dioxide to the carbon cycle on Earth?**

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

- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**10) What is the difference between Blue-tooth and Wi-Fi devices?**

- a) Bluetooth uses 2.4 GHz radio frequency band, whereas Wi-Fi can use 2.4 GHz or 5 GHz frequency band.
- b) Bluetooth is used for Wireless Local Area Networks (WLAN) only, whereas Wi-Fi is used for Wireless Wide Area Networks (WWAN) only
- c) When information is transmitted between two devices using Bluetooth technology, the devices have to be in the line of sight of each other, but when Wi-Fi technology is used the devices need not be in the line of sight of each other.
- d) The statements (a) and (b) given above are correct in this context.

**11) Aspartame is an artificial sweetener sold in the market. It consists of amino acids and provides calories like other amino acids and provides calories like other amino acids. Yet, it is used as low-calorie sweetening agent in food items. What is the basis of this use?**

- a) Aspartame is as sweet as table sugar, but unlike table sugar, it is not readily oxidized in human body due to lack of requisite enzymes.
- b) When aspartame is used in food processing, the sweet taste remains, but it becomes resistant to oxidation.
- c) Aspartame is as sweet as sugar, but after ingestion into the body, it is converted into metabolites that yield no calories.
- d) Aspartame is several times sweeter than table sugar, hence food items made with small quantities of aspartame yield fewer calories on oxidation.

**12) What is the difference between a CFL and an LED lamp?**

- 1. To produce light, a CFL uses mercury vapour and phosphor while and LED lamp uses semi-conductor material.
- 2. The average life span of a CFL is much longer than that of an LED lamp
- 3. A CFL is less energy-efficient as compared to an LED lamp

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

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

**13) A married couple adopted a male child. A few years later, twin boys were born to them. The blood group of the couple is AB positive and O negative. The blood group of the three sons is A positive, B positive and O positive. The blood group of the adopted son is**

- a) O positive
- b) A positive
- c) B positive
- d) Cannot be determined on the basis of the given data

**14) A new optical disc format known as the Blu-ray Disc (BD) is becoming popular. In what way is it different from the traditional DVD?**

1. DVD supports Standard Definition video while BD supports High Definition video.
2. Compared to a DVD, the BD format has several times more storage capacity
3. Thickness of BD is 2.4 mm while that of DVD is 1.2 mm.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**15) An artificial satellite orbiting around the Earth does not fall down. This is so because the attraction of Earth**

- a) Does not exist at such distance
- b) Is neutralized by the attraction of the moon
- c) Provides the necessary speed for its steady motion
- d) Provides the necessary acceleration for its motion

**16) Regular intake of fresh fruits and vegetables is recommended in the diet since they are a good source of antioxidants. How do antioxidants help a person maintain health and promote longevity?**

- a) They activate the enzymes necessary for vitamin synthesis in the body and help prevent vitamin deficiency.
- b) They prevent excessive oxidation of carbohydrates, fats and proteins in the body and help avoid unnecessary wastage of energy.
- c) They neutralize the free radicals produced in the body during metabolism.
- d) They activate certain genes in the cells of the body and help delay the ageing process.

**17) What is “Virtual Private Network”?**

- a) It is a private computer network of an organization where the remote users can transmit encrypted information through the server of the organization.
- b) It is a computer network across a public internet that provides users access to their organization’s network while maintaining the security of the information transmitted.
- c) It is a computer network in which users can access a shared pool of computing resources through a service provider.
- d) None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above is a correct description of Virtual Private Network.

## **2012**

**1) Consider the following kinds of organism:**

- 1. Bacteria
- 2. Fungi
- 3. Flowering plants

**Some species of which of the above kinds of organisms are employed as biopesticides?**

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

**2) What is the role of ultraviolet (UV) radiation in the water purification systems?**

1. It inactivates/kills the harmful microorganisms in water.
2. It removes all the undesirable odours from the water
3. It quickens the sedimentation of solid particles, removes turbidity and improves the clarity of water.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**3) Graphene is frequently in news recently. What is its importance?**

1. It is a two-dimensional material and has good electrical conductivity
2. It is one of the thinnest but strongest materials tested so far
3. It is entirely made of silicon and has high optical transparency
4. It can be used as 'conducting electrodes' required for touch screens, LCDs and organic LEDs.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**4) Lead, ingested or inhaled, is a health hazard. After the addition of lead to petrol has been banned, what still are the sources of lead poisoning?**

1. Smelling units
2. Pens and pencils
3. Paints
4. Hair oils and cosmetics

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**5) With reference to 'stem cells', frequently in the news, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- 1. Stem cells can be derived from mammals only
- 2. Stem cells can be used for screening new drugs
- 3. Stem cells can be used for medical therapies

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**6) A team of scientists at Brookhaven National Laboratory including those from India created the heaviest anti-matter (anti-helium nucleus). What is /are the implication/implications of the creation of anti-matter?**

- 1. It will make mineral prospecting and oil exploration easier and cheaper.
- 2. It will help probe the possibility of the existence of stars and galaxies made of anti-matter.
- 3. It will help understand the evolution of the universe.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**7) Which of the following is/are cited by the scientists as evidence/evidences for the continued expansion of universe?**

- 1. Detection of microwaves in space



2. Observation of redshift phenomenon in space
3. Movement of asteroids in space
4. Occurrence of supernova explosions in space

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4
- d) None of the above can be cited as evidence

**8) Electrically charged particles from space travelling at speeds of several hundred km/sec can severely harm living beings if they reach the surface of the Earth. What prevents them from reaching the surface of the Earth?**

- a) The Earth's magnetic field diverts them towards its poles
- b) Ozone layer around the earth reflects them back to outer space
- c) Moisture in the upper layers of atmosphere prevents them from reaching the surface of the Earth
- d) None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above is correct

**9) With reference to National Rural Health Mission, which of the following are the jobs of 'ASHA', a trained community health worker?**

1. Accompanying women to the health facility for antenatal care checkup
2. Using pregnancy test kits for early detection of pregnancy
3. Providing information on nutrition and immunization
4. Conducting the delivery of baby

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**10) To meet its rapidly growing energy demand, some opine that India should pursue research and development on thorium as the future fuel of nuclear energy. In this context, what advantage does thorium hold over uranium?**

1. Thorium is far more abundant in nature than uranium
2. On the basis of per unit mass of mined mineral, thorium can generate more energy compared to natural uranium.
3. Thorium produces less harmful waste compared to uranium

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**11) The increasing amount of carbon dioxide in the air is slowly raising the temperature of the atmosphere, because it absorbs**

- a) The water vapour of the air and retains its heat
- b) The ultraviolet part of the solar radiation.
- c) All the solar radiations
- d) The infrared part of the solar radiation

**12) Which one of the following sets of elements was primarily responsible for this origin of life on the Earth?**

- a) Hydrogen, Oxygen, sodium
- b) Carbon, Hydrogen, Nitrogen
- c) Oxygen, Calcium, phosphorous
- d) Carbon, Hydrogen, Potassium

**13) What are the reasons for the people's resistance to the introduction of Bt Brinjal in India?**

1. Bt Brinjal has been created by inserting a gene from a soil fungus into its genome
2. The seeds of Bt Brinjal are terminator seeds and therefore, the farmers have to buy the seeds before every season from the seed companies.

3. There is an apprehension that the consumption of Bt Brinjal may have adverse impact on health.
4. There is some concern that the introduction of Bt Brinjal may have adverse effect on the biodiversity

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**14) Other than resistance to pests, what are the prospects for which genetically engineered plants have been created?**

1. To enable them to withstand drought
2. To increase the nutritive value of the produce
3. To enable them to grow and do photosynthesis in spaceships and space station
4. To increase their shelf life

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**15) Consider the following kinds of organisms:**

1. Bat
2. Bee
3. Bird

**Which of the above is/are pollinating agent/agents?**

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

- d) 1, 2 and 3

**16) Consider the following statements:**

If there were no phenomenon of capillarity

1. It would be difficult to use a kerosine lamp
2. One would not be able to use a straw to consume a soft drink
3. The blotting paper would fail to function
4. The big trees that we see around would not have grown on the earth

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**2013**

**1) Recombinant DNA technology (Genetic Engineering) allows genes to be transferred**

1. Across different species of plants
2. From animals to plants
3. From microorganism to higher organisms

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**d) 1, 2 and 3**

**2) Which of the following can be found as pollutants in the drinking water in some parts of India?**

1. Arsenic
2. Sorbitol
3. Fluoride

4. Formaldehyde
5. Uranium

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**3) With reference to the usefulness of the by-product of sugar industry, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. Bagasse can be used as biomass fuel for the generation of energy
2. Molasses can be used as one of the feed stocks for the production of synthetic chemical fertilizers
3. Molasses can be used for the production of ethanol.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**4) Consider the following:**

1. Electromagnetic radiation
2. Geothermal energy
3. Gravitational force
4. Plate movements
5. Rotation of the earth
6. Revolution of the earth

**Which of the above are responsible for bringing dynamic changes on the surface of the earth?**

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

- b) 1, 3, 5 and 6 only
  - c) 2, 4, 5 and 6 only
  - d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6**
- 5) **Improper handling and storage of cereal grains and oilseeds result in the production of toxins known as aflatoxins which are not generally destroyed by normal cooking process. Aflatoxins are produced by**
- a) Bacteria
  - b) Protozoa
  - c) Moulds**
  - d) Viruses
- 6) **Due to improper/indiscriminate disposal of old and used computers or their parts, which of the following are released into the environment as e-waste?**
- 1. Beryllium
  - 2. Cadmium
  - 3. Chromium
  - 4. Heptachlor
  - 5. Mercury
  - 6. Lead
  - 7. Plutonium

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- a) 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 only
  - b) 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 only**
  - c) 2, 4, 5 and 7 only
  - d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7
- 7) **Which of the following diseases can be transmitted from one person to another through tattooing?**
- 1. Chikungunya
  - 2. Hepatitis B
  - 3. HIV-AIDS

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**8) Consider the following minerals:**

- 1. Calcium
- 2. Iron
- 3. Sodium

**Which of the minerals given above is/are required by human body for the contraction of muscles?**

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

**9) Fruits stored in a cold chamber exhibit longer storage life because**

- a) Exposure to sunlight is prevented
- b) Concentration of carbon dioxide in the environment is increased
- c) Rate of respiration is decreased**
- d) There is an increase in humidity

**10) Ball bearings are used in bicycles, cars, etc., because**

- a) The actual area of contact between the wheel and axle is increased
- b) The effective area of contact between the wheel and axle is increased
- c) The effective area of contact between the wheel and axle is reduced**
- d) None of the above statements is correct

**11) Rainbow is produced when sunlight falls on drops of rain. Which of the following physical phenomena are responsible for this?**

- 1. Dispersion
- 2. Refraction
- 3. Internal reflection

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**12) Many transplanted seedlings do not grow because**

- a) The new soil does not contain favourable minerals
- b) Most of the root hairs grip the new soil too hard
- c) Most of the root hairs are lost during transplantation**
- d) Leaves get damaged during transplantation

**13) Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- 1. Viruses lack enzymes necessary for the generation of energy.
- 2. Viruses can be cultured in any synthetic medium.
- 3. Viruses are transmitted from one organism to another by biological vectors only

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**14) The known forces of nature can be divided into four classes, viz., gravity, electromagnetism, weak nuclear force and strong nuclear force. With reference to them, which one of the following statements is not correct?**

- a) Gravity is the strongest of the four**
- b) Electromagnetism acts only on particles with an electric charge.
- c) Weak nuclear force causes radioactivity
- d) Strong nuclear force holds protons and neutrons inside the nucleus of an atom

**15) The efforts to detect the existence of Higgs boson particle have become frequent news in the recent past. What is/are the importance/importances of discovering this particle?**

- 1. It will enable us to understand as to why elementary particles have mass.



2. It will enable us in the near future to develop the technology of transferring matter from one point to another without traversing the physical space between them
3. It will enable us to create better fuels for nuclear fission.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**16) Mycorrhizal biotechnology has been used in rehabilitating degraded sites because mycorrhiza enables the plants to**

1. Resist drought and increase absorptive area
2. Tolerate extremes of pH
3. Resist disease infestation

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

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

**2014**

**1) Consider the following diseases:**

1. Diphtheria
2. Chickenpox
3. Smallpox

**Which of the above diseases has/have been eradicated in India?**

- a) 1 and 2 only

**b) 3 only**

c) 1, 2 and 3

d) None

**2) Brominated flame retardant are used in many households product like mattresses and upholstery. Why is there some concern about their use?**

1. They are highly resistant to degradation in the environment.
2. They are able to accumulate in humans and animals.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

a. 1 only

b. 2 only

**c. Both 1 and 2**

d. Neither 1 nor 2

**3) Which of the following adds\ add carbon cycle on the planet Earth?**

1. Volcanic action
2. Respiration
3. Photosynthesis
4. Decay of organic matter

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

a. 1 and 3 only

b. 2 only

**c. 1, 2 and 4**

d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**4) With reference to Agni-IV Missile, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. It is a surface-to-surface missile.
2. It is fuelled by liquid propellant only.
3. It can deliver one-tonne nuclear warheads about 7500 km away.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

**a) 1 only**

- b) 2 and 3 only
  - c) 1 and 3 only
  - d) 1, 2 and 3
- 5) In India, cluster bean (Guar) is traditionally used as a vegetable or animal feed, but recently the cultivation of this has assumed significance. Which one of the following statements is correct in this context?
- a) The oil extracted from seeds is used in the manufacture of biodegradable plastics.
  - b) The gum made from its seeds is used in the extraction of shale gas.**
  - c) The leaf extract of this plant has the properties of anti-histamines.
  - d) It is a source of high-quality biodiesel.
- 6) With reference to Neem tree, consider the following statements:
1. Neem oil can be used as a pesticide to control the proliferation of some species of insects and mites.
  2. Neem seeds are used in the manufacture of biofuels and hospital detergents.
  3. Neem oil has applications in pharmaceutical industry.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
  - b) 3 only
  - c) 1 and 3 only**
  - d) 1, 2 and 3
- 7) Which of the following is the process involved in photosynthesis?
- a) Potential energy is released to form free energy.
  - b) Free energy is converted into potential energy and stored.**
  - c) Food is oxidized to release carbon dioxide and water
  - d) Oxygen is taken, and carbon dioxide and water vapour are given out
- 8) In addition to fingerprint scanning, which of the following can be used in the biometric identification of a person?
1. Iris scanning
  2. Retinal scanning
  3. Voice scanning

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

9) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding vegetative propagation of plants?

- 1. Vegetative propagation produces clonal population.
- 2. Vegetative propagation helps in eliminating the virus.
- 3. Vegetative propagation can be practiced most of the year.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

Spacecraft		Purpose
1) Cassini-Huygens	:	Orbiting the Venus and transmitting data to the earth.
2) Messenger	:	Mapping and investigating the Mercury
3) Voyager 1 and 2	:	Exploring the outer solar system

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

11) Which of the following is/are the example/examples of chemical change?

- 1. Crystallization of sodium chloride
- 2. Melting of ice

3. Souring of milk

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 only**
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None

**12) Consider the following techniques/phenomena:**

1. Budding and grafting in fruit plants
2. Cytoplasmic male sterility
3. Gene silencing

**Which of the above is/are used to create transgenic crops?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3**
- c) 1 and 3
- d) None

**13) Consider the following statements:**

1. Maize can be used for the production of starch
2. Oil extracted from maize can be a feedstock for biodiesel.
3. Alcoholic beverages can be produced by using maize.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**14) Among the following organisms, which one does not belong to the class of other three?**

- a) Crab**
- b) Mite

- c) Scorpion
- d) Spider

**15) Consider the following statements regarding 'Earth Hour':**

1. It is an initiative of UNEP and UNESCO
2. It is a movement in which the participants switch off the lights for one hour on a certain day every year.
3. It is a movement to raise the awareness about the climate change and the need to save the planet.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**16) Consider the following pairs:**

Vitamin		Deficiency disease
1) Vitamin C	:	Scurvy
2) Vitamin D	:	Rickets
3) Vitamin E	:	Night Blindness

**Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?**

- a) 1 and 2 only**
- b) 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None

**17) There is some concern regarding the nanoparticles of some chemical elements that are used by the industry in the manufacture of various products. Why?**

1. They can accumulate in the environment and contaminate water and soil.
2. They can enter the food chains.
3. They can trigger the production of free radicals.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

## **2015**

**1) With reference to the use of nano-technology in health sector, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

- 1. Targeted drug delivery is made possible by nano technology
- 2. Nanotechnology can largely contribute to gene therapy.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**2) In the context of modern scientific research, consider the following statements about ‘IceCube’, a particle detector located at South Pole, which was recently in the news:**

- 1. It is the world’s largest neutrino detector, encompassing a cubic kilometre of ice.
- 2. It is a powerful telescope to search for dark matter
- 3. It is buried deep in the ice.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**3) With reference to ‘Near Field Communication (NFC) Technology’, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. It is a contactless communication technology that uses electromagnetic radio fields
2. NFC is designed for use by devices which can be at a distance of even a metre from each other
3. NFC can use encryption when sending sensitive information.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- a) 1 and 2 only
  - b) 3 only
  - c) 1 and 3 only**
  - d) 1, 2 and 3
- 4) The area known as 'Golan Heights' sometimes appears in the news in the context of the events related to**
- a) Central Asia
  - b) Middle East**
  - c) South East Asia
  - d) Central Africa
- 5) In which of the following activities are Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellites used?**
1. Assessment of crop productivity
  2. Locating groundwater resources
  3. Mineral exploration
  4. Telecommunications
  5. Traffic studies

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only**
  - b) 4 and 5 only
  - c) 1 and 2 only
  - d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
- 6) The term 'IndARC', sometimes seen in the news, is the name of**
- a) An indigenously developed radar system inducted into Indian Defence



- b) India's satellite to provide services to the countries of Indian ocean Rim
  - c) A scientific establishment set up by India in Antarctic region
  - d) India's underwater observatory to scientifically study the Arctic region**
- 7) H1N1 virus is sometimes mentioned in the news with reference to which one of the following diseases?
- a) AIDS
  - b) Bird Flu
  - c) Dengue
  - d) Swine Flu**
- 8) With reference to 'fuel cells' in which hydrogen-rich fuel and oxygen are used to generate electricity, consider the following statements:
1. If pure hydrogen is used as a fuel, the fuel cell emits heat and water as by-products.
  2. Fuel cells can be used for powering buildings and not for small devices like laptop computers.
  3. Fuel cells produce electricity in the form of Alternating Current (AC).

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

## **2016**

- 1) With reference to 'LiFi', recently in the news, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It uses light as the medium for high-speed data transmission.
  2. It is a wireless technology and is several times faster than 'Wi-Fi'.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2**
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 2) In the context of the developments in Bioinformatics, the term ‘Transcriptome’, sometimes seen in the news, refers to
- a) A range of enzymes used in genome editing.
  - b) The full range of mRNA molecules expressed by an organism**
  - c) The description of the mechanism of gene expression
  - d) A mechanism of genetic mutations taking place in cells
- 3) ‘Mission Indradhanush’ launched by the Government of India pertains to
- a) Immunization of children and pregnant women**
  - b) Construction of smart cities across the country
  - c) India’s own search for the Earth-like planets in outer space
  - d) New Educational Policy
- 4) With reference to pre-packaged items in India, it is mandatory to the manufacturer to put which of the following information on the main label, as per the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011?
- 1. List of ingredients including additives.
  - 2. Nutrition information
  - 3. Recommendations, if any, made by the medical profession about the possibility of any allergic reactions.
  - 4. Vegetarian/non-vegetarian

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 3
  - b) 2, 3 and 4
  - c) 1, 2 and 4**
  - d) 1 and 4 only
- 5) ‘Net Metering’ is sometimes seen in the news in the context of promoting the
- a) Production and use of solar energy by the household/consumers**

- b) Use of piped natural gas in the kitchens of households
  - c) Installation of CNG kits in motor cars
  - d) Installation of water meters in urban households
- 6) **Recently, our scientists have discovered a new and distinct species of banana plant which attains a height of about 11metres and has orange-coloured fruit pulp. In which part of India has it been discovered?**
- a) Andaman Islands**
  - b) Anamalai Forests
  - c) Maikala Hills
  - d) Tropical rain forests of northeast.
- 7) **Which one of the following is the best description of ‘INS Astradharini’, that was in the news recently?**
- a) Amphibious Warfare Ship
  - b) Nuclear-powered submarine
  - c) Torpedo launch and recovery vessel**
  - d) Nuclear powered aircraft carrier
- 8) **What is ‘Greased Lightning-10 (GL-10)’, recently in the news?**
- a) Electric plane tested by NASA**
  - b) Solar-powered two-seater aircraft designed by Japan
  - c) Space observatory launched by China
  - d) Reusable rocket designed by ISRO
- 9) **Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

Viruses can infect

- 1. Bacteria
- 2. Fungi
- 3. Plants

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**d) 1, 2 and 3**

**10) On which of the following can you find the Bureau of Energy Efficiency Star Label?**

1. Ceiling fans
2. Electric geysers
3. Tubular fluorescent lamps

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**d) 1, 2 and 3**

**11) India is an important member of the 'International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor'. If the experiment succeeds, what is the immediate advantage for India?**

- a) It can use thorium in place of uranium for power generation.
- b) It can attain a global role in satellite navigation.
- c) It can drastically improve the efficiency of its fission reactors in power generation.

**d) It can build fusion reactors for power generation.**

**12) Consider the following statements:**

1. The International Solar Alliance was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2015.
2. The Alliance includes all the member countries of the United Nations.

**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

**13) In the cities of our country, which among the following atmospheric gases are normally considered in calculating the value of Air Quality Index?**

1. Carbon dioxide

2. Carbon monoxide
3. Nitrogen dioxide
4. Sulphur dioxide
5. Methane

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**14) With reference to 'Astrosat', the astronomical observatory launched by India, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. Other than USA and Russia, India is the only country to have launched a similar observatory into space.
2. Astrosat is a 2000 kg satellite placed in an orbit at 1650 km above the surface of the Earth.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**15) Consider the following statements:**

The Mangalayan launched by ISRO

1. Is also called the Mars Orbiter Mission
2. Made India the second country to have a spacecraft orbit the Mars after USA
3. Made India the only country to be successful in making its spacecraft orbit the Mars in its very first attempt

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only

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

## **2017**

**1) Due to some reasons, if there is a huge fall in the population of species of butterflies, what could be its likely consequence/consequences?**

- 1. Pollination of some plants could be adversely affected.
- 2. There could be a drastic increase in the fungal infections of some cultivated plants.
- 3. It could lead to a fall in the population of some species of wasps, spiders and birds.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**2) Which of the following are the objectives of 'National Nutrition Mission'?**

- 1. To create awareness relating to malnutrition among pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- 2. To reduce the incidence of Anaemia among young children, adolescent girls and women.
- 3. To promote the consumption of millets, coarse cereals and unpolished rice.
- 4. To promote the consumption of poultry eggs.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

d) 3 and 4 only

**3) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Nuclear Security Summits are periodically held under the aegis of the United Nations.
2. The International Panel on Fissile Materials is an organ of International Atomic Energy Agency.

**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**

**4) Consider the following statements:**

1. In tropical regions, Zika virus disease is transmitted by the same mosquito that transmits dengue.
2. Sexual transmission of Zika virus disease is possible.

**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

**5) Consider the following pairs:**

Commonly used/consumed materials

Unwanted or controversial  
chemicals likely to be found  
in them

- |                      |   |                      |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1) Lipstick          | : | Lead                 |
| 2) Soft drinks       | : | Brominated           |
| 3) Chinese fast food | : | Monosodium glutamate |

**Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?**

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

**d) 1, 2 and 3**

**6) Organic Light Emitting Diodes (OLEDs) are used to create digital display in many devices. What are the advantages of OLED displays over Liquid crystal displays?**

- 1. OLED displays can be fabricated on flexible plastic substrates.
- 2. Roll-up displays embedded in clothing can be made using OLEDs.
- 3. Transparent displays are possible using OLEDs.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3**
- d) None of the above statements is correct

**7) What is the application of Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer Technology?**

- a) Production of biolarvicides
- b) Manufacture of biodegradable plastics
- c) Reproductive cloning of animals**
- d) Production of organisms free of diseases

**8) In India, it is legally mandatory for which of the following to report on cyber security incidents?**

- 1. Service providers
- 2. Data centres
- 3. Body corporate

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**d) 1, 2 and 3**



9) What is the purpose of 'evolved Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (Elisa)' project?

- a) To detect neutrinos
- b) To detect gravitational waves**
- c) To detect the effectiveness of missile defence system
- d) To study the effect of solar flares on our communication systems

## **2018**

1) In the Indian context, what is the implication of ratifying the 'Additional Protocol' with the 'International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'?

- a) The civilian nuclear reactors come under IAEA safeguards.**
- b) The military nuclear installations come under the inspection of IAEA
- c) The country will have the privilege to buy uranium from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)
- d) The country automatically becomes a member of the NSG.

2) In which of the following areas can GPS technology be used?

- 1. Mobile phone operations
- 2. Banking operations
- 3. Controlling the power grids

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

3) With reference to the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), consider the following statements:

- 1. IRNSS has three satellites in geostationary and four satellites in geosynchronous orbits.
- 2. IRNSS covers entire India and about 5500 sq.km beyond its borders.

3. India will have its own satellite navigation system with full global coverage by the middle of 2019.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only**
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) None

**4) Consider the following phenomena:**

1. Light is affected by gravity.
2. The Universe is constantly expanding.
3. Matter warps its surrounding space-time.

**Which of the above is/are the prediction/predictions of Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, often discussed in media?**

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

**d) 1, 2 and 3**

**5) With reference to the Genetically Modified mustard (GM mustard) developed in India, consider the following statements:**

1. GM mustard has the same genes of a soil bacterium that give the plant the property of pest-resistance to a wide variety of pests.
2. GM mustard has the genes that allow the plant cross-pollination and hybridization.
3. GM mustard has been developed jointly by the IARI and Punjab Agricultural University.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 only**

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

**6) Consider the following pairs:**

Terms sometimes seen in news		Context/Topic
1) Belle II experiment	:	Artificial Intelligence
2) Blockchain technology	:	Digital/Cryptocurrency
3) CRISPR – Cas9	:	Particle Physics

**Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?**

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

**7) Which of the following statements best describes “carbon fertilization”?**

- a) Increased plant growth due to increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.**
- b) Increased temperature of earth due to increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
- c) Increased acidity of oceans as a result of increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
- d) Adaptation of all living beings on earth to the climate change brought about by the increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere

**8) When the alarm of your smartphone rings in the morning, you wake up and tap it to stop the alarm which causes your geyser to be switched on automatically. The smart mirror in your bathroom shows the day’s weather and also indicates the level in your overhead tank. After you take some groceries from your refrigerator for making breakfast, it recognizes the shortage of stock in it and places an order for the supply of fresh grocery items. When you step out of your house and lock the door, all lights, fans, geysers and AC machines get switched off automatically. On your way to office, your car warns you about traffic congestion ahead and suggests**

an alternative route, and if you are late for a meeting, it sends a message to your office accordingly.

In the context of emerging communication technologies, which one of the following terms best applies to the above scenario?

- a) Border Gateway Protocol
- b) Internet of Things**
- c) Internet Protocol
- d) Virtual Private Network

9) With reference to solar power production in India, consider the following statements:

1. India is the third largest in the world in the manufacture of silicon wafers used in photovoltaic units
2. The solar power tariffs are determined by the Solar Energy Corporation of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10) “3D Printing” has applications in which of the following?

1. Preparation of confectionery items
2. Manufacture of bionic ears
3. Automotive industry
4. Reconstructive surgeries
5. Data processing technologies

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- b) 2, 3 and 5 only
- c) 1 and 4 only

**d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5**

**11) Why is a plant called *Prosopis juliflora* often mentioned in news?**

a) Its extract is widely used in cosmetics

**b) It tends to reduce the biodiversity in the area in which it grows**

c) Its extract is used in the synthesis of pesticides

d) None of the above

**12) With reference to India's satellite launch vehicles, consider the following statements:**

1. PSLVs launch the satellites useful for Earth resources monitoring whereas GSLVs are designed mainly to launch communication satellites
2. Satellites launched by PSLV appear to remain permanently fixed in the same position in the sky, as viewed from a particular location on earth
3. GSLV Mk II is a four-staged launch vehicle with the first and third stages using solid rocket motors; and the second and fourth stages using liquid rocket engines.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

**a) 1 only**

b) 2 and 3

c) 1 and 2

d) 3 only

**13) Consider the following:**

1. Birds
2. Dust Blowing
3. Rain
4. Wind blowing

**Which of the above spread plant diseases?**

a) 1 and 3 only

b) 3 and 4 only

c) 1, 2 and 4 only

d) 1, 2, 3 and 4