



60 Steps To Prelims (2021) (Date : 30-04-2021)

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Question 1:

Democracy's superior virtue lies in the fact that it calls into activity

1. the intelligence and character of ordinary men and women.
2. the methods for strengthening executive leadership.
3. a superior individual with dynamism and vision.
4. a band of dedicated party workers.

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

The term Democracy, literally means “a government of the people, for the people and by the people”, i.e., rule by the people.

For example, in course of electing the representative for forming the government the people exercise their intelligence and character. **Hence, option A is correct.**

Question 2:

Which of the following provisions in the constitution can be amended by a simple majority?

1. Use of official language.
2. Formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing states.
3. Quorum of Parliament.
4. Distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the States.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- Provisions which can be amended by a **Simple Majority** are:
 - **Use of official language.**
 - **Formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing states.**
 - **Quorum of Parliament.**
 - Abolition or creation of legislative councils in states.
 - Second Schedule—emoluments, allowances, privileges, etc of the President, the Governors, the Speaker, Judges, etc. **Hence option B is correct.**
 - Provisions which require **Special Majority and the consent of States** are:
 - Distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the States
 - Election of the President and its manner,
 - **Extent of the executive power of the Union and the states.**
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Question 3:

With reference to the Directive Principles of State Policy, which of the following is/are based on Socialist Principles?

1. Free legal aid
2. Organization of Village Panchayats
3. Uniform Civil Code for the citizens

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- **Directive Principles Of State Policy:**
 - It is enumerated in Part IV of the Constitution.
 - Directive Principles can be classified into three broad categories as follows:
 1. Socialistic
 2. Gandhian
 3. Liberal–intellectual.
- **The Socialist Principles:**
 - **Article 38:** State to secure a social order for the promotion of welfare of the people
 - **Article 39:** Certain principles of policy to be followed by the State
 - **Article 39A:** Equal justice and free legal aid. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - **Article 41:** Right to work, to education, and to public assistance in certain cases
 - **Article 42:** Provision for just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief
- **The Gandhian Principles:**
 - **Article 40:** Organisation of village panchayats. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct**
 - **Article 43:** To promote cottage industries on an individual or co-operation basis in rural areas
 - **Article 43B:** Promotion of co-operative societies
 - **Article 46:** Promotion of educational and economic interests of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other weaker sections
- **The Liberal–Intellectual Principles:**
 - **Article 44:** To secure for all citizens a uniform civil code throughout the country. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct**
 - **Article 45:** To provide early childhood care and free education for all children until they complete the age of 14 years.
 - **Article 48:** To organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines.
 - **Article 48 A:** To protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forests and wildlife of the country..
 - **Article 49:** To protect monuments, places and objects of artistic or historic interest which are declared to be of national importance.
 - **Article 50:** To separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services of the State.

Question 4:

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

1. Negative IOD refers to the warmer western basin of the Indian Ocean as compared to the eastern basin.
2. A positive IOD brings below-average winter-spring rainfall to southern and central Australia.

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 : 1

Explanation

- Negative IOD (Indian Ocean Dipole) refers to the warmer eastern basin of the Indian Ocean as compared to the western basin. It is positive when the western basin is warmer than the eastern. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - A positive IOD brings below-average winter-spring rainfall to southern and central Australia and a more severe fire season for South-East Australia. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
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Question 5:

In the Constitution of India, promotion of international peace and security is included in the

1. Preamble to the Constitution
2. Directive Principles of State Policy
3. Fundamental Duties
4. Ninth Schedule

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- **Directive Principles of State Policy** under Article 51 deals with guiding principles which the state shall strive to follow in regard with international relations.

- According to Article 51, the State shall endeavour to:
 - **promote international peace and security**
 - maintain just and honourable relations between nations
 - foster respect for international law and treaty obligations in the dealings of organised peoples with one another encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration. **Hence, option B is correct.**
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Question 6:

With reference to Biofuels, consider the following statements:

1. Biofuel is the hydrocarbon fuel that is produced from an organic matter over a longer period of time.
2. The National Policy on Biofuels aims to achieve 20% ethanol-blending and 5% biodiesel-blending by the year 2030.

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 : 1

Explanation

- Any hydrocarbon fuel that is produced from an organic matter (living or once living material) in a short period of time (days, weeks, or even months) is considered as biofuel. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - The National Policy on Biofuels aims to achieve 20% ethanol-blending and 5% biodiesel-blending by the year 2030. It also expands the scope of feedstock for ethanol production and has provided for incentives for production of advanced biofuels. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
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Question 7:

Which among the following situation(s) incurs disqualification of Member of Parliament on ground of defection?

1. If he voluntarily gives up the membership of the party on whose ticket he is elected to the House.

2. If he fails to lodge an account of his election expenses within stipulated time.
3. If any nominated member joins any political party before the expiry of six months.
4. If he votes or abstains from voting in the House contrary to any direction given by his political party.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- **A Member of Parliament incurs disqualification under the defection law (Tenth Schedule):**
 1. If he voluntarily gives up the membership of the political party on whose ticket he is elected to the House;
 2. If he votes or abstains from voting in the House contrary to any direction given by his political party;
 3. If any independently elected member joins any political party; and
 4. If any nominated member joins any political party **after the expiry of six months. Hence, option B is correct.**
 - The question of disqualification under the Tenth Schedule is decided by the Chairman in the case of Rajya Sabha and Speaker in the case of Lok Sabha (and not by the President of India). In 1992, the Supreme Court ruled that the decision of the Chairman/Speaker in this regard is subject to judicial review.
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Question 8:

Which of the following programmes are concerned with providing nutrition to the Women in india?

1. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)
2. POSHAN Abhiyaan
3. The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 and 2 only

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

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- **National Nutrition Survey:**
 - The first-ever comprehensive National Nutrition Survey has been conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to measure malnutrition.
 - The survey recorded not only micronutrient deficiencies but also details of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol and kidney function in children and adolescents.
- **Key findings:**
 - Nearly 10% of children in the age group of 5-9 years and adolescents in the age group of 10-19 years are pre-diabetic.
 - Also, 5% are overweight and another 5% suffer from blood pressure in the age groups mentioned above.
- The National Nutrition Survey is different from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) as:
 - NFHS collects data to measure the prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight and household dietary intake to measure deficiencies.
 - Moreover, the survey collects data only for the age groups of 1-5 years and adults, and not for school going children between the ages of 5 and 19 years.
- **Steps Taken by Government of India to curb incidences of Malnutrition among women:** Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) POSHAN Abhiyaan The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013. **Hence, option D is correct.**

Question 9:

Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

	Motion	Description
1.	Adjpunement Motion	It draws attention of motion the House to a definite matter of urgent public importance.
2.	Guillotine Closure motion	Only important motion clauses are taken up for debate and voting and the intervening clauses are skipped over and taken as passed.

3. Censure motion	If it is passed in the Lok Sabha, the government must resign from office
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Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- **Adjournment Motion:**

- It is introduced in the Parliament to draw the attention of the House to a definite matter of urgent public importance, and needs the support of 50 members to be admitted. As it interrupts the normal business of the House, it is regarded as an extraordinary device. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- It involves an element of censure against the government and hence Rajya Sabha is not permitted to make use of this device.
- The discussion on an adjournment motion should last for not less than two hours and thirty minutes.

- **Guillotine Closure motion:**

It is when the undiscussed clauses of a bill or a resolution are also put to vote along with the discussed ones due to want of time (as the time allotted for the discussion is over). **Hence, pair 2 is NOT correctly matched.**

- **Kangaroo Closure motion:**

Under this type, only important clauses are taken up for debate and voting and the intervening clauses are skipped over and taken as passed.

- **Censure Motion:**

- A censure means an expression of strong disapproval or harsh criticism. It can be a stern rebuke by a legislature, generally opposition against the policies of the Government or an individual minister. However, it can also be passed to criticise, condemn some act.
 - If it is passed in the Lok Sabha, the council of ministers need not resign from the office. **Hence, pair 3 is NOT correctly matched.**
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Question 10:

With reference to conditions required for acquiring the citizenship of India by naturalisation, consider the following statements:

1. A person must have an adequate knowledge of a language specified in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
2. A person of Indian origin who is ordinarily resident in India for seven years has to apply under naturalisation.

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

- **The Citizenship Act of 1955** prescribes some ways of acquiring citizenship, viz, birth, descent, registration, naturalisation and incorporation of territory.
- **By Birth:**
- **By Descent:**
- **By Registration:** The Central Government may, on an application, register as a citizen of India any person (not being an illegal migrant) if he belongs to any of the following categories, namely:-

A person of Indian origin who is ordinarily resident in India for seven years before making an application for registration. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct**

- **By Naturalisation:**

The Central Government may, on an application, grant a certificate of naturalisation to any person (not being an illegal migrant) if he possesses the following qualifications:

- that he has either resided in India or been in the service of a Government in India or partly one and partly the other, throughout the period of twelve months immediately preceding the date of the application;
- During the fourteen years immediately preceding the period of twelve months, he has either resided in India or been in the service of a Government in India, or partly one and partly the other, for periods amounting in the aggregate to not less than eleven years;
- He is of good character;
- He has an adequate knowledge of a language specified in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Question 11:

Consider the following statements:

A Constitutional Government is one which

1. places effective restrictions on individual liberty in the interest of State Authority
2. places effective restrictions on the Authority of the State in the interest of individual liberty

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

- It is an **autocratic government** that tries to curb individual liberty at the expense of State authority. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Constitutional Government ought to be the one which strives for **providing liberty to individuals and restricting and curbing excess state authority** which is not in the interest of individual/people at large. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Question 12:

Consider the following statements with reference to the United Nations General Assembly.

1. All United Nations members are represented in the United Nations General Assembly.
2. The President of the General Assembly is elected every five year from among its members.

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

- All 193 Member States of the UN are represented in the General Assembly. Therefore, UNGA has universal representation. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The President of the General Assembly is elected each year by assembly to serve a one-year term of office. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

Question 13:

Consider the following statements about One Nation One Ration Card Scheme:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. Inter-State portability is one of the features of this scheme.

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

- In a major step towards achieving the objective of ‘**One Nation One Ration Card**’, the **Union Ministry for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution inaugurated** the inter-State portability in two clusters of adjoining States of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana and Gujarat & Maharashtra. This will enable beneficiaries from either States’ cluster to avail the benefits accruing to them under the National Food Security Act from any of the two States. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct**
 - It is envisaged that the inter-State portability shall be introduced in the 11 more States which have already implemented intra-State portability by 1st January 2020. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - All other States/UTs having attained requisite readiness for inter-State portability, shall be integrated in a phased manner. Thereby, enabling nation-wide portability of ration card holders to receive subsidized foodgrains under NFSA from anywhere in the country by 1st June 2020.
 - This initiative shall be very helpful for the large migratory population of the country who migrate from one part of the country to other in search of job/employment, marriage, or any other reason and find difficulty in accessing subsidized foodgrains in the present system.
 - Installation of electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices at Fair Price Shops (FPSs) is the main enabler of portability of ration card holders, supported by the biometric/ Aadhaar authentication.
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Question 14:

Consider the following statements about the provision of Financial Emergency under the Indian Constitution:

1. It’s proclamation must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within six months of the date of issue.
2. Repeated Parliamentary approval is not required for continuation of Financial Emergency.

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

- Article 360 empowers the President to proclaim a Financial Emergency if he is satisfied that a situation has arisen due to which the financial stability or credit of India or any part of its territory is threatened. A proclamation declaring Financial Emergency must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within two months from the date of its issue. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct**
 - Once approved by both the Houses of Parliament, the Financial Emergency continues indefinitely till it is revoked. This implies two things:
 - There is no maximum period prescribed for its operation and
 - Repeated Parliamentary approval is not required for its continuation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - A resolution approving the proclamation of Financial Emergency can be passed by either House of Parliament only by a simple majority, that is, a majority of the members of that house present and voting.
 - A proclamation of Financial Emergency may be revoked by the President at any time by a subsequent proclamation. Such a proclamation does not require parliamentary approval.
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Question 15:

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Rights under Article 15 of the Constitution of India is available to both citizens of India and the foreigners.
2. Rights under Article 16 of the Constitution of India is available only to the citizens of India.
3. Rights under Article 21 of the Constitution of India is available to both citizens of India and foreigners.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- **Fundamental Rights available to a Indian Citizens only.**
 - Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (**Article 15**). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct**
 - Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment (**Article 16**). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - **Protection of six rights under Article 19** regarding freedom of : (i) speech and expression, (ii) assembly, (iii) association, (iv) movement, (v) residence, and (vi) profession (Article 19).
 - Protection of language, script and culture of minorities (Article 29).
 - Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions (Article 30).
 - Protection of life and personal liberty (Article 21) is available to both citizens of India and foreigners except enemy aliens. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
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Question 16:

Consider the following statements:

1. WTO has well defined criteria for countries to declare themselves as ‘developed’ or ‘developing’.
2. A developing country automatically gets benefit from schemes such as the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

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 : 4

Explanation

- **There are no WTO definitions of “developed” and “developing” countries.** Members announce for themselves whether they are “developed” or “developing” countries. However, other members can challenge the decision of a member to make use of provisions available to developing countries. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct**

- **Advantages of “developing country” status?**
 - Developing country status in the WTO **brings certain rights**. There are for example provisions in some WTO Agreements which provide developing countries with longer transition periods before they are required to fully implement the agreement and developing countries can receive technical assistance.
 - A WTO member announces itself as a developing country does not automatically mean that it will benefit from the unilateral preference schemes of some of the developed country members such as the **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)**. In practice, it is the preference giving country which decides the list of developing countries that will benefit from the preferences. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct**
 - **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP):**
 - Under GSP schemes of preference-giving countries, selected products originating in developing countries are granted reduced or zero tariff rates over the MFN rates.
 - The least developed countries (LDCs) receive special and preferential treatment for a wider coverage of products and deeper tariff cuts.
 - The GSP was adopted at UNCTAD II in New Delhi in 1968.
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Question 17:

Consider the following statements:

1. Constitution defines ‘Office of Profit’ as a position that brings to the office-holder some financial gain, or advantage, or benefit.
2. Under the Representation of the People Act, 1951 a person is disqualified for being elected as a member of Parliament if he holds any office of profit under the Union or state government.

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 : 4

Explanation

- **‘Office of Profit’: Neither Constitution of India nor any statute clearly defines** what constitutes an office of profit but the definition has evolved over the years with interpretations made in various court judgments. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct**
- An office of profit has been interpreted to be a position that brings to the office-holder some financial gain, or advantage, or benefit. The amount of such profit is immaterial.
- In 1964, the Supreme Court ruled that the test for determining whether a person holds an office of profit is the test of appointment. Several factors are considered in this determination including factors such as:
 1. whether the government is the appointing authority,
 2. whether the government has the power to terminate the appointment,
 3. whether the government determines the remuneration,
 4. what is the source of remuneration, and
 5. the power that comes with the position.
- **Why Disqualification for holding ‘Office of Profit’:**
 - MPs and MLAs, as members of the legislature, hold the government accountable for its work. The essence of disqualification under the office of profit law is if legislators hold an ‘office of profit’ under the government, they might be susceptible to government influence, and may not discharge their constitutional mandate fairly.
 - The intent is that there should be no conflict between the duties and interests of an elected member. Hence, 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.
- **Disqualification of Member of Parliament:**

Constitutional Provisions:

 - **Any office of profit under the Union or State government** (except that of a minister or any other office exempted by the state legislature). **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - **Unsound mind** and stands so declared by a court,
 - **Undischarged insolvent,**
 - **Not a citizen of India or has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a foreign state** or is under any acknowledgement of allegiance to a foreign state,
 - **Disqualified under any law made by Parliament.**

Question 18:

Which of the following are envisaged by the Right against Exploitation in the Constitution of India? (2017)

1. Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour

2. Abolition of untouchability
3. Protection of the interests of minorities
4. Prohibition of employment of children in factories and mines

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- **Articles 23 and 24** under Part III (Fundamental Rights) of the Constitution deal with the Right against exploitation.
 - Article 23 provides for the **prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour**. It states that traffic in human beings and begar and other similar forms of forced labour are prohibited and any contravention of this provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law.
 - Article 24 provides for the **prohibition of employment of children in factories, etc.** It states that no child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.
 - **Hence, option C is correct.**
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Question 19:

With reference to Press Council of India (PCI), consider the following statements :

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. It overviews the functioning of print media only.
3. Its decisions are final and cannot be appealed before a court of law.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory body established under the PCI Act of 1978. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - PCI overviews the functioning of print media only. That is, it can enforce standards upon newspapers, journals, magazines and other forms of print media. It does not have the power to review the functioning of the electronic media like radio, television and internet media. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Decisions of the PCI are final and cannot be appealed before a court of law. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
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Question 20:

With reference to the 'Geographical Indication (GI) status', consider the following statements:

1. GI is used to identify goods having special characteristics originating from a definite geographical territory.
2. It is administered by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and TradeMarks, under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
3. In India, the registration of a GI is valid for a period of 15 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- Geographical Indication (GI) is an indication used to identify goods having special characteristics originating from a definite geographical territory. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India. The Act is administered by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and TradeMarks, under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The registration of a geographical indication is valid for a period of 10 years. It can be renewed from time to time for a further period of 10 years each. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
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