



60 Steps To Prelims (2021) (Date : 22-04-2021)

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Question 1:

Which of the following are the major components of the Green Revolution?

1. Rural electrification
2. Use of insecticides and pesticides
3. Command Area Development
4. Rural roads and marketing
5. Supply of agricultural credit

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 2 and 3 only
2. 2, 3 and 5 only
3. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
4. All of the above

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- There are **twelve components of the Green Revolution**:
 - High Yielding Varieties (HYV) of seeds.
 - Irrigation through surface water and groundwater.
 - Use of fertilizers (chemical).
 - Use of insecticides and Pesticides.
 - Command Area Development (CAD).
 - Consolidation of holdings.
 - Land reforms.
 - Supply of agricultural credit.
 - Rural electrification.
 - Rural roads and marketing.
 - Farm mechanisation.
 - Agricultural universities.
 - **Hence, option D is correct.**
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Question 2:

Consider the following statements:

1. The President of India can address his resignation letter to either Vice-President or Chief Justice of India.
2. Charges to impeach the President of India must be signed by one-third members of either of the House.
3. All the members who participate in the election of the President also participate in the impeachment proceedings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. 3 only
4. None of the above

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- **Term of President's Office:** The President holds office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office.
 - However, he can resign from his office at any time by **addressing the resignation letter to the Vice-President**. He shall then communicate this to the Lok Sabha Speaker. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - Further, he can also be removed from the office before completion of his term by the process of impeachment.
- **Impeachment of President:**
 - The President can be removed from office by a process of impeachment on the ground of 'violation of the Constitution'.
 - The impeachment charges can be initiated by either House of Parliament. These charges should be signed by **one-fourth members of the House** (that framed the charges), and a 14 days' notice should be given to the President. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - After the impeachment resolution is passed by a majority of **two-thirds of the total membership of that House**, it is sent to the other House, which should investigate the charges.
- The **President has the right to appear and to be represented** during such investigation. If the other House also sustains the charges and passes the impeachment resolution by a majority of two-thirds of the total membership, then the President stands removed from his office from the date on which the resolution is passed.
- Thus, an impeachment is a quasi-judicial procedure in the Parliament. In this context, two things should be noted:
 - The **nominated members of either House of Parliament can participate in the impeachment of the President** though they do not participate in his election.
 - The elected members of the legislative assemblies of states and the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry do not participate in the impeachment of the President though they participate in his election. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Question 3:

Consider the following statements:

1. Both the cabinet ministers and the non-cabinet ministers can be the members of the cabinet committees.
2. Home minister can also act as a chairman of the cabinet committees.
3. Cabinet committees are constituted under the Transaction of Business Rules, 1961.

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 : 4

Explanation

- **Features of Cabinet Committees:**
 - They are extra-constitutional. In other words, they are not mentioned in the Constitution. However, the Rules of Business provide for their establishment.
 - They are of two types – standing and ad hoc. The former are of a permanent nature while the latter are of a temporary nature. The ad hoc committees are constituted from time to time to deal with special problems. They are disbanded after their task is completed.
 - Their membership varies from three to eight. They usually include only Cabinet Ministers. However, the non-cabinet Ministers are not debarred from their membership. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - They not only include the Ministers in charge of subjects covered by them but also include other senior Ministers.
 - They are mostly headed by the Prime Minister. Sometimes other Cabinet Ministers, particularly the Home Minister or the Finance Minister, also act as their Chairman. But, in case the Prime Minister is a member of a committee, he invariably presides over it. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Under the **Transaction of Business Rules**, the Government constitutes Cabinet Committees. The executive works under the Government of India Transaction of Business Rules, 1961.

These Rules emerge out of **Article 77(3) of the Constitution**, which states: “The President shall make rules for more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of India, and for the allocation among Ministers of the said business.” **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
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Question 4:

With reference to the ‘Wainganga River’, consider the following statements :

1. It originates in the Mahadeo Hills.
2. It is the largest tributary of the Godavari river.
3. The Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project is being constructed on the Wainganga river.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- Wainganga River rises in the Mahadeo Hills in Madhya Pradesh. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Pranahita river is the largest tributary of the Godavari river covering about 34% of its drainage basin. Other major tributaries of Godavari include Indravati, Pravara, Wardha, Wainganga, Kanhan, Purna, Sabari, Manjira, Bindusara River, etc. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - The Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project is an under-construction multi-purpose irrigation project at the confluence point of Pranahita River and Godavari River. Gosikhurd irrigation project is being constructed on the Wainganga River. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
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Question 5:

Which of the following is/are the function/ functions of the Cabinet Secretariat?

1. Preparation of agenda for Cabinet Meetings
2. Secretarial assistance to Cabinet Committees
3. Allocation of Financial resources to the Ministries

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The Cabinet Secretariat functions directly under the Prime Minister's Office. The administrative head of the Secretariat is the Cabinet Secretary who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board.
 - The business allocated to Cabinet Secretariat under Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 includes:
 - Secretarial assistance to the Cabinet and Cabinet Committees;** facilitating a smooth transaction of business in Ministries/Departments;
 - preparing agenda for Cabinet meeting;** assist in decision-making in Government by ensuring Inter- Ministerial coordination, ironing out differences amongst Ministries/Departments and evolving consensus. **Hence, 1 and 2 are correct.**
 - **Allocating financial resources to the Ministries is not the function of the Cabinet Secretariat.** It is done by the Ministry of Finance through budget allocation. **Hence, 3 is not correct.**
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Question 6:

Consider the following provisions of 91st Constitutional Amendment Act of 2003:

1. The Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15 percent of the total strength of the Lok Sabha excluding the Prime Minister.
2. The number of ministers, including the Chief Minister, in a state shall not be less than 12.

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 **91st Amendment Act of 2003** has made the following provisions to limit the size of Council of Ministers, to debar defectors from holding public offices, and to strengthen the anti-defection law:

1. The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Union Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15 percent of the total strength of the Lok Sabha (Article 75). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

2. A member of either House of Parliament belonging to any political party who is disqualified on the ground of defection shall also be disqualified to be appointed as a minister.
 3. The total number of ministers, including the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a state shall not exceed 15 percent of the total strength of the Legislative Assembly of that state. But, the number of ministers, including the Chief Minister, in a **state shall not be less than 12. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 4. A member of either House of a state legislature belonging to any political party who is disqualified on the ground of defection shall also be disqualified to be appointed as a minister.
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Question 7:

Consider the following statements with respect to a type of forest found in India:

1. It is found in the areas of the country, where rainfall ranges between 70-100 cm.
2. These forests are found in rainier areas of the Peninsula and the plains of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
3. Tendu, palas, amaltas, bel, khair, axlewood, etc. are the common trees of these forests.

Which of the following types of forest in India is referred to in the statements given above?

1. Dry Deciduous forests
2. Wet Deciduous forests
3. Semi Evergreen forests
4. Montane forests

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- **Dry deciduous forest** covers vast areas of the country, where rainfall ranges between 70-100 cm. On the wetter margins, it has a transition to the moist deciduous, while on the drier margins to thorn forests.
- These forests are **found in rainier areas of the Peninsula and the plains of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.** In the higher rainfall regions of the Peninsular plateau and the northern Indian plain, these forests have a parkland landscape with open stretches in which teak and other trees interspersed with patches of grass are common.

- As the dry season begins, the trees shed their leaves completely and the forest appears like a vast grassland with naked trees all around. **Tendu, palas, amaltas, bel, khair, axlewood, etc. are the common trees of these forests.** In the western and southern part of Rajasthan, vegetation cover is very scanty due to low rainfall and overgrazing. **Hence, option A is correct.**
- The regions which record rainfall between 100-200 cm. are wet deciduous forest. These forests are found in the northeastern states along the foothills of Himalayas, eastern slopes of the Western Ghats and Odisha. Teak, sal, shisham, hurra, mahua, amla, semul, kusum, and sandalwood etc. are the main species of these forests.

Question 8:

With reference to the Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI), consider the following statements:

1. An applicant is not eligible for the OCI card if he, his parents or grandparents have ever been a citizen of Pakistan and Bangladesh.
2. OCI cardholders do not need permission to make donations to religious and charitable institutions.
3. OCI cardholders do not get voting rights but can purchase agricultural or farmland.

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

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

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

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- According to Section 7A of the Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) card rules, an applicant is not eligible for the OCI card if he, his parents or grandparents have ever been a citizen of Pakistan or Bangladesh. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Overseas citizens need permission under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010 (FCRA) to make donations to religious and charitable institutions. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - OCI cardholders do not get voting rights, cannot hold a government job and can not purchase agricultural or farmland. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
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Question 9:

Regarding the Scheduled and Tribal Areas, consider the following statements:

1. The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
2. The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes in any state except Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
3. The governor is empowered to declare an area to be a scheduled area.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1, 2 and 3
4. None of the above

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- The **Fifth Schedule** of the Constitution deals with the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes in any state except the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, on the other hand, deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - The features of administration contained in the Fifth Schedule are as follows:
 - **Declaration of Scheduled Areas:** The President is empowered to declare an area to be a scheduled area. He can also increase or decrease its area, alter its boundary lines in consultation with the governor of the state concerned. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
 - **Executive Power of State and Centre:** The executive power of a state extends to the scheduled areas therein. But, the governor has a special responsibility regarding such areas. He has to submit a report to the President regarding the administration of such areas, annually or whenever so required by the President.
 - **Tribes Advisory Council:** Each state having scheduled areas has to establish a tribes advisory council to advise on welfare and advancement of the scheduled tribes.
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Question 10:

Consider the following statements:

1. No criminal proceedings shall be instituted against the Governor of a State in any court during his term of office.
2. The emoluments and allowances of the Governor of a State shall not be diminished during his term of office.

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 : 3

Explanation

- **Article 361 of the Indian Constitution** provides certain immunities to the President of India and the Governor of the States:
 - **No criminal proceedings whatsoever shall be instituted or continued against the President, or the Governor of a State, in any court during his term of office. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - No process for the arrest or imprisonment of the President, or the Governor of a State, shall issue from any court during his term of office.
 - No civil proceedings against the President, or the Governor, shall be instituted during his term of office in any court in respect of any act done by him in his personal capacity. However, after giving two months' notice, civil proceedings can be instituted against him during his term of office in respect of his personal acts done before or after entering the office.
 - **Article 158 states that the emoluments and allowances of the Governor shall not be diminished during his term of office. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
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Question 11:

Consider the following statements:

1. Each house of the Parliament can be prorogued by the President even when it is in session.
2. Adjournment of any house of the Parliament does not affect the bills pending before the house.

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 : 3

Explanation

Sessions of Parliament:

- **Adjournment:** A session of Parliament consists of many meetings. Each meeting of a day consists of two sittings, that is, a morning sitting from 11 am to 1 pm and post-lunch sitting from 2 pm to 6 pm.
 - A sitting of Parliament can be terminated by adjournment or adjournment sine die or prorogation or dissolution (in the case of the Lok Sabha).
 - **An adjournment suspends the work** in a sitting for a specified time, which may be hours, days or weeks.
 - **Adjournment Sine Die:** Adjournment sine die means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period. In other words, when the House is adjourned without naming a day for reassembly, it is called adjournment sine die. The power of adjournment as well as adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer of the House. He can also call a sitting of the House before the date or time to which it has been adjourned or at any time after the House has been adjourned sine die.
 - **Prorogation** means the termination of a session of the house by an order made by the President under article 85(2) of the Constitution. Usually, within a few days after the house adjourned sine die by the presiding officer, the President issues a notification for the prorogation of the house. However, the President can also prorogue the House while in session. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - **Adjournment does not affect the bills or any other business pending** before the House and the same can be resumed when the House meets again. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
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Question 12:

With reference to the Attorney General of India, consider the following statements:

1. According to the provisions in the Constitution of India, he has to resign when the council of ministers resigns or is replaced.
2. His remuneration is equal to that of a judge of the Supreme Court.

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

- The Article 76 of Indian Constitution provides for the office of the Attorney General(AG) of India, the highest law officer in the country.
He is appointed by the president.
 - **Requirements for appointment:**
 - Must be a citizen of India
 - Must have been a judge of some high court for five years, or
 - Must be an advocate of some high court for ten years, or
 - Must be an eminent jurist, in the opinion of the president.
 - The term of office of the AG is not fixed by the Constitution.
 - He holds office during the pleasure of the president.
 - He may also quit his office by submitting his resignation to the president.
 - The Constitution does not contain the procedure and grounds for his removal.
 - **Conventionally, he resigns when the government (council of ministers) resigns** or is replaced, as he is appointed on its advice. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - The remuneration of the **AG is not fixed by the Constitution.**
He receives such remuneration as the president determines. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - He has the right of audience in all courts in the territory of India.
 - He has the right to speak and to take part in the proceedings of both the Houses of Parliament or their joint sitting and any committee of the Parliament of which he may be named a member, but without a right to vote.
 - He enjoys all the privileges and immunities that are available to a member of Parliament.
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Question 13:

With reference to Bandipur tiger reserve, consider the following statements:

1. Bandipur tiger reserve forms a part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

2. Kabini, a tributary of Krishna river flows through the reserve.

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

- Bandipur tiger reserve forms a part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Kabini, a tributary of Cauvery river flows through the reserve. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
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Question 14:

With reference to the Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund (AMIF), consider the following statements:

1. The fund is a corpus of Rs 2000 crore for development and up-gradation of agricultural marketing infrastructure.
2. It will be used in upgrading Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs) and Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs).

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 : 3

Explanation

- Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved a corpus of Rs. 2,000 crore for Agri Market Infrastructure Fund (AMIF) to be **created with NABARD for development and up-gradation of agricultural marketing** infrastructure in rural agricultural markets. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - The Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund was announced in the 2018 Budget for developing and upgrading agricultural marketing infrastructure in the **22,000 Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs) and 585 Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC).** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
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Question 15:

Which one of the following statements is correct?

1. In India, the same person cannot be appointed as Governor for two or more States at the same time
2. The Judges of the High Court of the States in India are appointed by the Governor of the State just as the Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President
3. No procedure has been laid down in the Constitution of India for the removal of a Governor from his/her post
4. In the case of a Union Territory having a legislative setup, the Chief Minister is appointed by the Lt. Governor on the basis of majority support

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The **executive authority of a State is vested in the Governor**; and he is the constitutional or the nominal head of the State in the same way as President is the constitutional head of the Union.
- Article 153 of the Indian Constitution says that there shall be a Governor for each State. The 7th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1956 facilitated **appointment of the same person as Governor of two or more states.**

- Article 217 of the Indian Constitution **deals with the appointment and conditions of the office of a Judge of a High Court.**
 - Judges of the High Courts are appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India, Governor of the State and also the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.
 - Thus, the **Governor does not appoint the judges** of the High Court.
 - The Governor is not elected by the process of direct or indirect voting (like the Chief Minister, the Prime Minister or the President). The Governor of a particular state is **appointed directly by the President of India**, for a period of five years.

There is no procedure mentioned in the Constitution of India for the removal of a Governor from his/her post. **Hence, option C is correct.**
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Question 16:

Biorock Technology, recently in the news, is related to:

1. Determination of age of fossil fuels.
2. Restoration of coral reefs.
3. Breaking down environmental pollutants.
4. Carbon sequestration

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

Biorock Technology is a method that applies safe, low voltage electrical currents through seawater, causing dissolved minerals to crystallize on structures, growing into a white limestone (CaCO_3) similar to that which naturally makes up coral reefs and tropical white-sand beaches. **Hence, option B is the correct answer.**

Question 17:

Consider the following States:

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Himachal Pradesh
3. Mizoram

In which of the above States do 'Tropical Wet Evergreen Forests' occur?

1. 1 only

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

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The tropical wet evergreen forests are found in those regions where **annual rainfall exceeds 250 cm, annual mean temperature is 25-27 degree Celsius**, average **annual humidity is above 77%** and the dry season is very short.
 - In India, such type of vegetation occurs in the **western side of the Western Ghats, north east region, and Andaman and Nicobar islands**. Hence, both 1 and 3 are correct, while 2 is not correct. **Hence, option (c) is correct.**
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Question 18:

Consider the following statements:

1. The provision which defines the strength of the Council of Ministers including the Prime Minister was added by the 91st Amendment Act.
2. The Council of Ministers are collectively responsible to the Upper house.
3. Article 75 of the constitution says that the Prime Minister of India shall be appointed by the President.

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 : 3

Explanation

- **Article 74–Council of Ministers to aid and advise the President**
 - There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President who shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such advice.
 - However, the President may require the Council of Ministers to reconsider such advice and the President shall act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration.
 - The advice tendered by the council of Ministers to the President shall not be inquired into by any court.
 - **Article 75–Other provisions as to Ministers**
 - The Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President and the other ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha. This provision was added by the 91st Amendment Act of 2003. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - A member of either House of Parliament belonging to any political party who is disqualified on the ground of defection shall also be disqualified to be appointed as a minister. This provision was also added by the 91st Amendment Act of 2003.
 - The ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the President.
 - The council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - The President shall administer the oaths of office and secrecy to a minister.
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Question 19:

Consider the following statements regarding Heat Budget:

1. In Tropical region, insolation received is higher than the high latitudes.
2. Equator receives more solar radiation than the tropics.

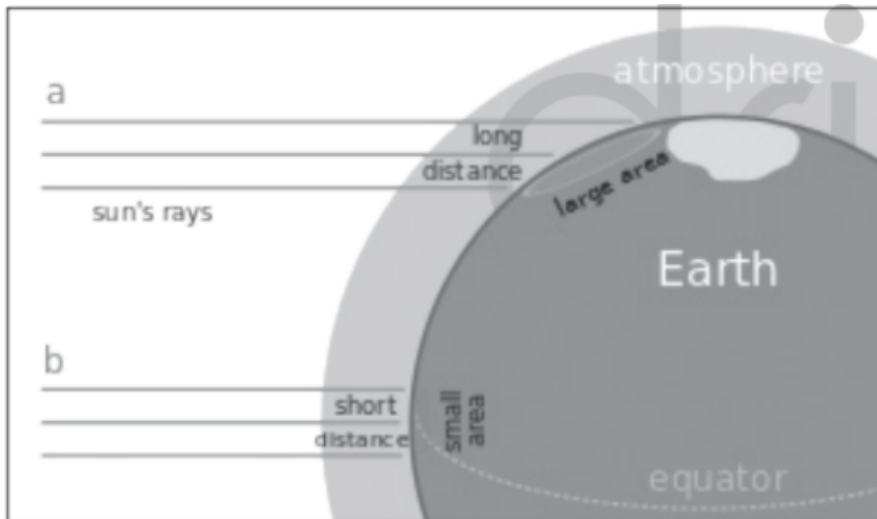
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- The energy received by the earth is known as incoming solar radiation which in short is termed as insolation.
- Due to the Earth's inclination, the mid-day sun is almost over the head within the tropics but the sun's rays reach the earth at an angle outside the tropics. Temperature thus diminishes from equatorial regions to the poles. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.** (The effect of latitude on solar insolation. This shows why temperature are lower in higher latitudes than in the tropics)



Maximum insolation is received over the subtropical deserts, where the cloudiness is the least. **Equator receives comparatively less insolation than the tropics.** In winter, the middle and higher latitudes receive less radiation than in summer. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Question 20:

Consider the following statements:

1. Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) is the amount of dissolved oxygen used by microorganisms to metabolize organic matter present in water.
2. The more the organic matter in water, lower is the amount of dissolved oxygen available for fishes.

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

- Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) is the amount of oxygen needed to oxidize all organic substances in water. Whereas, Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) is the amount of dissolved oxygen used by microorganisms to metabolize organic matter in water. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - The more organic matter there is (e.g., in sewage and polluted bodies of water), the greater is the BOD; and the greater the BOD, the lower the amount of dissolved oxygen available for higher animals such as fishes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
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