



## Step 01 (Date : 19-04-2021)

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### Question 1:

Consider the following statements:

1. According to the Indian Constitution a naturalised citizen of India is not eligible for holding the office of President of India.
2. Indian constitution does not deal with the problem of acquisition of citizenship subsequent to its commencement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 2**

### Explanation

- The Constitution deals with citizenship from Articles 5 to 11 under Part II. However, it contains neither any permanent nor any elaborate provisions in this regard. It only identifies the persons who became citizens of India at its commencement (i.e., on January 26, 1950).
- It does not deal with the problem of acquisition or loss of citizenship subsequent to its commencement. It empowers the Parliament to enact a law to provide for such matters and any other matter relating to citizenship. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Citizens are full members of the Indian State and owe allegiance to it. They enjoy all civil and political rights. Aliens (Foreigners), on the other hand, are the citizens of some other state and hence, do not enjoy all the civil and political rights.

- They are of two categories—friendly aliens or enemy aliens. Friendly aliens are the subjects of those countries that have cordial relations with India.
  - Enemy aliens, on the other hand, are the subjects of that country that is at war with India. They enjoy lesser rights than the friendly aliens, eg, they do not enjoy protection against arrest and detention (Article 22).
  - The Constitution confers the following rights and privileges on the citizens of India (and denies the same to aliens):
    - Right against discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Article 15).
    - Right to equality of opportunity in the matter of public employment (Article 16).
    - Right to freedom of speech and expression, assembly, association, movement, residence and profession (Article 19).
    - Cultural and educational rights (Articles 29 and 30).
    - Right to vote in elections to the Lok Sabha and state legislative assembly.
    - Right to contest for the membership of the Parliament and the state legislature.
    - Eligibility to hold certain public offices, that is, the President of India, VicePresident of India, judges of the Supreme Court and the high courts, governor of states, attorney general of India and advocate general of states.
  - In India both a citizen by birth as well as a naturalised citizen are eligible for the office of President while in the USA, only a citizen by birth and not a naturalised citizen is eligible for the office of President. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
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### Question 2:

With reference to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. Preamble of the constitution is enforceable in the court of law.
2. Preamble is amendable but no amendment should be made which takes away the basic features.
3. Preamble is considered to be the source of power to the legislature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1 and 3 only
3. 2 only
4. 3 only

**Correct Answer : 3**

## Explanation

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- The Preamble embodies the basic philosophy and fundamental values– political, moral and religious–on which the Constitution is based.
  - It contains the grand and noble vision of the Constituent Assembly, and reflects the dreams and aspirations of the founding fathers of the Constitution.
  - **It is non-justiciable**, that is, its provisions are not enforceable in courts of law. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - **Berubari Union (1960)**: Preamble can be amended, subject to the condition that no amendment is done to the 'basic features'. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - The Preamble is neither a source of power to legislature nor a prohibition upon the powers of the legislature. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
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### Question 3:

Consider the following pairs:

	<b>Desert</b>	<b>Ocean Current</b>
1.	Sonoran	Gulf stream
2.	Atacama	Peruvian Current
3.	Namib	Agulhas Current

Which of the pairs given above is/are not correctly matched?

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

**Correct Answer : 3**

## Explanation

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### Hot desert and Cold ocean current correlation

- All the deserts mentioned in the question lie (whole /partially) on the **Western coast of the continent**. Cold ocean currents near 25 to 35-degree latitude (north and south) results in formation of **hot deserts**.

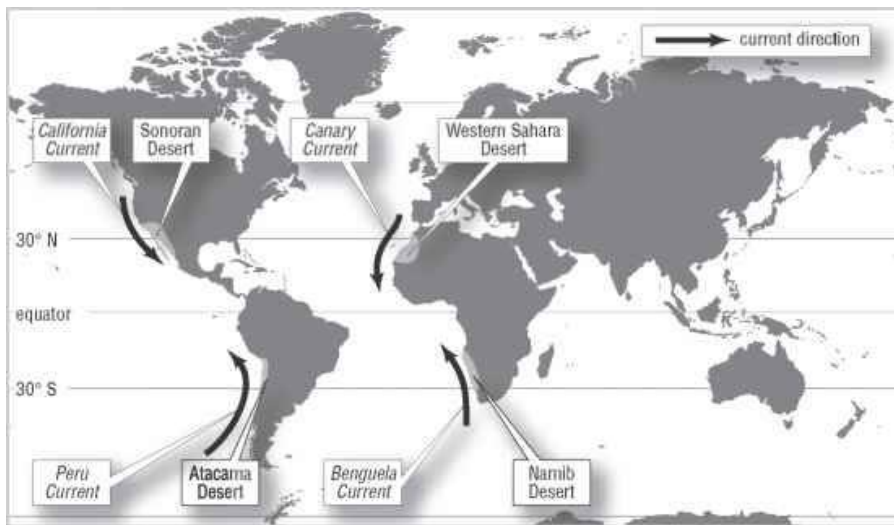
- Cold currents make the **overlying air as cold-dry air mass** which in turn causes the surrounding land as dry like a desert.

**Gulf stream and Agulhas** are warm ocean currents and moreover, they lie on the western coast of the continent. Therefore these currents **don't result in the formation of deserts**.

- The Humboldt Current, also called the Peru Current, is a **cold ocean current of low salinity** that flows in the north-west direction along the coast of South America.

The cooling influence on the climate of Chile, Peru and Ecuador. It is also largely responsible for the **aridity of the Atacama Desert in northern Chile and coastal areas of Peru** and also of the aridity of southern Ecuador.

- **Sonoran desert (North America)** is under the influence of **Californian Current** and **Namib desert (Africa)** is under the influence of **Benguela Current**. Hence, **option C is the correct answer**.



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#### Question 4:

Lamu Island was recently in the news, is located in

1. Peru
2. Chile
3. Kenya
4. Somalia

**Correct Answer : 3**

#### Explanation

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- **Lamu Island is located on the eastern coast of Kenya.** It is one of the oldest and the best-preserved living settlements among the Swahili towns (in Arabic Swahili means "of the coast") on the East African coast.
  - It is recognised as a **World Heritage Site** by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). **Hence, option C is the correct answer.**
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### Question 5:

With reference to Indian Independence Act of 1947, consider the following statements:

1. Governor General of India was designated as the head of the state.
2. The Governor General retained the power to veto a bill.
3. The office of Viceroy was abolished but the Office of the Secretary of State for India remained active till 1950.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 2 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

**Correct Answer : 3**

### Explanation

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- **Indian Independence Act of 1947** designated the Governor-General of India and the provincial governors as constitutional (nominal) heads of the states. They were made to act on the advice of the respective Council of Ministers in all matters. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - This act deprived the British Monarch of his right to veto bills or ask for reservation of certain bills for his approval. But, this particular right was reserved for the Governor-General. The Governor-General would have full power to assent to any bill in the name of His Majesty. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - The office of Viceroy and the office of Secretary of State for India were abolished. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
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### Question 6:

In the context of India, which one of the following is the correct relationship between Rights and Duties?

1. Rights are correlative with Duties.
2. Rights are personal and hence independent of society and Duties.
3. Rights, not Duties, are important for the advancement of the personality of the citizen.
4. Duties, not Rights, are important for the stability of the State.

**Correct Answer : 1**

### Explanation

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- According to the different Articles of the Indian Constitution, it is clear that Rights are correlative with Duties.
  - This is evident from the relation between Article 21A and 51A(k).
    - **Article 21A** of the Indian Constitution states that the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine.
    - **Article 51A(k)** states that it shall be the duty of every citizen to provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of 6 and 14 years. This reinforces the Fundamental Right mentioned under Article 21A
  - **Article 43A** provides for, 'Participation of workers in the management of industries'. Thus, the state shall take steps, by suitable legislation or in any other way, to secure the participation of workers in the management of undertakings, establishments or other organisations engaged in any industry.
  - **Article 48A**, which provides for the protection and improvement of the environment and safeguarding of forests and wildlife.
  - **Hence, option A is correct.**
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### Question 7:

In which one of the following cases the Supreme Court ruled that Article 21 only provides protection against arbitrary executive action, not from arbitrary legislative action?

1. Maneka Gandhi Case (1978)
2. Gopalan Case (1950)
3. Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973)
4. Mandal Case (1992)

**Correct Answer : 2**

## **Explanation**

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- Article 13 declares that a constitutional amendment is not a law and hence cannot be challenged. However, the Supreme Court held in the **Kesavananda Bharati case** (1973) that a Constitutional amendment can be challenged on the ground that it violates a fundamental right that forms a part of the 'basic structure' of the Constitution and hence, can be declared as void.
  - In the famous **Mandal case (1992)**, the scope and extent of Article 16(4), which provides for reservation of jobs in favour of backward classes, has been examined thoroughly by the Supreme Court. Though the Court has rejected the additional reservation of 10% for poorer sections of general category citizens, it upheld the constitutional validity of 27% reservation for the OBCs with certain conditions.
  - In the famous **Gopalan case (1950)**, the Supreme Court has taken a narrow interpretation of Article 21. It held that the protection under **Article 21 is available only against arbitrary executive action and not from arbitrary legislative action. Hence, option B is correct.**
  - But, **in the Menaka case (1978)**, the Supreme Court overruled its judgement in the Gopalan case by taking a wider interpretation of Article 21. It ruled that the right to life and personal liberty of a person can be deprived by a law provided the procedure prescribed by that law is reasonable, fair and just.
  - Further, the court held that the '**right to life**' as embodied in Article 21 is not merely confined to animal existence or survival but it includes within its ambit the right to live with human dignity and all those aspects of life which go to make a man's life meaningful, complete and worth living.
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## **Question 8:**

Consider the difference between El Nino and La Nina:

1. During El Nino, Trade winds weaken and warm waters move east while in La Nina, Strong Pacific trade winds blow westward.
2. El Nino strengthens the Indian monsoons while La Nina weakens the Indian monsoons.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2

4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 1**

### **Explanation**

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<b>El Nino</b>	<b>La Nina</b>
<b>Trade winds weaken,</b>	<b>Strong Pacific trade</b>
<b>warm waters move east.</b>	<b>winds blow westward.</b>
Pacific jet stream is pulled further south than normal it picks up storms which the jet stream could normally miss.	Cold water rises to the surface.
<b>Weakens Indian Monsoons</b>	<b>Strengthens Indian monsoons.</b>
El Nino usually occurs after 3 to 5 years	La Nina occurs roughly half as as El Nino; lasts from 1 to 3 years.

**Hence, option A is correct.**

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### **Question 9:**

With respect to Zonal Councils, consider the following sentences:

1. These are constitutional bodies.
2. At present, there are five zonal councils- Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern.
3. The North-Eastern Council was merged with Eastern Council in 1971.

Which of the above-mentioned statements is/are not correct?

1. 2 only
2. 3 only



3. 2 and 3 only

4. 1, 2 and 3

**Correct Answer : 4**

### Explanation

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- The Zonal Councils are the **statutory bodies**, established by an Act of the Parliament, that is, States Reorganisation Act of 1956. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
  - At present, there are **six zonal councils**- Northern, Central, Eastern, Western, Southern and North-Eastern. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - North-Eastern Council was created by a separate Act of Parliament, the North-Eastern Council Act of 1971. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
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### Question 10:

Which one of the following is not a feature of Indian federalism?

1. There is an independent judiciary in India.
2. Powers have been clearly divided between the Centre and the States.
3. The federating units have been given unequal representation in the Rajya Sabha.
4. It is the result of an agreement among the federating units.

**Correct Answer : 4**

### Explanation

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- According to Article 1 of the Indian Constitution, India is a Union of States.
- Dr Ambedkar, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, eulogized the term “Union of the States” on the plea that it indicated two important facts – (a) Federalism in India had not been the result of an agreement among the units, and (b) The constituent units of the Indian Federation had no right to secede from it.

- The features of Indian federalism are as follows:
    - **Dual Polity: The Constitution establishes a dual polity at the Centre and the States. Each is endowed with sovereign powers to be exercised in the field assigned to them respectively by the Constitution.**
    - **Written Constitution:** The Constitution of India is a written document and is also the lengthiest Constitution of the world.
    - **Division of Powers: The Constitution has divided the powers between the Centre and the States by providing the Union List, State List and the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule.** The residuary subjects are given to the Centre.
    - **The supremacy of the Constitution:** The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. The laws enacted by the Centre and the States must conform to its provisions.
    - **Independent Judiciary:** The Constitution establishes an independent judiciary headed by the Supreme Court.
    - **Bicameralism:** The Constitution provides for a bicameral legislature consisting of an Upper House (Rajya Sabha) and a Lower House (Lok Sabha). The Rajya Sabha represents the states of the Indian Federation and maintains the federal equilibrium by protecting the interests of the States against the undue interference of the Centre.
    - **Hence, option D is correct.**
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### Question 11:

Which of the following statements is/are correct about Judicial Review?

1. The power of judicial review can be curtailed by a constitutional amendment.
2. The phrase 'Judicial Review' has nowhere been used in the Constitution.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 2**

### Explanation

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- The doctrine of judicial review originated and developed in the USA.

- The Supreme Court has declared the power of judicial review as a basic feature of the Constitution or an element of the basic structure of the Constitution. Hence, the power of judicial review cannot be curtailed or excluded even by a constitutional amendment. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The phrase ‘**Judicial Review**’ has nowhere been used in the Constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The constitutional validity of a legislative enactment or an executive order can be challenged in the Supreme Court or in the High Courts on the following three grounds:

- (a) it infringes the Fundamental Rights (Part III),
- (b) it is outside the competence of the authority which has framed it, and
- (c) it is repugnant to the constitutional provisions.

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### Question 12:

Consider the following difference between Federal system and Unitary system:

1. Federal system has written constitution while Unitary system has written or unwritten constitution.
2. Federal system has a rigid Constitution while Unitary system has a rigid or a flexible Constitution.
3. Federal system has a bicameral legislature while Unitary system has unicameral legislature.
4. Federal system has supremacy of constitution while Unitary system has no supremacy of constitution.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

1. 1 and 3 only
2. 2 and 4 only
3. 2, 3 and 4 only
4. 3 and 4 only

**Correct Answer : 4**

### Explanation

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Federal Government	Unitary Government
1. Dual Government	1. single Government

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2. Written Constitution	2. Constitution may be written or unwritten
3. Division of powers between the national and regional Government	3. <b>No division of power.</b> All powers are vested in the national Government
4. Supremacy of the Constitution	4. Constitution may be supreme (Japan) or may not be Supreme (Britain)
5. Rigid Constitution	5. Constitution may be rigid or flexible
6. Independent Judiciary	6. Judiciary may be independent or may not be independent
7. Bicameral Legislation	7. Legislature may be Bicameral or Unicameral

**Hence, option (d) is correct.**

### Question 13:

With reference to Lake Urmia, consider the following statements:

1. It is situated in Iraq.
2. It is a freshwater lake.
3. The lake is a UNESCO biosphere reserve.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

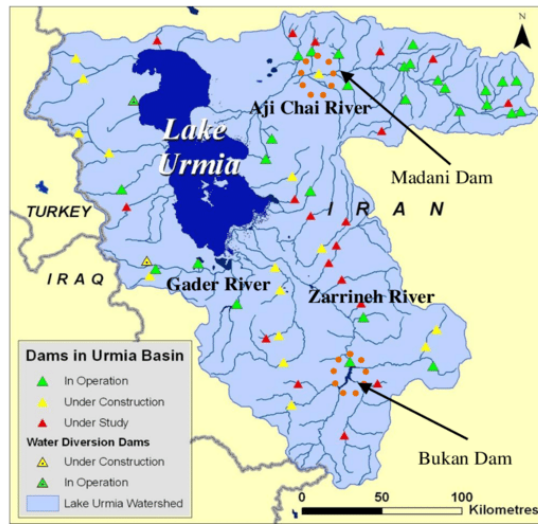
1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 only
3. 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3 only

**Correct Answer : 3**

### Explanation

- Lake Urmia is situated in **north-western Iran**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- It is a **hypersaline lake** with many islands, surrounded by extensive brackish marshes. The lake is fed by rainfall, springs and streams and subject to seasonal variation in level and salinity. The brackish marshes are an important staging area for migratory waterbirds. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

- It is both a Ramsar site and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- According to **UNEP reports**, the lake has been declining since 1995. By August 2011, its surface area was reduced to 2,366 km<sup>2</sup> which further declined to 700km<sup>2</sup> in 2013. NASA satellite data indicate that the lake lost about 70% of its surface area between 2002 and 2016.
- According to the latest **UNDP reports**, the lake has shown **signs of recovery**. The lake increased by 1600 km<sup>2</sup> between 2013 and 2017.



### Question 14:

Consider the following statements about the Bhima-Koregaon battle of 1818.

1. It was fought between Peshwa forces and the British.
2. It was one of the last battles of the Second Anglo-Maratha War.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 2**

**Explanation**

- The Bhima-Koregaon battle of 1818 was fought between Peshwa forces and the British. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - It was one of the last battles of the Third Anglo-Maratha War, which ended the Peshwa domination. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct**
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### Question 15:

With regard to the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. Most of the details related to the administration of India were drawn from the Government of India Act of 1935.
2. Political parts of Indian constitution were drawn from the constitution of Britain.
3. The philosophical part related to Directive Principles of Indian constitution was inspired from the Constitutions of Ireland and America.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

**Correct Answer : 1**

### Explanation

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- The philosophical part of the Constitution **Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy** derive their inspiration from the **American and Irish Constitutions respectively. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
  - The Federal Scheme, Judiciary, Governors, emergency powers, the Public Service Commissions and most of the administrative details are drawn from the Government of India Act of 1935. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - The political part of the Constitution (the principle of Cabinet Government and the relations between the executive and the legislature) have been largely drawn from the British Constitution. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
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### Question 16:

Which of the following statements are correct?

1. Constitution of India adopted the federal system due to the large size of the country and its socio-cultural diversity.

2. The term 'federation' has nowhere been used in the Constitution.
3. Indian federal system is based on the 'American model'.
4. 'Shadow cabinet' is a unique institution of the British cabinet system.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

1. 1, 2 and 3 only
2. 1, 2 and 4 only
3. 1 and 2 only
4. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Correct Answer : 2**

### Explanation

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- The Constitution of India provides for a federal system of government in the country.
  - The framers adopted the federal system due to two main reasons—the large size of the country and its socio- cultural diversity. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - The term 'federation' has nowhere been used in the Constitution. Instead, Article 1 of the Constitution describes India as a 'Union of States'. According to Dr B R Ambedkar, the phrase 'Union of States' has been preferred to 'Federation of States' to indicate two things:
    - The Indian federation is not the result of an agreement among the states like the American federation.
    - The states have no right to secede from the federation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - The Indian federal system is based on the 'Canadian model' and not on the 'American model'. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
  - The 'Canadian model' differs fundamentally from the 'American model' in so far as it establishes a very strong centre. The Indian federation resembles the Canadian federation
    - (i) in its formation (i.e., by way of disintegration);
    - (ii) in its preference to the term 'Union'(the Canadian federation is also called a 'Union'); and
    - (iii) in its centralizing tendency (i.e.,vesting more powers in the centre via-a-vis the states)
  - **'Shadow cabinet'** is a unique institution of the **British cabinet system**. It is formed by the opposition party to balance the ruling cabinet and to prepare its members for future Ministerial office. There is no such institution in India. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**
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### Question 17:

With reference to the 'Securities Appellate Tribunal', consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body established under the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.
2. It hears and disposes of appeals only against the orders passed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 1**

### Explanation

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- **Securities Appellate Tribunal** is a statutory body established under the provisions of Section 15K of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
  - It hears and disposes of appeals against the orders passed by the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** and the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
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### Question 18:

Which of the following are regarded as the main features of the "Rule of Law"?

1. Limitation of powers
2. Equality before law
3. People's responsibility to the Government
4. Liberty and civil rights

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 and 3 only
2. 2 and 4 only



3. 1, 2 and 4 only

4. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Correct Answer : 3**

### Explanation

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- The '**Rule of Law**' may be defined as a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with human rights norms and standards.
  - It requires, as well, measures to ensure adherence to the principles of supremacy of law, equality before the law, accountability to the law, fairness in the application of the law, separation of powers, participation in decision-making, legal certainty, avoidance of arbitrariness and procedural and legal transparency.
  - Key tenets of Rule of Law:
    - **Equality before law;**
    - Equal protection of law;
    - **Existence and preservation of liberty and civil rights;**
    - **Limitation of powers of executive and legislature;**
    - Responsibility of the government towards the masses.
    - **Hence, option C is correct.**
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### Question 19:

Which one of the following reflects the most appropriate relationship between law and liberty?

1. If there are more laws, there is less liberty.
2. If there are no laws, there is no liberty.
3. If there is liberty, laws have to be made by the people.
4. If laws are changed too often, liberty is in danger.

**Correct Answer : 2**

### Explanation

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- Liberty means the individual can act as he pleases without being under any type of arbitrary or illegal restraint or control.
- **Liberty does not mean the complete absence of all laws.**

- Liberty exists only in an ordered state. The state frames law and the sovereign state operates through these laws.
  - Therefore, the existence of law is essential for the existence of liberty.
  - It is the law that protects liberty.
  - **Hence, option B is correct.**
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### Question 20:

With reference to the Savanna Landscape, consider the following statements:

1. Typically, the vegetation of the savanna landscape contains tall grass and scattered trees with short heights.
2. The Savanna of the East African Plateau is inhabited by the Hausa tribe.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**Correct Answer : 1**

### Explanation

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- The savanna landscape is typified by tall grass and short trees. Trees in this landscape occur in clumps or as scattered individuals. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - The trees are deciduous, shedding their leaves in the cool, dry season to prevent excessive loss of water through transpiration.
  - **Human life in Savanna:** Within the savanna land of the tropics live many different tribes who are either cattle pastoralists like the Masai of the East African plateau or settled cultivators like the Hausa of northern Nigeria. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
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