Q1. The Sakraat festival is celebrated with the ‘Budigali’ or ‘Kalasi’ dance in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, where women take part in this dance, carrying decorative pots on their heads.

a. Madhya Pradesh

b. Nagaland

c. Odisha

d. Manipur

Ans. c

Sol. The Sakraat festival is a cultural celebration observed in Odisha, where women perform the traditional Budigali or Kalasi dance. During this dance, women carry decorated pots on their heads, symbolizing prosperity and tradition. This dance is not typically associated with states like Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, or Manipur. Hence, Odisha is the correct answer.

Q2. Which institution mainly provides financial assistance and support to microfinance institutions in India?

a. Indian Banks' Association (IBA)

b. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

c. Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)

d. Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Ans. b

Sol. SIDBI, or the Small Industries Development Bank of India, is the primary financial institution that provides support to microfinance institutions (MFIs) in India. It offers refinancing, capacity building, and other financial services to promote entrepreneurship among small and micro enterprises. The IBA, DEA, and Ministry of Corporate Affairs play different regulatory or advisory roles but do not serve this direct financial support function. Hence, SIDBI is the correct answer.

Q3. Which of the following planets has the longest day?

a. Earth

b. Venus

c. Mars

d. Jupiter

Ans. b

Sol. Venus has the longest day of all planets in the solar system. It takes about 243 Earth days to complete one full rotation on its axis, which is longer than its orbital period around the Sun. In comparison, Earth takes 24 hours, Mars 24.6 hours, and Jupiter just under 10 hours for a full rotation. Therefore, Venus is the correct answer.

Q4. Which of the following novels is based on the partition of India and was written by Khushwant Singh?

a. Train to Pakistan

b. Narcopolis

c. The Great Indian Novel

d. Untouchables

Ans. a

Sol. “Train to Pakistan” is a novel by Khushwant Singh that is centered around the tragic events during the partition of India in 1947. It vividly portrays the violence and human suffering during that time. “Narcopolis” by Jeet Thayil, “The Great Indian Novel” by Shashi Tharoor, and “Untouchables” by Mulk Raj Anand are unrelated to the partition theme. Thus, the correct answer is “Train to Pakistan.”

Q5. What is the name of the mascot for the 37th National Games?

a. Moga

b. Pandi

c. Olly

d. Jelly

Ans. a

Sol. Moga was the official mascot of the 37th National Games held in India. Mascots are symbolic representations used to promote the spirit of the games and connect with the public. The names Pandi, Olly, and Jelly are associated with other events or are incorrect in this context. Hence, Moga is the correct answer.

Q6. Lack of functional small intestine can cause a malabsorption disorder leading to diarrhoea, malnutrition, and weight loss. This condition is known as:

a. Down syndrome

b. Hypoglycaemia

c. Short bowel syndrome

d. Hyperglycaemia

Ans. c

Sol. Short bowel syndrome occurs when the small intestine is either missing or not functioning properly, leading to poor nutrient absorption. This can result in symptoms such as diarrhea, weight loss, and malnutrition. Down syndrome is a genetic disorder, and both hypo- and hyperglycaemia are related to blood sugar levels. Therefore, short bowel syndrome is the correct choice.

Q7. Which country’s Constitution was the inspiration behind the Directive Principles of the Indian Constitution?

a. The Constitution of the United States

b. The Constitution of the United Kingdom

c. The Constitution of Australia

d. The Constitution of Ireland

Ans. d

Sol. The Directive Principles of State Policy in the Indian Constitution were inspired by the Irish Constitution. These principles aim to establish social and economic democracy. While India borrowed features from other constitutions like the U.S. (fundamental rights) and the UK (parliamentary system), the idea of directive principles was specifically taken from Ireland. Thus, Ireland is the correct answer.

Q8. Manika Batra won a bronze medal in the Asian Cup tournament. She is related to which sport?

a. Table Tennis

b. Gymnastics

c. Chess

d. Judo

Ans. a

Sol. Manika Batra is an Indian table tennis player who has represented the country in several international tournaments, including the Asian Cup, where she won a bronze medal. She is not associated with gymnastics, chess, or judo. Hence, Table Tennis is the correct answer.

Q9. What is the capital city of Norway?

a. Oslo

b. Stockholm

c. Copenhagen

d. Helsinki

Ans. a

Sol. Oslo is the capital of Norway. It serves as the economic and governmental center of the country. Stockholm is the capital of Sweden, Copenhagen is the capital of Denmark, and Helsinki is the capital of Finland. Therefore, Oslo is the correct answer.

Q10. Lachhu Maharaj is a celebrated \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dancer.

a. Bharatnatyam

b. Kathak

c. Kuchipudi

d. Odissi

Ans. b

Sol. Lachhu Maharaj was a renowned Kathak dancer and choreographer. He made significant contributions to classical Indian dance and was known for bringing Kathak to cinema. Bharatnatyam, Kuchipudi, and Odissi are other classical dance forms from different regions of India but not associated with Lachhu Maharaj. Thus, Kathak is the correct answer.

Q11. Which gas is responsible for the characteristic smell of rotten eggs?

a. Carbon dioxide

b. Methane

c. Hydrogen sulfide

d. Sulfur dioxide

Ans. c

Sol. Hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) is a colorless gas known for its characteristic foul odor, similar to that of rotten eggs. It is produced naturally by the breakdown of organic matter and is commonly found in sewers, swamps, and volcanoes. Carbon dioxide and methane are odorless, while sulfur dioxide has a pungent smell but not like rotten eggs. Hence, the correct answer is hydrogen sulfide.

Q12. The Constitution allows \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ maximum members in Lok Sabha as of June 2023.

a. 550

b. 543

c. 546

d. 545

Ans. a

Sol. As per Article 81 of the Indian Constitution, the maximum strength of the Lok Sabha is 552, comprising 530 members from the states, 20 from Union Territories, and 2 nominated by the President (a provision currently inactive). However, as of June 2023, the allowed maximum strength is 550 elected members. While the current operational strength is 543, the constitutional cap is 550. Thus, the correct answer is 550.

Q13. The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a welfare programme being administered by which Ministry of Government of India?

a. Ministry of Rural Development

b. Ministry of Home Affairs

c. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

d. Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Ans. a

Sol. The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development. It provides financial assistance to elderly people, widows, and disabled persons in the form of pensions. The scheme is part of India’s effort to ensure social justice and support vulnerable sections of society. Other ministries mentioned are not responsible for this scheme. Hence, option A is correct.

Q14. FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 final was held in which city?

a. Ahmedabad

b. Bhubaneswar

c. Navi Mumbai

d. Margo

Ans. c

Sol. The final match of the FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup 2022 was held at DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra. This venue was one of the three host cities in India, along with Bhubaneswar and Goa (Margao). Although matches were played in other cities, the final was specifically held in Navi Mumbai. Thus, the correct answer is Navi Mumbai.

Q15. Indian industrialists reacted against colonial policies that restricted business activities and formed an organisation in 1927. What was it called?

a. Indian Industrial and Commercial Congress (IICC)

b. Federation of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI)

c. Organization of Industries of India (OII)

d. Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)

Ans. b

Sol. In 1927, prominent Indian industrialists including G.D. Birla and Purshottamdas Thakurdas established the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) to voice concerns over colonial economic policies. FICCI became a platform to promote Indian businesses and lobby for economic reforms. IICC and OII are fictitious here, and CII was established much later in 1895. Hence, FICCI is the correct answer.

Q16. What is the name of the geographic feature that serves as a boundary between India and Sri Lanka?

a. Dardanelles Strait

b. Palk Strait

c. Bosporus Strait

d. Strait of Gibraltar

Ans. b

Sol. The Palk Strait is the narrow strip of water that separates India (Tamil Nadu) and Sri Lanka. It connects the Bay of Bengal to the northeast with the Gulf of Mannar to the southwest. The Dardanelles and Bosporus are in Turkey, while the Strait of Gibraltar separates Europe and Africa. Hence, Palk Strait is the correct answer.

Q17. Who founded the All-India Forward Bloc Party?

a. Chandra Shekhar Azad

b. Bhagat Singh

c. Subhas Chandra Bose

d. Rasbehari Bose

Ans. c

Sol. The All-India Forward Bloc was founded by Subhas Chandra Bose in 1939 after he resigned from the presidency of the Indian National Congress due to ideological differences. The party aimed to unite the left-wing sections and continue the struggle for India’s independence. Chandra Shekhar Azad and Bhagat Singh were revolutionaries, and Rasbehari Bose was associated with the INA movement. Hence, the correct answer is Subhas Chandra Bose.

Q18. Who among the following made Ganesh Chaturthi popular as a public celebration in Maharashtra?

a. Khudiram Bose

b. Vinayak Damodar Savarkar

c. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak

d. Lala Lajpat Rai

Ans. c

Sol. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was instrumental in transforming Ganesh Chaturthi from a private family celebration into a large-scale public festival in Maharashtra in the late 19th century. He used it as a tool to unite Indians against British colonial rule. The others played significant roles in India's freedom movement but not in this context. Hence, the correct answer is Lokmanya Tilak.

Q19. The Taj Mahal was built by:

a. Shah Jahan

b. Humayun

c. Jahangir

d. Akbar

Ans. a

Sol. The Taj Mahal was built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. Construction began in 1632 and took over two decades to complete. It stands as a symbol of eternal love and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. While Humayun, Jahangir, and Akbar were also prominent Mughal rulers, the Taj Mahal is solely attributed to Shah Jahan. Therefore, the correct answer is Shah Jahan.

Q20. In December 2022, Government of India launched the Grih Pravesh scheme. This scheme aims to provide benefits to the residents of \_\_\_\_ areas.

a. only tribal

b. only urban

c. both rural and urban

d. only rural

Ans. c

Sol. The Grih Pravesh scheme, launched by the Indian government in December 2022, aims to provide housing and related benefits under the PMAY initiative to beneficiaries in both rural and urban areas. It is part of the government’s larger effort to ensure “Housing for All.” Hence, the correct answer is both rural and urban.

Q21. Mango showers are associated with which two states?

a. Kerala and Karnataka

b. Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

c. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

d. Kerala and Andhra Pradesh

Ans. a

Sol. Mango showers are pre-monsoon rainfall occurring in the southern states of India, particularly Kerala and Karnataka. These showers are important for the early ripening of mangoes and help in agricultural activities. The other state pairs mentioned do not commonly experience mango showers. Therefore, the correct answer is Kerala and Karnataka.

Q22. When one stone is thrown upwards, what type of energy conversion would occur?

a. Potential energy would change to gravitational energy

b. Kinetic energy would change to mechanical energy

c. Kinetic energy would change to gravitational potential energy

d. Mechanical energy would change to kinetic energy

Ans. c

Sol. When a stone is thrown upwards, its kinetic energy (due to motion) is converted into gravitational potential energy as it gains height. At the peak, the kinetic energy becomes zero, and potential energy is maximum. Hence, the correct transformation is kinetic energy to gravitational potential energy.

Q23. Who is the current President of India as of 2023?

a. Droupadi Murmu

b. Ram Nath Kovind

c. Pratibha Patil

d. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

Ans. a

Sol. Droupadi Murmu became the 15th President of India in July 2022, becoming the first tribal woman to hold the office. Ram Nath Kovind was her immediate predecessor. Pratibha Patil and A.P.J. Abdul Kalam were previous Presidents but not current. Therefore, Droupadi Murmu is the correct answer.

Q24. What is the main source of income for commercial banks?

a. Interest earned on loans and advances

b. Donations from customers

c. Profits from stock market investments

d. Government grants

Ans. a

Sol. Commercial banks primarily earn income through interest charged on loans and advances given to customers. This constitutes their major revenue source. Donations and government grants are not income sources for banks, and while banks may invest in markets, that’s not their core income. Thus, interest from loans is the correct answer.

Q25. The Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited (TISCO) was started in the year \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at Sakchi in Jharkhand state.

a. 1907

b. 1975

c. 1951

d. 1989

Ans. a

Sol. Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited (now Tata Steel) was established in 1907 at Sakchi, which later became Jamshedpur, in present-day Jharkhand. It was India’s first large-scale steel plant and played a crucial role in the country’s industrial development. The other years mentioned are not related to TISCO's founding. Hence, the correct answer is 1907.