



1 What is the importance of the Xinjiang region that is frequently in news?

1. Aksai Chin, a disputed territory between India and China, falls in this region.
2. It is China's largest natural gas-producing regions.
3. It borders some the countries of Central Asia alongwith Russia, Afghanistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir(POK).
4. It borders the Tibet Autonomous Region where several movements are active against the Chinese occupation.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1 and 3 only ✖
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 4 ✔
- D. 2 and 3 only

◦ Your Answer : A

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Xinjiang is a provincial-level autonomous region of China in the northwest of the country.

It is the largest Chinese administrative division and the eighth largest country subdivision in the world, spanning over 1.6 million km².

Xinjiang contains the disputed territory of Aksai Chin, which is administered by China and claimed by India.

Xinjiang borders the countries of Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan Occupied Kashmir(POK) and India. The rugged Karakoram, Kunlun, and Tian Shan mountain ranges occupy much of Xinjiang's borders, as well as its western and southern regions.

Xinjiang also borders Tibet Autonomous Region and the provinces of Gansu and Qinghai. The most well-known route of the historical Silk Road ran through the territory from the east to its northwestern border.

In recent decades, abundant oil and mineral reserves have been found in Xinjiang, and it is currently China's largest natural gas-producing region.



Q Source: China map

2 The production possibility frontier will NOT be influenced even if the following factor changes in the economy:

- A. Technology
- B. Total resources
- C. Change in consumer preferences ✓
- D. None of the above will bring a change in the PPF.

◦ Your Answer :

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Option C: This is because PPF shows a possibility of production and not what the consumers want to be produced. Even if the consumers change their preferences, the possibility of production in the economy in terms of technological capability or manpower remains the same.

For e.g. if all the resources are used in the production of corn, the maximum amount of corn that can be produced is 4 units and if all resources are used in the production of cotton, at the most, 10 units of cotton can be produced. The economy can also produce 1 unit of corn and 9 units of cotton or 2 units of corn and 7 units of cotton or 3 units of corn. There can be many other possibilities. These possibilities are not changed even if the consumer preference changes, the actual quantity of each good produced may however depend on the consumer preference.

Option A and B: These will tend to shift the PPF downwards or upwards because an improvement in technology or resources would imply a change in production possibilities.

Q Source: Page 4: 12th NCERT Microeconomics



3 Consider the following statement.

1. E.V. Ramasami Naicker was a worker of the Congress party, started the self-respect movement and led the anti-Brahmin movement.
2. Madurai Pillai, affectionately called Thatha, for his untiring efforts towards scheduled castes, accompanied Dr. Ambedkar to the Round Table Conference.

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only ✓
- B. 2 only ✗
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: He was Rettaimalai Srinivasan. Affectionately called Thatha (Grandfather) for his untiring efforts to re-establish the cultural ownership and legacy of the scheduled communities, he accompanied Dr. Ambedkar to the Round Table Conference.

He rejected demeaning terms like 'Depressed classes', which was perhaps the precursor to today's label 'Dalit'. He wanted Scheduled Communities to be named 'reformist Hindus' because they rejected the disease of untouchability plaguing the so-called caste Hindus.

Statement 2: Known as Periyar (the respected); strong supporter of atheism; famous for his anti-caste struggle and rediscovery of Dravid identity; initially a worker of the Congress party; started the self-respect movement (1925); led the anti-Brahmin movement; worked for the Justice party and later founded Dravid Kazhagam; opposed to Hindi and domination of north India; propounded the thesis that north Indians and Brahmins are Aryans.

The Dravidian movement led to the formation of Dravida Kazhagam [DK] under the leadership of E.V. Ramasami 'Periyar'.

Q Source: Page 152: 12th NCERT: Social Change and Development in India

4 Adam Smith had suggested that if the buyers and sellers in each market take their decisions following only their own self-interest, economists will not need to think of the wealth and welfare of the country as a whole separately. However this is unlikely to be so if

1. Markets do not exist.
2. Markets do not produce equilibrium of demand and supply of goods and services.
3. Market related outcomes do not coincide with socially desirable outcomes.
4. Markets are unable to utilize the full spectrum of resources in the society.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 4 ✓



D. 2 and 4 only ✖

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Background: Part of this explanation coincides with the explanation for the Q on Great depression.

The dominant thinking in economics before Keynes was that all the labourers who are ready to work will find employment and all the factories will be working at their full capacity. This school of thought is known as the classical tradition.

However, the Great Depression of 1929 and the subsequent years saw the output and employment levels in the countries of Europe and North America fall by huge amounts. It affected other countries of the world as well. Demand for goods in the market was low, many factories were lying idle, workers were thrown out of jobs.

Justification: Statement 1: Economists found that first, in some cases, the markets did not or could not exist. This can be due to lack of buyers or suppliers, for e.g. of a scare good during a war.

Statement 2: Secondly, in some other cases, the markets existed but failed to produce equilibrium of demand and supply. The whole theory of free market rests on the assumption that markets are able to satisfy (supply) whatever is needed (demand). But, there can be instance when the supply is not forthcoming or there is little demand despite the lower price.

Statement 3 and 4: Thirdly, and most importantly, in a large number of situations society (or the State, or the people as a whole) had decided to pursue certain important social goals unselfishly (in areas like employment, administration, defence, education and health) for which some of the aggregate effects of the microeconomic decisions made by the individual economic agents needed to be modified.

In a developing country like India such choices have to be made to remove or reduce unemployment, to improve access to education and primary health care for all, to provide for good administration, to provide sufficiently for the defence of the country and so on.

Macroeconomics tries to address situations facing the economy as a whole.

Q Source: Page 3: 12th NCERT Microeconomics

5 If a triangle is made with the capital of the nations of Belgium, Hungary and Madrid, which of these nations will fall completely inside the triangle?

- A. Italy
- B. Switzerland ✔
- C. France
- D. Macedonia

- Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning:



Source: EU Map

Q

6 Consider the following statements about the agreements signed between India and USA in the recent past.

1. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Association (LEMOA) gives access, to both countries, to designated military facilities on either side for mounting surgical strikes on mutual target countries.
2. Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) aimed at simplifying technology transfer policies and exploring possibilities of co-development and co-production to invest the defence relationship with strategic value.

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only ✓
- C. Both 1 and 2 ✗
- D. None

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: The three agreements — Logistics Support Agreement (LSA),



Communications Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA) and Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA) are referred to as the foundational agreements which the U.S. signs with countries with which it has close military ties.

They are meant to build basic ground work and promote interoperability between militaries by creating common standards and systems. They also guide sale and transfer of high-end technologies.

LEMOA gives access, to both countries, to designated military facilities on either side for the purpose of refuelling and replenishment. India and the U.S. already hold large number of joint exercises during which payments are done each time, which is a long and tedious process.

There will be no basing of the U.S. troops or assets on Indian soil. This is purely a logistical agreement.

Statement 2: Aggregate worth of defence acquisition from U.S. Defence has crossed over US\$ 13 billion. India and the United States have launched a Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) aimed at simplifying technology transfer policies and exploring possibilities of co-development and co-production to invest the defence relationship with strategic value.

The DTTI Working Group and its Task Force will expeditiously evaluate and decide on unique projects and technologies which would have a transformative impact on bilateral defence relations and enhance India's defence industry and military capabilities.

Q Source: Additional Research: http://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/India_US_brief.pdf
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/What-is-LEMOA/article15604647.ece>

7 Considering a fixed population, the unemployment rate in a country is going to rise in the short run if

- A. The number of people seeking employment increase ✓
- B. The number of people seeking leisure increase
- C. More people shift from full-time employment to part-time employment
- D. More people shift from full-time employment to self-employment

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Keep in mind that we are taking a short term scenario where the labour force is assumed to be fixed. So, people in the labour force can either seek work or not seek work.

Unemployed people are the ones who are willing and available to work and have actively sought work. Those with temporary, part-time or full-time jobs are considered employed.

To calculate the unemployment rate, the number of unemployed people is divided by the number of people in the labor force, which consists of all employed and unemployed people. The ratio is expressed as a percentage.



Options C and D would keep the UR constant.

Option B would reduce the UR because people would not be interested in employment, option A only would increase the UR.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 6: 12th NCERT Macroeconomics

8 Only one side of the moon is visible to us on the earth mainly due to

- A. Rotational velocity of the Moon ✓
- B. Geoid shape and axial tilt of the earth
- C. Atmospheric refraction
- D. The other side of the Moon does not reflect any sunlight

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: The moon moves around the earth in about 27 days. It takes exactly the same time to complete one spin. As a result, only one side of the moon is visible to us on the earth. You can watch this animation for better understanding https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZIB_leg75Q

Option B: Even if the earth was not tilted, you would be able to see only one side of the moon. The geoid shape of earth has nothing to do with our view of the Moon. Even if the earth were to become slightly flatter or rounder, the sight of the moon won't change much.

Q Source: Page 5: NCERT 6th Geography: The Earth Our Habitat

9 Consider the following statements.

1. Earth's magnetic axis and rotational axis do not coincide.
2. Direction of earth's magnetic axis can be found by taking a tangent to any point on the inner Van Allen radiation belt.
3. Magnetic equator circles the earth as a smooth line like the geographic equator, albeit on a different plane.
4. Earth's magnetic dipole passes through the Centre of the earth.

- Which of the above is/are correct?
 - A. 1 and 4 only
 - B. 1, 3 and 4 only
 - C. 1 only ✓
 - D. 2 and 3 None ✗

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: The motions of the liquid iron and nickel outer core of the earth are thought to create the earth's magnetic field. This magnetic field resembles a dipole as if a giant bar magnet was embedded inside.

S1 and 2: However, the axis of the dipole is not aligned with the rotational axis of the earth. Neither is it centered in the earth. The magnetic dipole axis of the earth is tilted about $11\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ from the rotation axis.

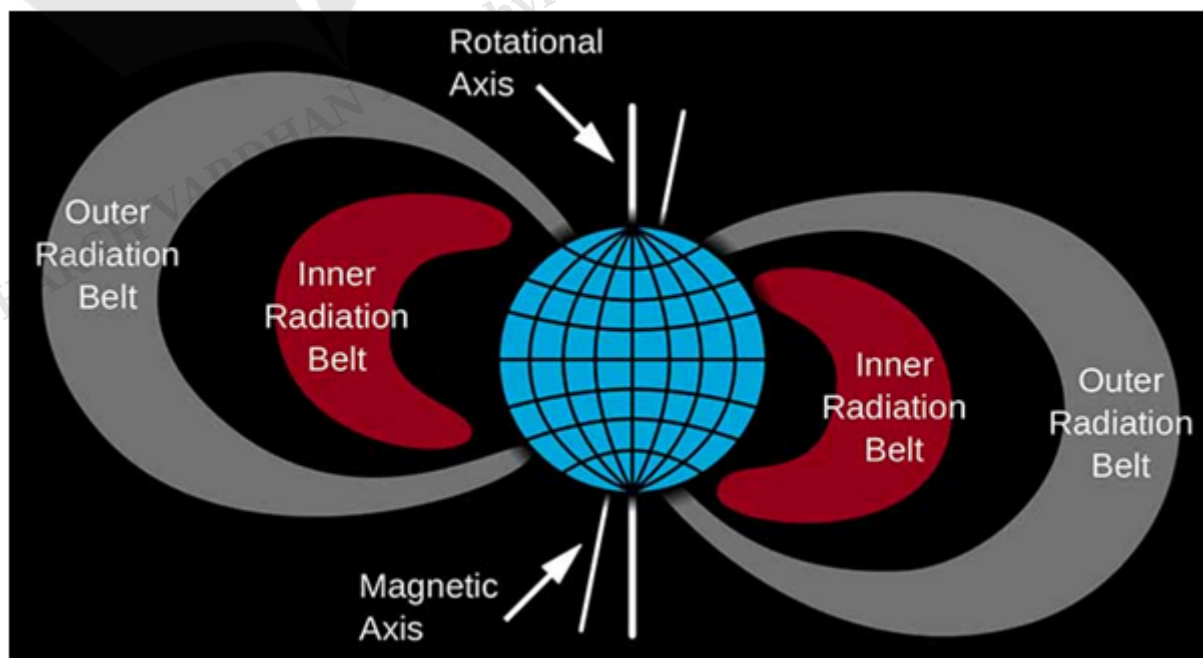
The magnetic poles of the earth are defined as the location of the strongest vertical magnetic field.

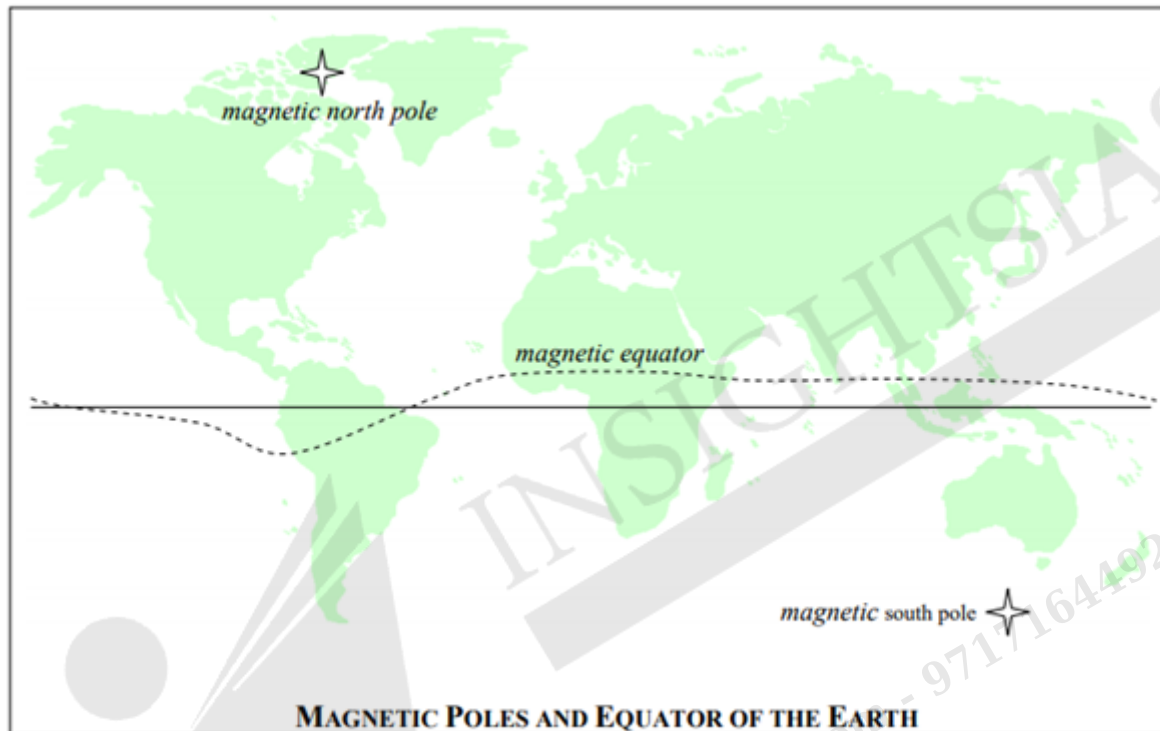
This places the magnetic north pole just west of northern Greenland (about $N80^\circ W70^\circ$) and the magnetic south pole near the coast of Antarctica south of Australia (about $S75^\circ E150^\circ$), as the following diagram shows.

S3: The magnetic equator is defined as the line around the earth where the magnetic field is horizontal, or parallel to the earth's surface. It does not circle the earth as a smooth line like the geographic equator, but instead it meanders north and south, as shown.

Magnetic field lines of the earth enter the north geographic pole and exit the south geographic pole, as the following diagram indicates. So as the earth turns, its magnetic dipole axis wobbles around the rotational axis.

S4: The magnetic dipole of the earth is not centered on the earth's core, but instead is offset by about 700 kilometers towards the direction of southeastern Asia. This creates two features in the magnetic field at the earth's surface.





Q Source: Additional Research: Chapter 1: Goh Cheng Leong - Certificate Physical and Human Geography

https://www.bu.edu/cism/cismdx/ref/Labs/2005_AFWA_ShortCourse/Lab03/refs/EarthMagneticField.pdf

- 10** There will be no difference between the amount that the firms had distributed in the form of factor payments and the aggregate consumption expenditure that they receive as sales revenue in a
- A. Open capitalist economy
 - B. Closed communist economy ❌
 - C. Open capitalist economy
 - D. Closed market economy ✅

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Factor payments are the sum total of remunerations earned by the four factors of production. Only if it is a closed system where only those who work are able to buy goods, there is no leakage from the system. See the diagram below.

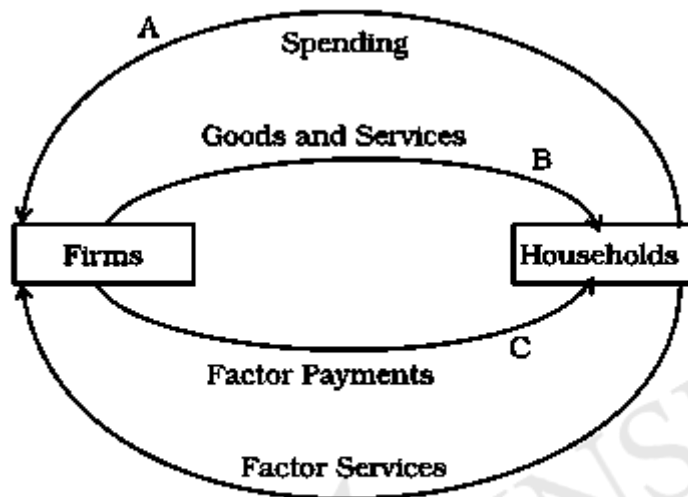


Fig. 2.1: Circular Flow of Income in a Simple Economy

In Fig. 2.1, the uppermost arrow, going from the households to the firms, represents the spending the households undertake to buy goods and services produced by the firms. The second arrow going from the firms to the households is the counterpart of the arrow above.

It stands for the goods and services which are flowing from the firms to the households. In other words this flow is what the households are getting from the firms for which they are making the expenditures. Observe that the aggregate spending of the economy must be equal to the aggregate income earned by the factors of production (the flows are equal at A and C).

Q Source: Page 15: Chapter 2: 12th NCERT Macroeconomics

11 Consider the following statements.

Assertion (A): By looking at sedimentary rocks of different ages, scientists can figure out how climate has changed through Earth's history.

Reason (R): Sedimentary rocks contain fossils of organisms of previous ages.

- In the context of the above, which of these is correct?
 - A. A is correct, and R is an appropriate explanation of A. ✓
 - B. A is correct, but R is not an appropriate explanation of A. ✗
 - C. A is correct, but R is incorrect.
 - D. Both A and R are incorrect.

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: If certain organisms became extinct at a time, say due to severe drought or interglacial shifts, this is recorded in sedimentary fossils as an event of a mass disappearance. Scientists can predict collapse of certain species due to climate change this way.



Based on the above reasoning, sedimentary rocks will contain record of oceanic environments or glacial environments or deserts.

This information can be decoded by studying various layers of sedimentary rocks and their arrangement in layers deep down the crust.

Q Source: Chapter 2: Goh Cheng Leong - Certificate Physical and Human Geography

12 Which of the following are some of the major differences between a centrally planned economy and a market economy?

1. Only the Central authority can create markets for trade in a centrally planned economy, however in a market economy trade markets exist freely.
2. A Centrally planned economy does not provide the opportunity for the creation of non-physical markets where such markets can exist in a market economy
3. A central authority is more likely to intervene and try to achieve an equitable distribution of the final mix of goods and services in a centrally planned economy than in a mixed economy.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

A. 2 and 3 only

B. 1 and 3 only ✖

C. 3 only ✔

D. 1 and 2 only

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: In a centrally planned economy, the government or the central authority plans all the important activities in the economy. All important decisions regarding production, exchange and consumption of goods and services are made by the government.

The central authority may try to achieve a particular allocation of resources and a consequent distribution of the final combination of goods and services which is thought to be desirable for society as a whole.

For example, if it is found that a good or service which is very important for the prosperity and well-being of the economy as a whole, e.g. education or health service, is not produced in adequate amount by the individuals on their own, the government might try to induce the individuals to produce adequate amount of such a good or service.

Statement 2 and 3: The arrangements which allow people to buy and sell commodities freely are the defining features of a market. This can exist both in free market economy and a centrally planned economy.

In contrast to a centrally planned economy, in a market economy, all economic activities are organised through the market. A market, as studied in economics, is an institution which organises the free interaction of individuals pursuing their respective economic activities.



It is important to note that the term 'market' as used in economics is quite different from the common sense understanding of a market. In particular, it has nothing as such to do with the marketplace as you might tend to think of. For buying and selling commodities, individuals may or may not meet each other in an actual physical location.

Interaction between buyers and sellers can take place in a variety of situations such as a villagechowk or a super bazaar in a city, or alternatively, buyers and sellers can interact with each other through telephone or internet and conduct the exchange of commodities.

Q Source: Page 5: 12th NCERT: Microeconomics

13 The Draft Food Safety and Standards (Labeling and Display) Regulations 2018 aims to regulate which of the following areas?

1. Labelling of genetically modified (GM) food
2. Display of information on premises where food is manufactured, processed, served and stored
3. Requirements for food contact materials in non-retail containers and packaged food additives for retail sale

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

A. 1 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 2 only ✖

D. 1, 2 and 3 ✔

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: The proposed regulations will prescribe the labeling requirements of pre-packaged foods and display of essential information on premises where food is manufactured, processed, served and stored.

The draft Regulation also states that HFSS (high in fat, sugar or salt) food products shall not be advertised to children in any form.

It also introduces labelling of genetically modified (GM) food.

Learning: The other key highlighted revisions of the draft regulations include:

- The full revision of the "Nutritional Information" labeling requirement. There is a mention of food categories that do not require nutritional information labeling (unless a nutritional health claim is made on the label). An example of food falling under these categories are food which are single ingredient products (water, sugar, spices), non-nutritive products (coffee, tea, condiments), and packaged fresh produce;
- Mandatory declaration requirements of principle display panel of the package or container:



requires specific essential information to be declared on the Front of Package (FOP) of the packaged food (e.g. name of food, declaration regarding vegetarian or non-vegetarian, and nutritional information related to RDA (recommended dietary allowance));

- Schedule IV of the regulations lays down the list of ingredients/additives in the prepackaged food that must be displayed with the “mandatory declaration” on the label, as well as the specific requirements/restrictions on methods of labeling certain types of foods (e.g. infant food, edible oil and fats, milk and milk products, GMOs, alcoholic beverages);
- Declaration of food additives in reference to the Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulation 2011;
- Specific requirements are established for food contact materials in non-retail containers and packaged food additives for retail sale; and
- Certain exemptions such as labeling for small packages, food with a short shelf-life, and food served for immediate consumption.

Q Source: Additional Research:

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/11/insights-daily-current-affairs-11-july-2018/>

14 Consider the following statements.

1. The expansion created by the ‘Big Bang’ continues even to the present day.
2. Soon after the Big Bang, the Universe became highly opaque and temperatures started rising till the atmosphere was formed.

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

A. 1 only ✓

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2 ✗

D. None

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: In the beginning, all matter forming the universe existed in one place in the form of a “tiny ball” (singular atom) with an unimaginably small volume, infinite temperature and infinite density.

- At the Big Bang the “tiny ball” exploded violently. This led to a huge expansion. It is now generally accepted that the event of big bang took place 13.7 billion years before the present.



The expansion continues even to the present day. As it grew, some energy was converted into matter. Therefore, A is correct.

- Within 300,000 years from the Big Bang, temperature dropped to 4,500 K and gave rise to atomic matter. The universe became transparent. So, S2 is wrong. The actual reason for expansion of Universe has not been fully established by the science community even till date.

Q Source: Page 14: Chapter 2: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

15 Jews are NOT recognized as a religious minority in which of the following states of India?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Kerala ✓
- D. West Bengal ✗

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: Gujarat is third state in India to grant religious minority status to Jews after West Bengal and Maharashtra.

Jews there will get benefits of welfare schemes formulated for religious minority communities.

Six religious communities, viz. Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains have been notified in Gazette of India as minority communities by Union Government all over India.

Constitution of India has not defined word 'Minority' and only refers to 'Minorities' but it speaks of those 'based on religion or language' and rights of minorities have been spelt out in Constitution in detail.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/10/insights-daily-current-affairs-10-july-2018/>

16 In two consecutive years if we see that the figure for GDP of the latter year, at market prices, is twice that of the previous year, we may conclude that

- A. The volume of production of the country must have doubled
- B. The volume of production of the country may have doubled without any increase in prices ✓
- C. The general price level in the country may have doubled with some increase in production
- D. Either (b) or (c) ✗

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : B



◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Option C is incorrect because if production increases even a little despite the price hike the GDP is going to be more than doubled.

- GDP at market prices reflects both production and price.
- It is possible that only prices of all goods and services have doubled between the two years whereas the production has remained constant.
- Therefore, in order to compare the GDP figures (and other macroeconomic variables) of different countries or to compare the GDP figures of the same country at different points of time, we cannot rely on GDPs evaluated at current market prices.
- For comparison we take the help of real GDP. Real GDP is calculated in a way such that the goods and services are evaluated at some constant set of prices (or constant prices). Since these prices remain fixed, if the Real GDP changes we can be sure that it is the volume of production which is undergoing changes.
- Nominal GDP, on the other hand, is simply the value of GDP at the current prevailing prices. For example, suppose a country only produces bread.

In the year 2000 it had produced 100 units of bread, price was Rs 10 per bread. GDP at current price was Rs 1,000. In 2001 the same country produced 110 units of bread at price Rs 15 per bread. Therefore nominal GDP in 2001 was Rs 1,650 ($=110 \times \text{Rs } 15$). Real GDP in 2001 calculated at the price of the year 2000 (2000 will be called the base year) will be $110 \times \text{Rs } 10 = \text{Rs } 1,100$.

Q Source: Page 26: 12th NCERT: Macroeconomics

17 Under Mughal rule, Bengal was a centre of the worldwide trade of

1. Muslin
2. Silk
3. Pearl

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1 only ✗
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 ✓
- D. 2 and 3 only

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : C



◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Muslin is a cotton fabric of plain weave and was hand woven in the region around Dhaka, East Bengal (now Bangladesh).

Statement 1 and 2: During the Mughal era, the most important center of cotton production was Bengal, particularly around its capital city of Dhaka, leading to muslin being called "daka" in distant markets such as Central Asia.

Bengal also exported cotton and silk textiles to markets such as Europe, Indonesia and Japan.

Bengal produced more than 50% of textiles and around 80% of silks imported by the Dutch from Asia, for example.

Statement 3: The Bengal Subah had the largest regional economy in the Mughal Empire. The region exported grains, fine cotton muslin and silk, liquors and wines, salt, ornaments, fruits, metals and pearls.

It was described as the paradise of nations. 50% of the gross domestic product (GDP) of the empire was generated in Bengal.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 4: 11th NCERT: Economics

18 Consider the following statements.

1. No Supreme Court Judge can take up a matter suo moto that is pending for hearing by the SC, unless allocated by the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
2. Only the CJI has the prerogative to constitute the Benches of the Court for hearing cases or settling issues related to constitutional law.

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

A. 1 only ❌

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2 ✅

D. None

◦ Your Answer : A

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: CJI is described as 'Master of the Roster'.

This refers to the privilege of the Chief Justice to constitute Benches to hear cases.

This privilege was emphasised in November 2017, when a Constitution Bench, led by the Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, declared that "the Chief Justice is the master of the roster and he alone has the prerogative to constitute the Benches of the Court and allocate cases to the Benches so constituted."

It further said that “no Judge can take up the matter on this own, unless allocated by the Chief Justice of India, as he is the master of the roster.”

The immediate trigger for this was a direction by a two-judge Bench that a petition regarding a medical college corruption case, involving an alleged conspiracy to bribe Supreme Court judges, be heard by a Bench of the five senior-most judges of the Supreme Court.

Although the constitution is silent on the CJI’s role as the master of the roster, his power is based on a healthy practice and “convention aimed at maintaining discipline and decorum.” He is described as “first among equals.”

SC highlighted that the CJI owes a moral responsibility to his colleagues and the public at large while flexing his powers as ‘Master of Roster’ to allocate cases. “Absolute discretion” cannot be confined in just one man, the CJI.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/07/insights-daily-current-affairs-07-july-2018/>

19 What is the most appropriate period you would choose for the beginnings of agriculture in the Indian subcontinent?

- A. 3000 BCE ✗
- B. 5000 BCE
- C. 9000 BCE ✓
- D. 15000 BCE

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Agriculture in the Indian subcontinent began in the Neolithic period (10000 BCE - somewhere around 4500 BCE or 2000 BCE) when not only plant based agriculture but also domestication of animals started.

Agro pastoralism in India included threshing, planting crops in rows—either of two or of six—and storing grain in granaries.

Barley and wheat cultivation—along with the rearing of cattle, sheep and goat—was visible in Mehrgarh by 8000-6000 BCE.

According to Gangal et al. (2014), there is strong archeological and geographical evidence that neolithic farming spread from the Near East into north-west India.

The Neolithic age ended when metal tools became widespread (in the Copper Age or Bronze Age; or, in some geographical regions, in the Iron Age).

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 5: 11th NCERT: Economics



20 Consider the following social indicators of India and the right numbers associated with them:

1. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR): 55
2. Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR): 230
3. Under-5 Mortality Rate: 26

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 3 only ✓
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

◦ Your Answer : A

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: Infant Mortality Rate has declined from 58 per 1,000 live births in 2005 to 37 per 1,000 live births in 2015, which is a decline of 21 points (36.2 per cent). See here <http://niti.gov.in/content/infant-mortality-rate-imr-1000-live-births>

Statement 2: Maternal Mortality Rate: it was 254 per 1,00,000 live births in 2004-05, which has been reduced to 167 per 1,00,000 live births in 2013. It has decreased by 87 points (34.2 per cent).

Statement 3: U5MR is around 26, see here <http://niti.gov.in/content/under-5-mortality-rate-u-5mr-1000-live-births>

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 10: 11th NCERT: Economics

21 Consider the following about the recent initiatives of NASA.

1. GRACE-FO helps track Earth's water movement to monitor changes in underground water storage and sea level caused by the addition of water to the ocean.
2. RAMA project aims to discover asteroids, with the help of robots, on which spacecrafts can be parked for future missions.

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only ✓
- B. 2 only ✗
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: The Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment Follow-on (GRACE-FO) mission is a partnership between NASA and the German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ).



- GRACE-FO is a successor to the original GRACE mission, which began orbiting Earth on March 17, 2002. The GRACE missions measure variations in gravity over Earth's surface, producing a new map of the gravity field every 30 days.
- GRACE-FO will carry on the extremely successful work of its predecessor while testing a new technology designed to dramatically improve the already remarkable precision of its measurement system.
- GRACE-FO will continue the work of tracking Earth's water movement to monitor changes in underground water storage, the amount of water in large lakes and rivers, soil moisture, ice sheets and glaciers, and sea level caused by the addition of water to the ocean. These discoveries provide a unique view of Earth's climate and have far-reaching benefits to society and the world's population.

Statement 2: RAMA (Reconstituting Asteroids into Mechanical Automata) project has been designed to leverage the advancing trends of additive manufacturing (AM) and in-situ resource utilization (ISRU).

The project aims to enable asteroid rendezvous missions in which a set of technically simple robotic processes convert asteroid elements into very basic versions of spacecraft subsystems (GNC, Propulsion, Avionics).

Upon completion, the asteroid will be a programmed mechanical automata carrying out a given mission objective; such as relocation to an Earth-Moon liberation point for human rendezvous.

Significance:

- This technique could some day create an affordable and scalable way for NASA to achieve future roadmap items for exploring the solar system.
- These techniques could be beneficial to scientific goals for understanding the solar system and its formation, as it is estimated that an order of magnitude increase in NEO targets could be explored for the same mission cost compared to the SOA.
- RAMA would enable this by removing the need to launch all spacecraft subsystems and instead converting the asteroid material in-situ.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/10/insights-daily-current-affairs-10-july-2018/>

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/09/insights-daily-current-affairs-09-july-2018/>

22 During the second half of the nineteenth century, modern industry began to take root in India but its progress remained very slow. Initially, this development was confined to the setting up of



- A. Capital goods industries
- B. Sugar mills
- C. Cement industries
- D. Cotton and jute textile mills ✓

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: The cotton textile mills, *mainly dominated by Indians*, were located in the *western parts* of the country, namely, Maharashtra and Gujarat, while the jute mills *dominated by the foreigners* were *mainly concentrated in Bengal*.

India was quite weak in capital goods industries. Subsequently, the iron and steel industries began coming up in the beginning of the twentieth century.

The Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO) was incorporated in 1907. A few other industries in the fields of sugar, cement, paper etc. came up after the Second World War.

Q Source: Page 7: 11th NCERT: Economics

23 Consider the following statements about major events/occurrences in 1930-1940s.

1. Poona Pact gave away the Hindu joint electorate and reserves special electorates to the depressed classes.
2. C. Rajagopalachari became the first governor-general of the Dominion of India.
3. The members of the interim government were members of the Viceroy's Executive Council, and the council came to be vice-chaired by Pandit Nehru.

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 3 only ✓
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only ✗
- D. 2 only

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: Ramsay MacDonald, the British Prime Minister, announced a scheme of representation of the minorities, which came to be known as the Communal Award.

The award not only continued separate electorates for the Muslims, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans but also extended it to the depressed classes (scheduled castes). Gandhiji was distressed over this extension of the principle of communal representation to the depressed classes and undertook fast unto death in Yeravada Jail (Poona) to get the award modified.



At last, there was an agreement between the leaders of the Congress and the depressed classes. The agreement, known as Poona Pact, retained the Hindu joint electorate and gave reserved seats to the depressed classes.

Statement 2: Lord Mountbatten became the first governor-general of the new Dominion of India. He swore in Jawaharlal Nehru as the first prime minister of independent India. The Constituent Assembly of India formed in 1946 became the Parliament of the Indian Dominion.

Statement 3: The members of the interim government were members of the Viceroy's Executive Council.

The Viceroy continued to be the head of the Council. But, Jawaharlal Nehru was designated as the Vice-President of the Council.

Q Source: Additional Research: Chapter 1: Indian Polity: M Laxmikanth

24 These cities span two continents, and one of them was established during the building of the Suez Canal:

- A. Amman and Jeddah
- B. Aleppo and Isfahan
- C. Alexandria and
- D. Port Said and Istanbul ✓

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: Port Said is a city that lies in north east Egypt extending about 30 kilometres along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, north of the Suez Canal. The city was established in 1859 during the building of the Suez Canal.

Port Said's twin city is Port Fuad, which lies on the eastern bank of the canal. The two cities coexist, to the extent that there is hardly any town centre in Port Fuad. The cities are connected by free ferries running all through the day, and together they form a metropolitan area with over a million residents that extends both on the African and the Asian sides of the Suez Canal.

The only other metropolitan area in the world that also spans two continents is Istanbul.

Port Said acted as a global city since its establishment and flourished particularly during the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century when it was inhabited by various nationalities and religions.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 9: 11th NCERT: Economics

25 The country with the longest coastline, among the following, is



- A. Spain
- B. France
- C. Norway ✓
- D. Italy

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: Norway has the second longest coastline in the World, and the longest in Europe.

With 202,080 km of coastline, Canada is also the country with largest water area in the world, and the second largest country in the world.

However, based on different estimates, rankings vary.

Country	The World Factbook ^[3]		World Resources Institute ^[2]		Land area km ² (TWF) ^[4]	Coast/area ratio (m/km ²)	
	#	km	#	km		(TWF)	(WRI)
World ^[Note 2]	—	1,162,306	—	1,634,701	148,940,000	7.80	11.0
Others ^[Note 3]	—	356,000					
🇨🇦 Canada	1	202,080	1	265,523	9,093,507	22.2	29.2
🇳🇴 Norway	2	58,133	7	53,199	304,282	191	175
🇮🇩 Indonesia	3	54,720	4	95,181	1,811,569	30.2	52.5

Q Source: EU Map

26 Consider the following statements about the major institutions of the European Union (EU).

1. The European Commission is the EU's executive arm.
2. The European Parliament (EP) is, partly indirectly elected and partly nominated, a parliamentary institution of the European Union (EU).
3. The European Council is the legislative wing of the EP and initiates legislation to be introduced in the EP.

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1, 2 and 3
- B. 1 and 3 only ✗
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1 only ✓

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: The European Commission is the EU's executive arm. It takes decisions on the Union's political and strategic direction.



Every year the Commission produces a report on the results achieved with the EU budget and how the previous year's budget was managed.

Statement 2: The European Parliament (EP) is the directly elected parliamentary institution of the European Union (EU). Together with the Council of the European Union (the Council) and the European Commission, it exercises the legislative function of the EU.

- The Parliament is composed of 751 members, who represent the second-largest democratic electorate in the world (after the Parliament of India) and the largest trans-national democratic electorate in the world (375 million eligible voters in 2009).
- It has been directly elected every five years by universal suffrage since 1979.
- Although the European Parliament has legislative power that the Council and Commission do not possess, it does not formally possess legislative initiative, as most national parliaments of European Union member states do

Statement 3: The European Council defines the EU's overall political direction and priorities. It is not one of the EU's legislating institutions, so does not negotiate or adopt EU laws. Instead it sets the EU's policy agenda, traditionally by adopting 'conclusions' during European Council meetings which identify issues of concern and actions to take.

Q Source: EU Map based questions

27 Sankhyā is a quarterly peer-reviewed scientific journal started by

- A. Ramesh Chandra Datt
- B. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis ✓
- C. Mahadev Govind Ranade
- D. H.O. Olcott

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: Mahalanobis established the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Calcutta and started a journal, Sankhya, which still serves as a respected forum for statisticians to discuss their ideas.

Both, the ISI and Sankhya, are highly regarded by statisticians and economists all over the world to this day.

Mahalanobis was the founding editor-in-chief of this journal.

During the second plan period, Mahalanobis invited many distinguished economists from India and



abroad to advise him on India's economic development.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 20: 11th NCERT: Economics

28 Consider the following statements.

1. The relationship status of India and Russia was elevated to the level of a "Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership" from a mere "Strategic Partnership" in 2017.
2. The Annual Summit meeting between the Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation is the highest institutionalized dialogue mechanism in the strategic partnership between India and Russia.

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only ✓
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: This was in 2010. You need to remember the period because India and Russia have had a longstanding and time-tested partner. Such a status must have come for both countries a long time ago.

Since the signing of "Declaration on the India-Russia Strategic Partnership" in October 2000 (during the visit of Russian President H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin to India), India-Russia ties have acquired a qualitatively new character with enhanced levels of cooperation in almost all areas of the bilateral relationship including political, security, trade and economy, defence, science and technology, and culture.

Statement 2: Under the Strategic Partnership, several institutionalized dialogue mechanisms operate at both political and official levels to ensure regular interaction and follow up on cooperation activities. During the visit of the Russian President to India in December 2010, the Strategic

Partnership was elevated to the level of a "Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership." Political Relations. Annual Summit between the Head of Government of both nations is the highest cooperative platform.

Q Source: http://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/Russia_August_2017.pdf

29 What was a common theme running across all the Five year plans for the first four decades of Indian economic planning?

- A. Self reliance and avoiding imports ✓



- B. Agriculture as Prime Moving Force of the economy
- C. Focussing on wage goods as against capital goods
- D. Concentration of industries in urban areas

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: In the first seven plans, trade was characterised by what is commonly called an inward looking trade strategy. Technically, this strategy is called import substitution.

This policy aimed at replacing or substituting imports with domestic production. For example, instead of importing vehicles made in a foreign country, industries would be encouraged to produce them in India itself.

Further, it was feared that dependence on imported food supplies, foreign technology and foreign capital may make India's sovereignty vulnerable to foreign interference in our policies.

In this policy the government protected the domestic industries from foreign competition. Protection from imports took two forms: tariffs and quotas.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 19: 11th NCERT: Economics

30 High-yielding varieties (HYVs) of agricultural crops are usually characterized by a combination of the following traits in contrast to the conventional varieties:

1. Tallness
2. Improved response to fertilizers
3. Very low reliance on irrigation

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
 - A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 2 and 3 only
 - C. 2 only ✓
 - D. 1 and 3 only

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: HYVs become popular in the 1960s and play an important role in the green revolution, although their ancestral roots can be older.

Advantages

- Starvation and famine have been reduced



- HYV crops are shorter (show the trait of dwarfness) so more able to withstand high winds and heavy rain
- More food is grown on an area of land which increases farmers' profits
- Early maturation

Disadvantages

- HYV crops need a lot of fertilisers and pesticides to grow which increases costs and pollution
- HYV crops require a more reliable source of water – irrigation increases costs.
- The poorest farmers have been unable to buy HYV seeds so they are of no benefit to them

Most important HYVs can be found among wheat, corn, soybean, rice, potato, and cotton.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 25: 11th NCERT: Economics

31 You will never see the mid-day Sun exactly overhead on which of the following locations?

1. Latitudes very close to South Pole
2. Any longitude touching North Pole

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only ✓
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None

◦ Your Answer : A

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: The mid-day sun is exactly overhead at least once a year on all latitudes in between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. This area, therefore, receives the maximum heat and is called the Torrid Zone.

The mid-day sun never shines overhead on any latitude beyond the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. The angle of the sun's rays goes on decreasing towards the poles.


Every longitude starts from a pole and meets the other pole. It is latitude that matters in distribution of solar insolation, not the longitude.

Q Source: Page 12: NCERT 6th Geography: The Earth Our Habitat

32 Berring strait connects which of the following oceans/seas?

1. Arctic Ocean
2. Atlantic Ocean
3. Pacific Ocean
4. Mediterranean Sea

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 1 and 3 
- C. 2 and 4
- D. 3 and 4

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: The Arctic Ocean is located within the Arctic Circle and surrounds the North Pole. It is connected with the Pacific Ocean by a narrow stretch of shallow water known as berring strait.

The International Date Line runs around the Bering strait.

This strait separates the United States and Russia by around 85 km, with a water depth that measures only 30-50 meters!

In the last few decades some factions have discussed the construction of a bridge over the strait, however, financial and weather concerns have continually stalled the project.



A satellite image of the Bering Strait



Q Source: Page 35: NCERT 6th Geography: The Earth Our Habitat

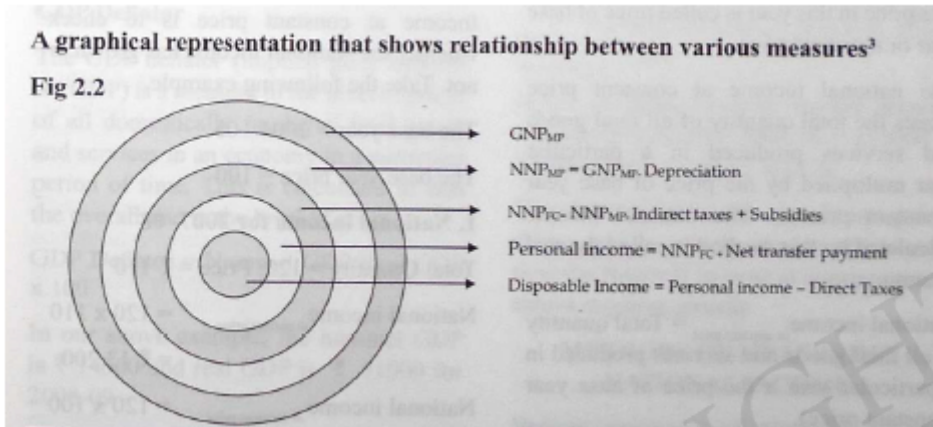
33 In an economy, usually which of these entities is the smallest in magnitude (in per capita terms)?

- A. Disposable Income ✓
- B. NNP at Factor Cost
- C. Personal Income
- D. GNP at market prices

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: These concepts have been covered in the test in various questions. This diagram gives a succinct explanation.



Q Source: Chapter 2: Shankar Ganesh: Key Concepts: Economics

34 Consider the following statements about the geography of India.

1. India is situated between 10° N and 35° N latitudes.
2. East-West extent of India is greater than its North-South Extent.

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None ✓

◦ Your Answer : D

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: From south to north, India extends between 8°4'N and 37°6'N latitudes. From west to east, India extends between 68°7'E and 97°25'E longitudes.

So, the north-south extent from Kashmir to Kanyakumari is about 3,200 km. And the east-west extent from Arunachal Pradesh to Kuchchh is about 2,900 km.

Q Source: General questions: NCERT 6th Geography: The Earth Our Habitat

35 With reference to National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC), consider the following statements.

1. It is a Mini Ratna PSU.
2. It was initially established to provide grants to eligible small scale industries (SSI) in backward regions of the country.
3. It falls under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP).

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1 only ✓
- B. 1 and 3 only



- C. 2 only
D. 1, 2 and 3 ✗

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: It was established by the Government of India in 1955.

It falls under Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises of India.

NSIC is the nodal office for several schemes of Ministry of MSME such as Performance & Credit Rating, Single Point Registration, MSME Databank, National SC ST Hub, etc.

NSIC operates through countrywide network of offices and Technical Centres in the Country.

Government of India to promote small and budding entrepreneurs of post independent India, decided to establish a government agency which can mediate and provide help to small scale industries (SSI). As such they established National Small Industries Corporation with objectives to provide machinery on hire purchase basis and assisting and marketing in exports.

Q Source: Additional Research:

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/11/insights-daily-current-affairs-11-july-2018/>

36 Which of these sutras is NOT related to Buddhism?

- A. Lotus Sutra
B. Heart Sutra ✗
C. Diamond Sutra
D. Wheel Sutra ✓

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: There is no sutra in Buddhism called as Wheel sutra.

Lotus, heart and Diamond are kind of nick names ascribed much later to the core Mahayana texts in Buddhism.

Option A: Saddharma Pundarika Sutra (Lotus Sutra) - This sūtrā was written by a number of Indian philosophers over hundreds of years, and led to the gradual formation of Mahāyāna Buddhism over that period.

- It is one of the most popular and influential Mahayana sutras. According to Paul Williams, "For many East Asian Buddhists since early times the Lotus Sutra contains the final teaching

of the Buddha, complete and sufficient for salvation.

Option B: The Heart Sūtra is a popular sutra in Mahāyāna Buddhism. Its Sanskrit title, Prajñāpāramitāhṛdaya, can be translated as "The Heart of the Perfection of Wisdom". The Heart Sūtra is often cited as the best-known and most popular Buddhist scripture. It is especially popular in East Asia and is highly respected by Tibetan Buddhism.

Option C: Translated into a variety of languages over a broad geographic range, the Diamond Sutra is one of the most influential Mahayana sutras in East Asia, and is particularly prominent within the Chan (or Zen) tradition

The title relies on the power of the vajra (diamond or thunderbolt, but also an abstract term for a powerful weapon) to cut things as a metaphor for the type of wisdom that cuts and shatters illusions to get to ultimate reality.

Q Source: Based on Qs on Buddhism asked in CSP 2018

37 The Transport of Native Labourers Act (No. III) of 1863 of Bengal as amended in 1865, 1870 and 1873 was mainly associated with the forced hiring of labour for which of the following industries?

- A. Tea ☒
- B. Coffee
- C. Cotton
- D. Indigo

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: The advent of the railways in Bengal ...marked an important turning point, which saw the Tea industry began in India in 1851.

- Most of the tea gardens were situated in Assam. In 1903, the industry employed 4,79,000 permanent and 93,000 temporary employees. Since Assam was sparsely populated and the tea plantations were often located on uninhabited hillsides, bulk of the sorely needed labour had to be imported from other provinces.
- But to bring thousands of people every year from their far-off homes into strange lands, possessing an unhealthy climate and infected with strange fevers, required the provision of financial and other incentives, which the tea-planters of Assam were unwilling to offer.
- Instead, they had recourse to fraud and coercion; and they persuaded the government to aid and abet them in this unholy task by passing penal laws.



- The recruitment of labourers for tea gardens of Assam was carried on for years mostly by contractors under the provisions of the Transport of Native Labourers Act (No. III) of 1863 of Bengal as amended in 1865, 1870 and 1873.

Q Source: Various pages: Chapter 1: 12th NCERT: Social Change and Development in India

38 Members of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) are chosen by a selection committee headed by

- A. Minister of Law and Justice
- B. Sitting judge of the Supreme Court of India ✓
- C. Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- D. Cabinet Secretary ✗

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: NGT has been established under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.

The tribunal deals with matters relating to the enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property.

Sanctioned strength: currently, 10 expert members and 10 judicial members (although the act allows for up to 20 of each).

Selection: Members of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) are chosen by a selection committee (headed by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court of India) that reviews their applications and conducts interviews. The Judicial members are chosen from applicants who are serving or retired judges of High Courts.

Chairman: is the administrative head of the tribunal, also serves as a judicial member and is required to be a serving or retired Chief Justice of a High Court or a judge of the Supreme Court of India.

Expert members are chosen from applicants who are either serving or retired bureaucrats not below the rank of an Additional Secretary to the Government of India (not below the rank of Principal Secretary if serving under a state government) with a minimum administrative experience of five years in dealing with environmental matters. Or, the expert members must have a doctorate in a related field.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/07/insights-daily-current-affairs-07-july-2018/>

39 Nearly a decade before the country's Independence, in 1938 a National Planning Committee was setup. Why was the committee not very effective in rendering a concrete national plan?



1. The committee was chaired by Subhash Chandra Bose, which was not acceptable to the Indian National Congress.
2. The chairman of the NPC was arrested by the British before the reports could be prepared.
3. Beginning of the Second World War affected the work and concerns of the committee.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only ✓
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Jawaharlal Nehru was the Chairman of NPC and K.T. Shah served as the general editor. It was set up by the Indian National Congress on the behest of Subhash Chandra Bose.

The Committee started functioning in 1939, but it could not make much headway as the chairman was arrested by the British and the war broke out.

Notwithstanding these obstacles, 29 sub-committees divided into eight groups were set up to deal with all aspects of national life and to work in accordance with a predetermined plan. However, the reports of the committee could not be prepared and only for the first time in 1948 -49 some papers came out.

Q Source: Page 12: Chapter 1: 12th NCERT: Social Change and Development in India

40 During the period 2001-2011, which of the following Indian cities added the most to its population?

- A. Delhi ✓
- B. Mumbai
- C. Chennai
- D. Bengaluru

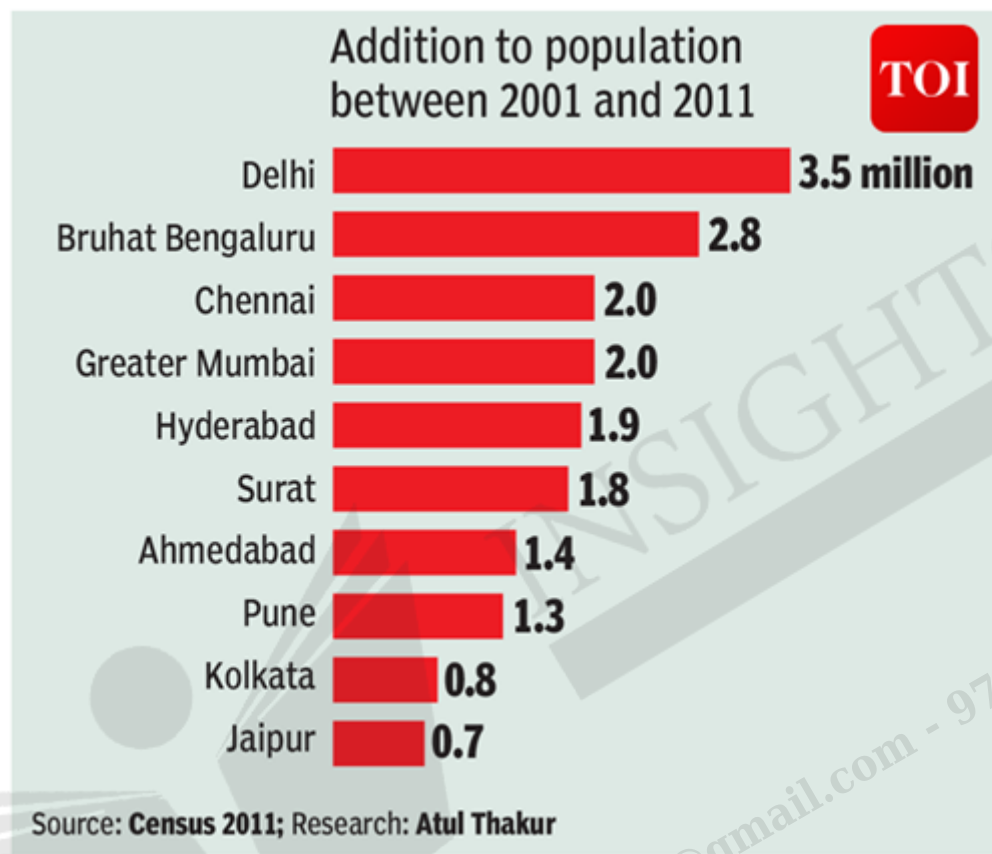
◦ Your Answer : A

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: To understand the scale of difference in the size of Indian cities, it is interesting to note that between 2001 and 2011, many important cities have added the equivalent of other urban centres to their population. Here's a look at how much some urban centers have grown.





Q Source: Page 14: Chapter 1: 12th NCERT: Social Change and Development in India

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/indias-10-fastest-growing-cities/articleshow/59573406.cms>

41 The countries that are members of the European Union, but not members of the Eurozone are

- A. Luxemborg, Netherland and Albania ❌
- B. Armenia, Belarus and Kosovo
- C. Czech Republic, Denmark and Finland
- D. Romania, Sweden and Bulgaria ✅

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: The eurozone consists of Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain.

Option B: They are neither the members of EU nor Eurozone.

Option C: Finland is a member of Eurozone.

Learning: Eurozone is a monetary union of 19 of the 28 European Union (EU) member states which



have adopted the euro as their common currency and sole legal tender.

The monetary authority of the eurozone is the Eurosystem. The other nine members of the European Union continue to use their own national currencies, although most of them are obliged to adopt the euro in the future.

List of EU members can be found here

https://www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/bldcontenten/belastingdienst/individuals/abroad_and_customs/eu_countries_and_non_eu_countries/eu_countries_non_eu_countries

Q Source: EU Map

42 The division of industries in different schedules in the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 (IPR 1956) was based on

- A. Ownership and responsibility of development ✓
- B. Size and investment
- C. Geographical location
- D. Core vs non-core industries ✗

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: It was the first comprehensive statement on industrial development of India. The 1956 policy continued to constitute the basic economic policy for a long time.

According to this resolution the objective of the social and economic policy in India was the establishment of a socialistic pattern of society. It provided more powers to the governmental machinery. It laid down three categories of industries which were more sharply defined. These categories were:

- Schedule A: those industries which were to be an exclusive responsibility of the state.
- Schedule B: those which were to be progressively state-owned and in which the state would generally set up new enterprises, but in which private enterprise would be expected only to supplement the effort of the state; and
- Schedule C: all the remaining industries and their future development would, in general be left to the initiative and enterprise of the private sector.

Although there was a category of industries left to the private sector (Schedule C above), the sector was kept under state control through a system of licenses.



In order to open new industry or to expand production, obtaining a license from the government was a prerequisite.

Opening new industries in economically backward areas was incentivised through easy licensing and subsidization of critical inputs like electricity and water.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 19: 11th NCERT: Economics

43 The Uttarakhand high court has declared the entire animal kingdom, including birds and aquatic animals, as a legal entity having rights of a “living person”. This interpretation draws upon the philosophy of which of the following articles of the constitution?

- A. Article 12
- B. Article 19
- C. Article 21 ✓
- D. Article 28

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: Invoking Article 21 of the Constitution, the court said: “Article 21 of the Constitution, while safeguarding the rights of humans, protects life and the word ‘life’ means animal world”.

The court cited a 2014 Supreme Court judgment to say any disturbance from the “basic environment which includes all forms of life, including animals life, which are necessary for human life, fall within the meaning of Article 21 of the Constitution”.

The move aims to ensure “greater welfare” of animals.

The entire animal kingdom, including avian and aquatic ones, are declared as legal entities having a distinct persona with corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person.

A legal entity means an entity which acts like a natural person but only through a designated person, whose acts are processed within the ambit of law. This means the animal kingdom could be represented by a custodian.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/07/insights-daily-current-affairs-07-july-2018/>

44 A comet tail becomes visible when

1. Illuminated by Sun
2. Comet gas is condensed to ice debris at low temperatures

- Which of the above is/are correct?
 - A. 1 only ✓
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2 ✗

D. None

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : A

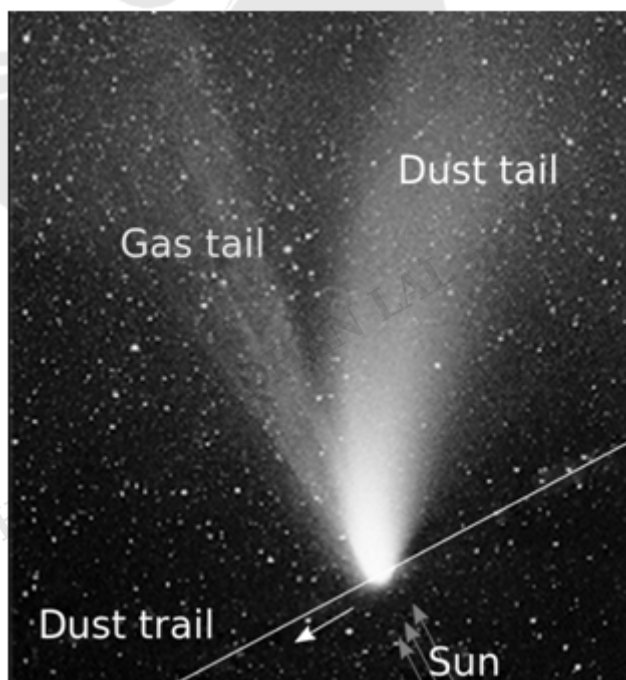
◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: A comet tail—and coma—are features visible in comets when they are illuminated by the Sun and may become visible from Earth when a comet passes through the inner Solar System.

As a comet approaches the inner Solar System, solar radiation causes the volatile materials within the comet to vaporize and stream out of the nucleus, carrying dust away with them. Separate tails are formed of dust and gases, becoming visible through different phenomena; the dust reflects sunlight directly and the gases glow from ionisation. So, 1 is correct.


Statement 2: In the outer Solar System, comets remain frozen and are extremely difficult or impossible to detect from Earth due to their small size.

As they get closer to the Sun, ice starts to melt and the glow increases. So, 2 is wrong.



Q Source: Additional Research: Chapter 1: Goh Cheng Leong - Certificate Physical and Human Geography

45 The Great Depression of 1929 was primarily triggered by a

- A. Stock market crash 
- B. Sub-prime mortgage crisis
- C. Immediate shortfall in demand of goods and large unemployment
- D. Failure of all major commercial banks



- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: The specific economic events that took place during the Great Depression are well established.

There was an initial stock market crash that triggered a "panic sell-off" of assets. This was followed by a deflation in asset and commodity prices, dramatic drops in demand and credit, and disruption of trade, ultimately resulting in widespread unemployment (over 13 million people were unemployed by 1932) and impoverishment.

The dominant thinking in economics before Keynes was that all the labourers who are ready to work will find employment and all the factories will be working at their full capacity. This school of thought is known as the classical tradition. However, the Great Depression of 1929 and the subsequent years saw the output and employment levels in the countries of Europe and North America fall by huge amounts.

It affected other countries of the world as well. Demand for goods in the market was low, many factories were lying idle, workers were thrown out of jobs.

In USA, from 1929 to 1933, unemployment rate rose from 3 per cent to 25 per cent. These events made economists think about the functioning of the economy in a new way. The fact that the economy may have long lasting unemployment had to be theorised about and explained.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 4: 12th NCERT Microeconomics

46 With reference to the Zamindari system introduced in colonial India, consider the following statements.

1. The profit accruing out of the agriculture sector went to the cultivators instead of the zamindars, but the cultivators were supposed to share the profits with zamindars.
2. The Zamindars were officially assigned the trusteeship of the land under them to improve its condition.
3. The dates for depositing specified sums of revenue from the zamindari land were fixed, failing which the zamindars were to lose their land rights.

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 2 and 3 only ❌
- B. 3 only ✅
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1 and 2 only

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**



Justification and Learning: Under the zamindari system which was implemented in the then Bengal Presidency comprising parts of India's present-day eastern states, the profit accruing out of the agriculture sector went to the zamindars instead of the cultivators.

However, a considerable number of zamindars, and not just the colonial government, did nothing to improve the condition of agriculture. The main interest of the zamindars was only to collect rent regardless of the economic condition of the cultivators; this caused immense misery and social tension among the latter.

To a very great extent, the terms of the revenue settlement were also responsible for the zamindars adopting such an attitude; dates for depositing specified sums of revenue were fixed, failing which the zamindars were to lose their rights.

Besides this, low levels of technology, lack of irrigation facilities and negligible use of fertilisers, all added up to aggravate the plight of the farmers and contributed to the dismal level of agricultural productivity.

Q Source: Page 6: 11th NCERT: Economics

47 Which of the following physical features of Europe lie in between or surrounded by the Northern Plains, Ural Mountains and Carpathians?

- A. Alps
- B. East European Plain ✓
- C. Iberian Peninsula
- D. Adriatic Sea

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning:



Q Source: EU Map

48 The Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs usually announces Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for Kharif crops around the month of

- A. March ✗
- B. July ✓
- C. September
- D. November

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Background: Price volatility makes life difficult for farmers. Though prices of agri commodities may soar while in short supply, during years of bumper production, prices of the very same commodities plummet.

MSPs ensure that farmers get a minimum price for their produce in adverse markets. MSPs have also been used as a tool by the Government to incentivise farmers to grow crops that are in short supply.

Learning: In theory, an MSP is the minimum price set by the Government at which farmers can expect to sell their produce for the season. When market prices fall below the announced MSPs, procurement agencies step in to procure the crop and 'support' the prices.



MSP for various crops is announced at the beginning of each sowing season (so, for Kharf season it should be July) based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

The CACP takes into account demand and supply, the cost of production and price trends in the market among other things when fixing MSPs.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/05/insights-daily-current-affairs-05-july-2018/>

49 The Central problems of an economy in producing and distributing scarce resources justly to its population can be partially overcome if

1. The economy is open.
2. The capital-output ratio of the economy increases with time.

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

A. 1 only ✓

B. 2 only ✗

C. Both 1 and 2

D. None

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: Here the open market (imports and exports) solves the problem of excess or shortage of any good, say pulses in India which is in regular shortfall. If there was no supply of external goods, distribution of resources as per the present demand (and social requirements) becomes slightly difficult. We will cover the topic of open economy in a better way when we deal with the 6th chapter in Macroeconomics 12th NCERT.

Statement 2: Capital output ratio is the amount of capital needed to produce one unit of output. For example, suppose that investment in an economy, investment is 32% (of GDP), and the economic growth corresponding to this level of investment is 8%.

Here, a Rs 32 investment produces an output of Rs 8. Capital output ratio is $32/8$ or 4. In other words, to produce one unit of output, 4 unit of capital is needed. But don't forget that the Rs 32 invested in the form of machineries will remain there for around ten or twelve years. Such a machinery will be giving Rs 1 output in every year.

Capital output ratio has very good use in economic planning. Suppose the government targets an economic growth of 9% for next year. planners know that the capital output ratio in India is 4. Here, to realize 9% growth, investment should be increased to 36% (9×4).

Q Source: Page 2: 12th NCERT Microeconomics

50 The South China Sea disputes involve both island and maritime claims among several sovereign states/regions. Other than China, they include



1. Indonesia
2. Taiwan
3. Philippines
4. Cambodia

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only ✓
- B. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 2 and 4 only

◦ Your Answer : A

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: The South China sea carries tremendous strategic importance; one-third of the world's shipping passes through it carrying over \$3 trillion in trade each year, it contains lucrative fisheries that are crucial for the food security of millions in Southeast Asia, and huge oil and gas reserves are believed to lie beneath its seabed.

These nations are Brunei, the People's Republic of China (PRC), Republic of China (Taiwan), Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

The disputes include the islands, reefs, banks, and other features of the South China Sea, including the Spratly Islands, Paracel Islands, and various boundaries in the Gulf of Tonkin. There are further disputes, including the waters near the Indonesian Natuna Islands, which many do not regard as part of the South China Sea.

Claimant states are interested in retaining or acquiring the rights to fishing areas, the exploration and potential exploitation of crude oil and natural gas in the seabed of various parts of the South China Sea, and the strategic control of important shipping lanes.

To promote this, several states, including the United States, conduct "freedom of navigation" operations.

Q Source: China map

51 With reference to the concept of opportunity cost, consider the following statements.

1. In a free market, the opportunity cost of producing a good will change if other goods are being demanded more with time.
 2. The concept of opportunity cost is applicable only to the individual and not the economy as a whole.
- Which of the above is/are correct?
- A. 1 only ✓
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. None



- Your Answer :
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Concept and Justification: If we want to have more of something, we will have less of the other thing. Say with a fixed space in your belly, you can only eat 500g of food. You can stuff yourself with either 200g of Pizza and then a 300g of Calzone, or 100g of cheese cake and 400g of Tofu fried rice, but there is always a cost involved, where you are trading off more of a good (food here) for other. So, if you want to eat more cheesecake, it comes at a cost of having to forego eating Tofu fried rice.

This is known as the opportunity cost of an additional unit of the goods.

Statement 1: Every economy has to choose one of the many possibilities that it has. In other words, one of the central problems of the economy is to choose from one of the many production possibilities. If the consumers start demanding more of the other good, say Pizza, the demand for calzone and thus its price would go down. The opportunity cost of eating more Pizza would be lower now because Calzone is valued lesser than previously.

Statement 2: Note that the concept of opportunity cost is applicable to the individual as well as the society. Wherever there is a choice and cost involved, the concept of opportunity cost would apply.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 3: 12th NCERT Microeconomics

52 Which of the following correctly differentiates the events of equinox with that of solstice?

1. In a solstice only a particular tropic receives direct vertical rays of the Sun unlike in an equinox when the equator receives direct vertical rays of Sun.
2. Solstice is caused only due to rotation of the earth, whereas equinox is caused only due to revolution of the earth.

- Which of the above is/are correct?

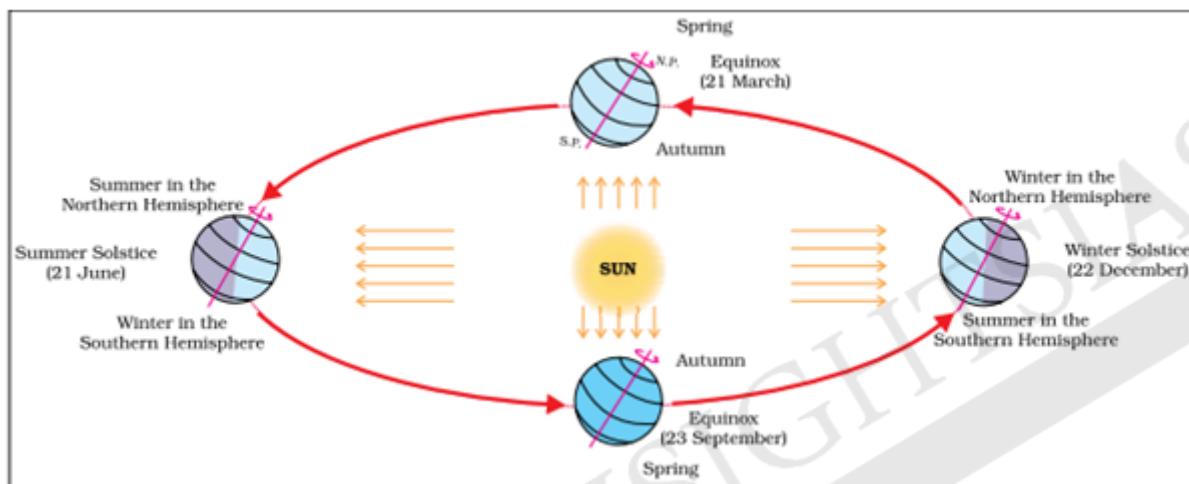
- A. 1 only ✓
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: The image below explains statement 1. Notice how on Summer equinox, Tropic of Cancer receives direct overhead rays of the Sun, while in Winter solstice, it is the Tropic of Capricorn.

On an equinox, when days and nights are equal in duration, Sun is directly overhead the equator, causing equal days and nights.



Statement 2: Both are caused due to axial tilt of the earth, its revolution and also rotation (to cause day and night). The diagram above makes it clear.

Q Source: Page 19: NCERT 6th Geography: The Earth Our Habitat

53 Consider the following statements.

- Although the British Empire in India came to an end in 1947, Portugal refused to withdraw from the territories of Goa, Diu and Daman which were under its colonial rule since the fourteenth century.
- At the time of India's Independence, Sikkim was not a fully sovereign country but a 'protectorate' of India.

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only ✓

C. Both 1 and 2 ✗

D. None

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: Although the British Empire in India came to an end in 1947, Portugal refused to withdraw from the territories of Goa, Diu and Daman which were under its colonial rule since the sixteenth century.

During their long rule, the Portuguese suppressed the people of Goa, denied them civil rights, and carried out forced religious conversions. After India's Independence, the Indian government tried very patiently to persuade the Portuguese government to withdraw.

There was also a strong popular movement within Goa for freedom. They were strengthened by socialist satyagrahis from Maharashtra. Finally, in December 1961, the Government of India sent the army which liberated these territories after barely two days of action. Goa, Diu and Daman became Union Territory.



Statement 2: At the time of Independence, Sikkim was a 'protectorate' of India. It meant that while it was not a part of India, it was also not a fully sovereign country. Sikkim's defence and foreign relations were looked after by India, while the power of internal administration was with the Chogyal, Sikkim's monarch.

This arrangement ran into difficulty as the Chogyal was unable to deal with the democratic aspirations of the people. An overwhelming majority of Sikkim's population was Nepali. But the Chogyal was seen as perpetuating the rule of a small elite from the minority Lepcha-Bhutia community. The anti-Chogyal leaders of both the communities sought and got support from the Government of India.

The first democratic elections to Sikkim assembly in 1974 were swept by Sikkim Congress which stood for greater integration with India. The assembly first sought the status of 'associate state' and then in April 1975 passed a resolution asking for full integration with India.

The Indian Parliament accepted this request immediately and Sikkim became the 22nd State of the Indian union.

Q Source: Page 167-169: 12th NCERT: Social Change and Development in India

54 What is/are the long-term benefits of stepping up investment expenditure in the economy?

1. Increasing the productive capacity of the economy
2. Increasing the size of the economy and the standard of living of the general population

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2 ☒

D. None

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Aggregate expenditure is the sum of expenditures on consumption, investment, government expenses and net exports.

If only consumption expenditure is increased, the economy would soon run out of capital goods to raise production.

So, profits are often used by the producers in the next period to buy new machinery or to build new factories, so that production can be expanded. These expenses which raise productive capacity are examples of investment expenditure. They add to the future capacity and the income of the population as well.

Q Source: Page 7: 12th NCERT Microeconomics



55 During the visit of Prime Minister to the U.S. in June 2016, the U.S. recognised India as a "Major Defence Partner". What is/are the implications of this recognition?

1. It commits the U.S. to facilitate technology sharing with India to a level commensurate with that of its closest allies and partners.
2. It aims at industry collaboration for defence co-production and co-development.

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only ❌

C. Both 1 and 2 ✅

D. None

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: India has been designated as a major defence partner of the United States. It puts India on a par with the closest allies and partners of the US.

It "institutionalises the progress made to facilitate defence trade and technology-sharing with India to a level at par with that of the United States' closest allies and partners, and ensures enduring cooperation into the future," as per an official statement.

India is not a treaty partner of the US—which is a formal alliance partner with close cooperation with Washington like Japan or Australia. Neither is it part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, which includes countries like Britain.

So far, US has bestowed this status upon the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) countries and the US treaty allies such as Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and Philippines.

Learning: This was given statutory backing under the National Defence Authorization Act (NDAA) 2017 of the USA; India will be included in conventional arms transfer policy, defence services, or related technology, inform the review of requests to export defence articles under the Arms Export Control Act.

The designation of this status is unique to India, a non-NATO ally of US. It institutionalizes the progress made by US to facilitate defence trade and technology sharing with India to a level at par with its closest allies and partners. It will facilitate US to transfer of advanced defence technology to India.

Q Source: Additional Research: http://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/India_US_brief.pdf

56 What was unusual about the economic growth trajectory of India, especially post-1991?

A. Sudden spurt in the growth rate of construction sector

B. Services sector grew faster than other sector and occupies a share much larger than manufacturing ✅



- C. Agricultural sector did not shrink with time
- D. Mining sector showed negative growth rate consistently for a decade

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: As a country develops, it undergoes 'structural change'. In the case of India, the structural change is peculiar. Usually, with development, the share of agriculture declines and the share of industry becomes dominant.

At higher levels of development, the service sector contributes more to the GDP than the other two sectors. In India, the share of agriculture in the GDP was more than 50 per cent—as we would expect for a poor country.

But by 1990 the share of the service sector was 40.59 per cent, more than that of agriculture or industry, like what we find in developed nations. This phenomenon of growing share of the service sector was accelerated in the post 1991 period.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 21: 11th NCERT: Economics

57 What do the rings around Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus largely contain?

- A. White dwarf flux
- B. Icy dust, large rocks and moons of the planets
- C. Comets and asteroids only
- D. Satellites of these planets only

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: The composition of ring particles varies; they may be silicate or icy dust. Larger rocks and boulders may also be present. Sometimes rings will have small moons that orbit near the inner or outer edges of rings or within gaps in the rings.

For e.g. the ring swirling around Saturn consists of chunks of ice and dust.

Recent evidence suggests that ring systems may be found around other types of astronomical objects, including minor planets, moons, and brown dwarfs.

Q Source: Page 2 (Side Box): NCERT 6th Geography: The Earth Our Habitat

58 A nation can be economically wealthy if one of the following is present despite the relative scarcity of the other three options:



- A. Bounty of natural resources
- B. Technological prowess with a very limited supply of labour
- C. Large availability of land
- D. Efficient transformation of resources through an organized production process ✓

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Options A and C: It is not that countries which are endowed with a bounty of natural wealth - minerals or forests or the most fertile lands - are naturally the richest countries. In fact the resource rich Africa and Latin America have some of the poorest countries in the world, whereas many prosperous countries have scarcely any natural wealth.

Option B: If you do not have labour and only have technology, you cannot produce more because there are not many people to consumer more (considering labourers are the consumers).

Option D: There was a time when possession of natural resources was the most important consideration but even then the resource had to be transformed through a production process. The economic wealth, or well-being, of a country thus does not necessarily depend on the mere possession of resources; the point is how these resources are used in generating a flow of production and how, as a consequence, income and wealth are generated from that process.

Q Source: Page 8: Chapter 2: 12th NCERT Macroeconomics

59 It is often argued that there is no case for continuing with fertiliser subsidies because

1. They often benefit rich farmers and industries more than poor farmers.
2. They do not help reflect the market abundance or scarcity of fertilizers.

- Which of the above is/are correct?
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2 ✓
 - D. None

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: Subsidies are meant to benefit the farmers but a substantial amount of fertiliser subsidy also benefits the fertiliser industry; and among farmers, the subsidy largely benefits the farmers in the more prosperous regions. Therefore, it is argued that there is no case for continuing with fertiliser subsidies; it does not benefit the target group and it is a huge burden on the government's finances. This is one view.

Statement 2: Some economists point out that subsidies do not allow prices to indicate the supply of



a good. When electricity and water are provided at a subsidised rate or free, they will be used wastefully without any concern for their scarcity.

- If the price of water goes up because of lower supply, people will have the incentive to use it with greater care; for example, they may stop watering the garden to conserve water. We complain whenever the price of petrol increases and blame it on the government. But the increase in petrol price reflects greater scarcity and the price rise is a signal that less petrol is available—this provides an incentive to use less petrol or look for alternate fuels.
- Farmers will cultivate water intensive crops if water is supplied free, although the water resources in that region may be scarce and such crops will further deplete the already scarce resources. If water is priced to reflect scarcity, farmers will cultivate crops suitable to the region.

Q Source: Page 27: 11th NCERT: Economics

60 If the earth starts rotating east to west, which of the following shall be correct?

1. Places West of Greenwich will be behind the Greenwich Time.
 2. Places located on the same longitude northwards will be ahead in time than those located southwards.
- Which of the above is/are correct?
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. None ✓
 - Your Answer : D
 - Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: It is the case presently when earth rotates from west to east. If the opposite happens, places west of Greenwich will be ahead in time and places east will lag behind in time.

Statement 2: Time varies across a longitude, not latitude.

For e.g. when the Prime Meridian of Greenwich has the sun at the highest point in the sky, all the places along this meridian will have mid-day or noon, whether the place is southwards or northwards.

This is independent of the direction of rotation of the earth. So, 2 is incorrect.

Q Source: Page 15: NCERT 6th Geography: The Earth Our Habitat



61 Consider the following statements. Arguments for small scale industries (SSIs), as against large scale industries, are

1. SSIs tend to be more efficient as they are more capital-intensive
2. SSIs generate significant employment as they are not usually subject to as strict labour laws as large firms are

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only ✓
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: Small-scale industries tend to be more 'labour intensive' i.e., they use more labour than the large-scale industries and, therefore, generate more employment.

However, they are not as efficient as large scale firms and thus require support from the government.

For this purpose, in post-independent India, the production of a number of products was reserved for the small-scale industry; the criterion of reservation being the ability of these units to manufacture the goods.

They were also given concessions such as lower excise duty and bank loans at lower interest rates.

Statement 2: Any firm employing 100 or more employees is usually subject to much stricter labour laws, especially relating to hire and fire.

While this is not the only reason for higher employment in SSIs, this is considered to be an important reason.

Q Source: Page 30: 11th NCERT: Economics

62 The Anandpur Sahib Resolution asserted

- A. Regional autonomy of the Sikh regions ✓
- B. Banishing the Gurudwara Sahab Prabandhak Committee (GSPC) towards a more democratic organization
- C. The futility of a federal structure for India ✗
- D. The separation of religion from state

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Background: After the reorganisation, the Akalis came to power in 1967 and then in 1977 the Sikh community, like all other religious communities, was internally differentiated on caste and class lines. The Congress got more support among the Dalits, whether Hindu or Sikh, than the Akalis.

It was in this context that during the 1970s a section of Akalis began to demand political autonomy for the region. This was reflected in a resolution passed at their conference at Anandpur Sahib in 1973.

Learning: The resolution asserted regional autonomy and wanted to redefine centre-state relationship in the country.


The resolution also spoke of the aspirations of the Sikh qaum (community or nation) and declared its goal as attaining the bolbala (dominance or hegemony) of the Sikhs.

The Resolution was a plea for strengthening federalism, but it could also be interpreted as a plea for a separate Sikh nation.

The Resolution had a limited appeal among the Sikh masses

Q Source: Page 158: 12th NCERT: Social Change and Development in India

63 Asia is separated from Europe by the

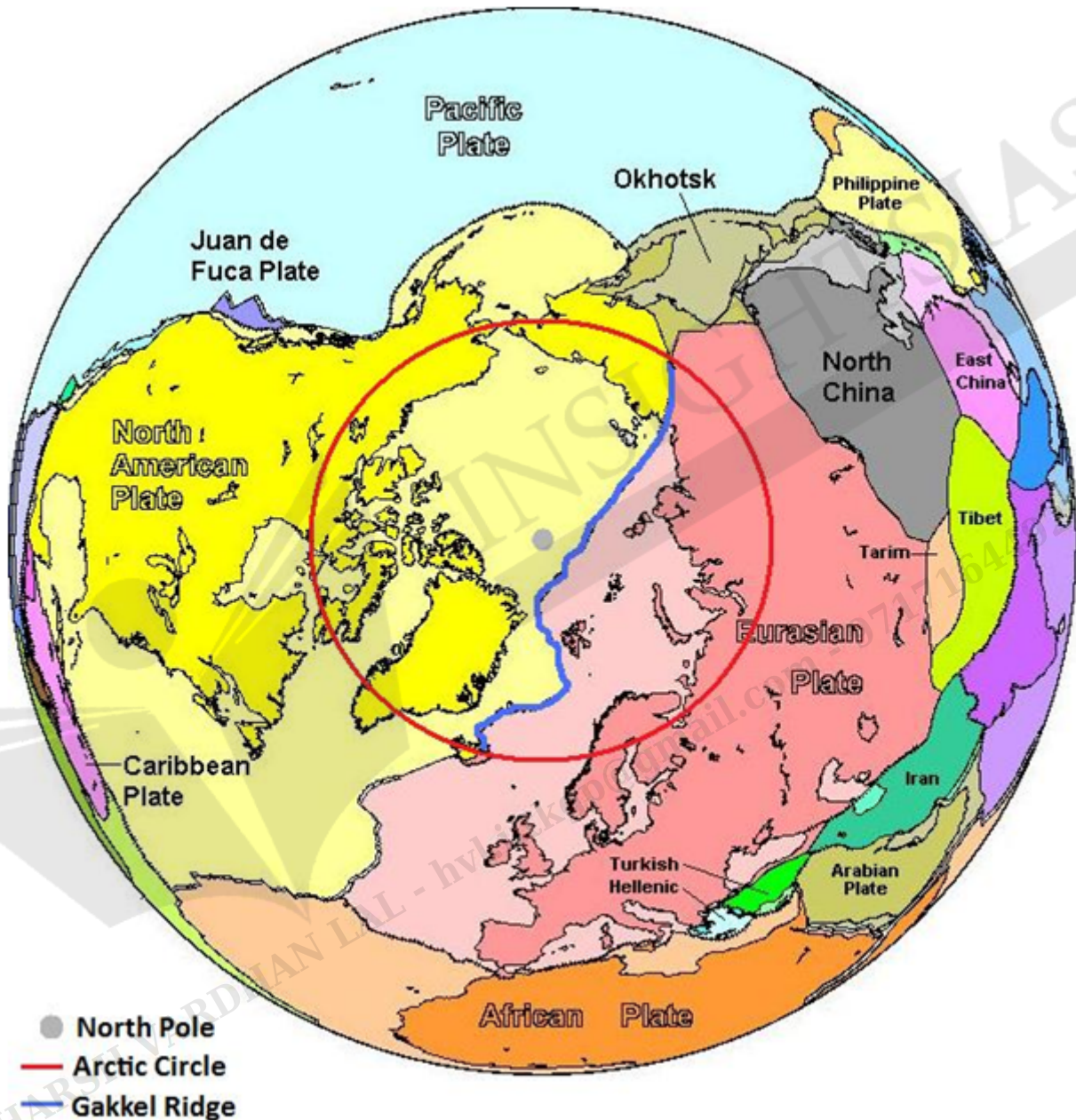
- A. Arctic Circle
- B. Ural Mountains 
- C. Siberian plains
- D. Volga River

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: The diagram below shows it.





The arctic circle goes around Europe.

Q Source: Page 32-33: NCERT 6th Geography: The Earth Our Habitat

64 Consider the following statements.

1. All planets between the Earth and the Sun in our solar system contain volcanoes.
2. There is evidence for the existence of ice, as well as water, on the surface of planets other than earth.

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only ✗
- C. Both 1 and 2 ✓
- D. None



- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: A shield volcano on Mars, Olympus Mons, is the largest volcano in the Solar System.

- It is three times taller than Mount Everest and about five hundred km in diameter.
- The surface of Venus is dominated by volcanic features and has more volcanoes than any other planet in the Solar System.
- Mercury is quite as compared to these two planets, but volcanoes do exist on it.

Statement 2: There is evidence for the existence of ice, as well as water, on the surface of planets other than earth.

- In 2012, NASA's Messenger confirmed the discovery of ice in permanently shadowed craters near Mercury planet's North pole.
- Astronomers have detected that the atmosphere of Venus as well as of Mars contains water vapour.
- But, there isn't any water on the surface of Venus, in form of rivers, lakes or oceans.
- New findings from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) provide the strongest evidence yet that liquid water flows intermittently on present-day Mars.

Q Source: Additional Research: Chapter 1: Goh Cheng Leong - Certificate Physical and Human Geography

65 The major difference in standards between the existing BS-IV and the new BS-VI auto fuel norms is with regards to the reduction of

- A. Sulphur ✓
- B. Carbon dioxide
- C. Arsenic
- D. Lead

- Your Answer : A



- Correct Answer : A

- **Answer Justification :**

Background: The BS — or Bharat Stage — emission standards are norms instituted by the government to regulate the output of air pollutants from internal combustion engine equipment, including motor vehicles. India has been following the European (Euro) emission norms, though with a time-lag of five years.

ICAT has completed the first BS-VI certification for a heavy-duty engine model for M/s Volvo Eicher Commercial Vehicle Limited.

The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) is a division of NATRiP implementation society (NATIS), under the administrative control of the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Government of India.

Justification: The newly introduced fuel is estimated to reduce the amount of sulphur released by 80%, from 50 parts per million to 10 ppm. As per the analysts, the emission of NOx (nitrogen oxides) from diesel cars is also expected to reduce by nearly 70% and 25% from cars with petrol engines.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/06/insights-daily-current-affairs-06-july-2018/>

66 In India, rocks of which of the following regions was formed the earliest?

- A. Indo-Gangetic plain
- B. Lower Shiwaliks
- C. North-eastern Himalayas
- D. Deccan Traps

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : D

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Geology of India can be categorized in following eras, in increasing chronological order.

- Precambrian super-eon
- Phanerozoic

- Palaeozoic

- Lower Paleozoic



- Upper Paleozoic
- Mesozoic
- Cenozoic
 - Tertiary period
 - Quaternary period

Option (c): The alluvium which is found in the Indo-Gangetic plain belongs to the Quaternary period. It was eroded from the Himalayas by the rivers and the monsoons. Since Himalayas were formed after Deccan traps, and are very young, (c) can't be the answer.

The Deccan plateau in India is one of the oldest plateaus in India made mainly from igneous rocks.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 42: NCERT 6th Geography: The Earth Our Habitat

67 What are the characteristics of transfer payment?

1. It does not directly absorb resources or creates output.
2. It signifies redistribution of income made without goods or services being received in return.
3. All subsidies forward by the government are included under transfer payments.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1 and 2 only ✓
- B. 1, 2 and 3
- C. 2 and 3 only ✗
- D. 1 only

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1 and 2: In economics, a transfer payment (or government transfer or simply transfer) is a redistribution of income and wealth (payment) made without goods or services being received in return. These payments are considered to be non-exhaustive because they do not directly absorb resources or create output.

For the purposes of calculating gross domestic product (GDP), government spending does not include transfer payments – the reallocation of money from one party to another – which includes Social Security, Medicare, unemployment insurance, welfare programs and subsidies. Because these are not payments for goods or services, they do not represent a form of final demand, or GDP.



Statement 3: Examples of transfer payments include welfare, financial aid, social security, and government making subsidies for certain businesses (firms)

Transfer payments, however, do not include subsidies that are paid to domestic farmers, manufacturers and exporters, even though they are technically a one-way payment to a person on behalf of the government.

Q Source: Additional Research: Chapter 2: Shankar Ganesh: Key Concepts: Economics

68 The country that shares its international borders with the largest number of neighbours in the world is

- A. Brazil ❌
- B. China ✅
- C. Switzerland
- D. India

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: As the most populous country in the world and third largest in area, China also has the largest number of neighbours (14) sharing its 22,000km land borders namely: North Korea, Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam.

Brazil shares its borders with 10 nations, almost all of them in South America.



Q Source: China map

69 The temperature of earth material usually tends to increase as we go inwards. The retained heat on earth can be attributed to which of the following phenomena?

1. Frictional heating of earth's material facilitated by gravitation
2. Heat from the decay of radioactive elements

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only ✗
- C. Both 1 and 2 ✓
- D. None

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: Frictional heating is caused by denser core material sinking to the center of the planet caused due to gravitation.



As material slides against each other, heat generated is retained deep within the earth and temperature remains high.

Statement 2: It is estimated that about 50% of the heat given off by the Earth is generated by the radioactive decay of elements such as uranium and thorium, and their decay products.

Further discussion becomes technical and is outside the purview of our syllabus.

Q Source: Additional Research: Chapter 1: Goh Cheng Leong - Certificate Physical and Human Geography

70 The capital stock of a nation will ideally increase if

1. The economy spends most of its resources on the production of consumer durables every year at an increasing rate.
2. The rate of depreciation in the economy reduces with time.
3. The economy improves its production technology.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only ✓

◦ Your Answer : D

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: That part of our final output that comprises of capital goods constitutes gross investment of an economy.

The total production of final goods can thus be either in the form of consumption or investment. This implies that there is a trade-off. If an economy produces more of consumer goods, it is producing less of capital goods and vice-versa. Moreover, after a certain point you need more capital goods to produce more and more consumer goods. You cannot keep producing more and more clothes out of the same number of sewing machines.

Statement 2: A significant part of current output of capital goods goes in maintaining or replacing part of the existing stock of capital goods. This is because the already existing capital stock suffers wear and tear and needs maintenance and replacement. A part of the capital goods produced this year goes for replacement of existing capital goods and is not an addition to the stock of capital goods already existing and its value needs to be subtracted from gross investment for arriving at the measure for net investment. This is called depreciation.

New addition to capital stock in an economy is measured by net investment or new capital formation, which is expressed as

Net Investment = Gross investment - Depreciation



Statement 3: Improvement in technology reduces the rate of depreciation. You can imagine a computer that had a life of only few years in the 80s and 90s can now last for close to decade now. More computers would mean more capital stock.

Q Source: Page 12: Chapter 2: 12th NCERT Macroeconomics

71 Eta Carinae was recently in news because

- A. It is a celestial body that is accelerating particles to high energies some of which may reach the earth as cosmic rays ✓
- B. It is the only star, other than our sun, for which we have surface images.
- C. It is a giant, old, orange star that is cooler than the Sun
- D. It is about 14,000 times brighter than the Sun and if it were at the center of our Solar System, it would extend beyond the orbit of Jupiter

◦ Your Answer :

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: It is the most luminous and massive stellar system within 10,000 light-years from earth.

It is located about 7,500 light-years away in the southern constellation of Carina.

It is famous for a 19th century outburst that briefly made it the second-brightest star in the sky.

It is accelerating particles to high energies some of which may reach the earth as cosmic rays.

Option B and D: Betelgeuse (alpha Orionis) is the second-brightest star in the constellation Orion and one of the brightest stars in the sky.

It is a supergiant star, reddish in color, and over 600 million miles in diameter (almost 1,000 times bigger than the Sun but cooler than the Sun). Betelgeuse is about 14,000 times brighter than the Sun.

If Betelgeuse were at the center of our Solar System, it would extend beyond the orbit of Jupiter. It is 520 light-years from Earth. It is a variable star, varying in magnitude from 0.3 to 1.2 over a period of about 7 years, averaging about 0.70.

It is the only star (other than our sun) for which we have surface images.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/06/insights-daily-current-affairs-06-july-2018/>
<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/astronomy/stars/majorstars.shtml>

72 Consider the following statements about the Ayushman Bharat – National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM):

1. A beneficiary covered under the scheme will be allowed to take cashless benefits from any public or



private empanelled hospital across the country.

2. The benefit cover will include pre and post-hospitalisation expenses.
3. Pre-existing conditions will not be covered under the policy.
4. It takes care of almost all secondary care needs but tertiary care procedures will need to be insured by third-party insurance.
5. A maximum of three members will be covered from a household under the scheme.
6. It is a Universal scheme with entitlements decided uniformly across the covered population to cut down biased sampling errors.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- B. 3, 5 and 6 only
- C. 1 and 2 only ✓
- D. 1, 4 and 6 only

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Background: NHPS is a new Centrally Sponsored mission having central sector component under Ayushman Bharat Mission anchored in the MoHFW.

The scheme has the benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year. The target beneficiaries of the proposed scheme will be more than 10 crore families belonging to poor and vulnerable population based on SECC database.

AB-NHPM will subsume the on-going centrally sponsored schemes -Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).

Justification: Statement 1: Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country and a beneficiary covered under the scheme will be allowed to take cashless benefits from any public/private empanelled hospitals across the country.

Statement 2 and 3: The benefit cover will also include pre and post-hospitalisation expenses. All pre-existing conditions will be covered from day one of the policy. A defined transport allowance per hospitalization will also be paid to the beneficiary.

Statement 4: This cover will take care of almost all secondary care and most of tertiary care procedures.

Statement 5: To ensure that nobody is left out (especially women, children and elderly) there will be no cap on family size and age in the scheme.

Statement 6: AB-NHPM will be an entitlement based scheme with entitlement decided on the basis of deprivation criteria in the SECC database.

The different categories in rural area include families having only one room with kucha walls and kucha roof; families having no adult member between age 16 to 59; female headed households with



no adult male member between age 16 to 59; disabled member and no able bodied adult member in the family; SC/ST households; and landless households deriving major part of their income from manual casual labour.

Learning: To control costs, the payments for treatment will be done on package rate (to be defined by the Government in advance) basis.

The package rates will include all the costs associated with treatment. For beneficiaries, it will be a cashless, paper less transaction. Keeping in view the State specific requirements, States/ UTs will have the flexibility to modify these rates within a limited bandwidth.

One of the core principles of AB-NHPM is to co-operative federalism and flexibility to states. There is provision to partner the States through co-alliance.

This will ensure appropriate integration with the existing health insurance/ protection schemes of various Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments (at their own cost), State Governments will be allowed to expand AB-NHPM both horizontally and vertically.

States will be free to choose the modalities for implementation. They can implement through insurance company or directly through Trust/ Society or a mixed model.

For giving policy directions and fostering coordination between Centre and States, it is proposed to set up Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission Council (AB-NHPMC) at apex level Chaired by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister.

Additional background: In-patient hospitalization expenditure in India has increased nearly 300% during last ten years. (NSSO 2015).

More than 80% of the expenditure are met by out of pocket (OOP). Rural households primarily depended on their 'household income / savings' (68%) and on 'borrowings' (25%), the urban households relied much more on their 'income / saving' (75%) for financing expenditure on hospitalizations, and on '(18%) borrowings. (NSSO 2015).

Out of pocket (OOP) expenditure in India is over 60% which leads to nearly 6 million families getting into poverty due to catastrophic health expenditures.

AB-NHPM will have major impact on reduction of Out Of Pocket (OOP) expenditure on ground of:

Increased benefit cover to nearly 40% of the population, (the poorest & the vulnerable)

Covering almost all secondary and many tertiary hospitalizations (except a negative list)

Coverage of 5 lakh for each family, (no restriction of family size)

Q Source: http://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Yojana_June-2018.pdf

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177816>

73 In the Keynesian model of Macroeconomics, which of the following components of GDP is considered to be the most unstable?

#5218

- A. Consumption ✖
- B. Government expenditure
- C. Investment expenditure ✔
- D. Net factor income from abroad

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: $GDP \equiv$ Sum total of all the final expenditure received by the firms in the economy.

In other words $GDP \equiv C + I + G + X - M$

This equation expresses GDP according to the expenditure method. It may be noted that out of the five variables on the right hand side, investment expenditure, I, is the most unstable. This is the most fundamental assumption with which Keynes begins his macroeconomic analysis because as per him a lack of aggregate demand in the economy leads to economic cycles.

The reason for lack of aggregate demand for him is the lack of investment expenditure. Therefore, he recommends that when private investment expenditure is not forthcoming, the state has to balance the fall in such expenditure.

Q Source: Page 22: 12th NCERT: Macroeconomics

74 The Terrestrial and Jovian planets are largely differentiated on the basis of loss of atmosphere from the former. Which of the following characteristics of terrestrial planets enabled this loss of atmosphere?

1. Their larger size as compared to most Jovian planets
2. Their nearness to Sun

- Which of the above is/are correct?
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only ✔
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. None

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: It can be easily discarded. Jovian planets (Jupiter, Saturn etc) are bigger in size than terrestrial planets (earth, Venus etc).



Statement 2: Gravity of a planet depends on its mass and size. Since the terrestrial planets were small, gravity force was less and it could not keep the gases in tact with the planet. Hence, gases escaped causing loss of atmosphere.

The terrestrial planets were formed in the close vicinity of the parent star where it was too warm for gases to condense to solid particles. Moreover, the solar wind was most intense nearer the sun; so, it blew off lots of gas and dust from the terrestrial planets causing loss of atmosphere.

Q Source: Page 16: Chapter 2: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

75 The correct representation of Net National Product (NNP) at factor cost will be

- A. GDP + Net Factor Income from abroad (NFIA) - Indirect Taxes + Subsidies ❌
- B. GDP + Net Factor Income from abroad (NFIA) + Indirect Taxes - Subsidies
- C. GDP - Net Factor Income from abroad (NFIA) - Indirect Taxes + Subsidies
- D. None of the above ✅

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: None of the options take depreciation into account, so all are wrong.

The correct answer will be: GDP + Net Factor Income from abroad (NFIA) - Depreciation - Indirect Taxes + Subsidies

Learning: This is a step by step process.

Gross National Product (GNP) is defined as $GNP \equiv GDP + \text{Factor income earned by the domestic factors of production employed in the rest of the world} - \text{Factor income earned by the factors of production of the rest of the world employed in the domestic economy}$. In short the component after GDP in the equation is NFIA.

We have already noted that a part of the capital gets consumed during the year due to wear and tear. This wear and tear is called depreciation. Naturally, depreciation does not become part of anybody's income. If we deduct depreciation from GNP the measure of aggregate income that we obtain is called Net National Product (NNP). Thus $NNP \equiv GNP - \text{Depreciation}$

It is to be noted that all these variables are evaluated at market prices. When indirect taxes are imposed on goods and services, their prices go up. Indirect taxes accrue to the government. We have to deduct them from NNP evaluated at market prices in order to calculate that part of NNP which actually accrues to the factors of production. Similarly, there may be subsidies granted by the government on the prices. When we adjust all that, we get NNP at FC.

Q Source: Page 24: 12th NCERT: Macroeconomics

76 What are the benefits enjoyed by 'Institutions of Eminence'?



1. Both public and private institutions will get financial assistance up to Rs. 1000 Crore over a period of five years.
2. They will be able to offer all their courses online apart from the offline classroom programmes.
3. They will be able to recruit foreign faculty and admit foreign students.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1 and 3 only ✖
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 3 only ✔
- D. 1 and 2 only

◦ Your Answer : A

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Government recently declared 6 educational 'Institutions of Eminence'; 3 Institutions from Public Sector and 3 from Private Sector shortlisted.

Each 'Public Institution' selected as 'Institution of Eminence' will get financial assistance up to Rs. 1000 Crore over a period of five years.

These Institutions shall be provided with greater autonomy to admit foreign students up to 30% of admitted students; to recruit foreign faculty upto 25% of faculty strength; to offer online courses upto 20% of its programmes.

They will also be allowed to enter into academic collaboration with top 500 in the world ranking Institutions without permission of UGC; free to fix and charge fees from foreign students without restriction; complete flexibility in fixing of curriculum and syllabus, among others.

At the same time, they will get more opportunity to scale up their operations with more skills and quality improvement so that they become World Class Institutions in the field of education.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/10/insights-daily-current-affairs-10-july-2018/>

77 Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), published in India, is an indicator of

- A. Buying and selling in the stock markets
- B. Business Activity ✔
- C. Corporate Debt
- D. External Commercial Borrowing

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: Started in 1948 by the US-based Institute of Supply Management, the Purchasing



Managers' Index, or PMI, has now become one of the most closely watched indicators of business activity across the world.

PMI or a Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an indicator of business activity -- both in the manufacturing and services sectors. It is a survey-based measure.

The PMI is usually released at the start of the month, much before most of the official data on industrial output, manufacturing and GDP growth becomes available.

The PMI also gives an indication of corporate earnings and is closely watched by investors as well as the bond markets. A good reading enhances the attractiveness of an economy vis-a-vis another competing economy.

In India it is released by HSBC in partnership with MarkIt.

Q Source: Chapter 2: Shankar Ganesh: Key Concepts: Economics

78 Consider the following famous books and their authors:

1. An Enquiry into the Nature and Cause of the Wealth of Nations: Adam Smith
2. The Economic Consequences of Peace: Hegel
3. A Treatise on Money: John Maynard Keynes

◦ Select the correct matches using the codes below.

A. 1, 2 and 3

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 1 and 3 only ✓

D. 3 only

◦ Your Answer :

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: Philosopher by training, Smith's well known work An Enquiry into the Nature and Cause of the Wealth of Nations (1776) is regarded as the first major comprehensive book on the subject. It advocated the theory of laissez faire or free markets.

Statement 2 and 3: Keynes actively involved in international diplomacy during the years following the First World War.

He prophesied the break down of the peace agreement of the War in the book The Economic Consequences of the Peace (1919). His book General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money (1936) is regarded as one of the most influential economics books of the twentieth century. He was also a shrewd foreign currency speculator.

Q Source: Page 12 and 13: 12th NCERT: Macroeconomics



79 Commercialisation of agriculture is a phenomenon associated with the British Rule in India. Which of the following factors increased the pace at which this commercialization occurred?

1. American Civil War
2. Opening of Suez Canal
3. Replacement of old sailing ships with steamships in Britain
4. Depression in British shipping industry
5. Extension of railways in India
6. Movement from barter trade to money economy in India

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1, 2, 5 and 6 only
- B. 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 only ✗
- C. 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 ✓

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Indian villages were largely self-sufficient in the production of crops in the pre-British era. The farmers grew what they consumed and traded the rest based on the barter system within the community. The idea of producing crops for sale was not deeply ingrained. The British introduced commercialization where the farmer was now not only producing to feed his family but also to sell the excess produce in the market.

Statement 1: The American Civil War dramatically reduced the economic isolation of India and brought about the Commercialisation of agriculture. The War transferred the British demand for Cotton from America to India as a result of which exports of cotton at once jumped from 5 lakh bales in 1859 to 12.6 lakh bales in 1865.

The exports of rice, wheat and other food grains also increased. Although the British demand for Indian raw Cotton fell off after the Civil War was over, it was largely compensated by the increase in domestic demand.

Statement 2: The opening of the Suez canal in 1869 was another event of world-wide importance. The opening of the canal cut the sea-route between India and England by over 3000 miles and shortened the period of journey between Calcutta and London by 36 days.

Statement 3 and 4: Another factor was the 'revolution and depression' in the British shipping industry. The revolution was caused when, from 1869 onwards, the new and more efficient steamships began to replace the old, slow moving sailing vessels, especially on long distance routes.

The depression in British shipping was brought when, with the opening of the Suez Canal, the distance between England and the East was reduced and a good many ships were rendered surplus. This led to competition among shipping companies and a fall in freight rates.

Statement 5: The most significant event was the revolution in the means of transport. The railways were rapidly extended, the route mileage increasing from 432 in 1859 to 1990 in 1881 and 25,363



in 1901. Every railway station became a Mandi or an export Centre to which traders and exporters alike-flocked.

Statement 6: Another contributory factor was the introduction of money economy in the form of cash assessment of land revenue and the substitution of rent in kind by cash rents.

Money economy allowed cash crops and other crops to be sold in far off markets.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 5: 11th NCERT: Economics

80 Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has released the final rankings of States in Ease of Doing Business based on the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP). Consider the following about BRAP.

1. BRAP focuses on, inter alia, labour regulation enablers and contract enforcement.
2. Healthcare and Hospitality sectors are excluded from BRAP.
3. Andhra Pradesh was ranked as the best and Jharkhand the worst state based on these rankings.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only ✓
- D. 1, 2 and 3

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: DIPP, Ministry of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the World Bank conducted an annual reform exercise for all States and UTs under the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP).

The aim of this exercise is to improve delivery of various Central Government regulatory functions and services in an efficient, effective and transparent manner.

The reform plan includes 372 recommendations for reforms on regulatory processes, policies, practices and procedures spread across 12 reform areas including labour regulation enablers; contract enforcement; registering property; inspection reform enablers; single window system; land availability and allotment; construction permit enablers etc.

BRAP 2017 includes two new sectors i.e. Healthcare and Hospitality.

Performance of states:

- The top rankers are Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Haryana. Jharkhand and Gujarat stood fourth and fifth respectively.



- Delhi is placed at 23rd among 34 states and Union territories. Its rank also worsened from 18th in 2016.
- Karnataka has occupied the eighth spot, against 13th in 2016.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/11/insights-daily-current-affairs-11-july-2018/>

81 Consider the following statements.

1. V.K.R.V. Rao, the then Indian Minister of Education, played an important role in the formation of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies
2. A. L. Basham and A. K. Narain, eminent historians of Ancient India, were behind the setting up of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (IABS).

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2 ☒
- D. None

◦ Your Answer :

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: In 1971 Professor V.K.R.V. Rao, the then Minister of Education/Ministry of Human Resource Development (Government of India) and Chairman of the Central Sanskrit Board, planned the First International Sanskrit Conference.

- The two themes he suggested for the proposed Sanskrit Conference were the contribution of the various regions of the world to Sanskrit Studies and the contribution of Sanskrit to the advancement of knowledge in different regions of the world. This first Conference had to be postponed to 1972.
- At the 29th International Congress of Orientalists, held in Paris in 1973, Sanskritists from various countries endorsed the formation of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies and drafted its constitution.
- The main task of the IASS was agreed to be the organizing of a World Sanskrit Conference at different venues around the world.
- Members of the IASS are registered on an individual basis by paying a membership fee, either directly to the IASS (see "Download Membership Form" below), or through their membership of a national association that is affiliated to the IASS.

- The 1972 International Sanskrit Conference in New Delhi was recognised retrospectively as the First World Sanskrit Conference.

Statement 2: By the middle of the 1970s workers in the field of Buddhist studies were experiencing more and more urgently the acute need for an international academic organisation wholly dedicated to the pursuit and furtherance of the study of Buddhism in one or several of its many aspects.

IABS With this end in view, a small meeting was convened in 1976 by two scholars who were leading historians of ancient India, professor A. L. Basham and A. K. Narain, and it was agreed by those present that a learned society having this purpose should be founded.


The first organised conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (IABS) was then held on 15-17 September 1978 under the auspices of Columbia University (New York).

Q Source: Additional Research:

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/09/insights-daily-current-affairs-09-july-2018/>

<http://iabsinfo.net/about-iabs/>

82 What is the difference between Formaldehyde and Formalin?

1. Formaldehyde in its basic form is liquid whereas Formalin is a gas.
 2. Formaldehyde can be disposed of via the sanitary sewer system, but formalin must be disposed in hazardous chemical wastes.
 3. Formaldehyde is inflammable whereas Formalin is flammable.
- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 1, 2 and 3 only
 - C. 2 only 
 - D. 1 and 2 only
 - Your Answer :
 - Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: Formaldehyde, in its basic form, is a gas. Most people think of formaldehyde as a liquid. The liquid is actually a mixture of formaldehyde gas and water. The most common concentration used is a 37% solution.

- To prevent polymerization of formaldehyde solution, about 10 - 15% of methyl alcohol is added. It is the addition of methyl alcohol that causes the substance to be called formalin as opposed to formaldehyde.
- Formalin is a toxic, colourless solution that is derived by dissolving formaldehyde gas in water.



- It is a cancer-inducing chemical used to preserve fish is used as a disinfectant. It is used in the manufacture of pesticides, fertilisers, glue, paper and paint, among other products.
- Formalin causes irritation in the eyes, throat, skin and stomach. In the long run continued exposure causes harm to the kidneys, liver and can even cause cancers.

Statement 2: Fish samples in Chennai test positive for formalin. This is the first time samples of fish in Tamil Nadu have tested positive for toxic formalin.

This is because Formalternate can be disposed of via the sanitary sewer system. But, formalin must be disposed though the hazardous chemical waste disposal program because it is toxic.

Formalternate can be used in lieu of formaldehyde in the storage (NOT FIXATION) of biological specimens.

Statement 3: Formaldehyde is a highly reactive, flammable gas, which means it can become a fire hazard when exposed to flame or heat.

Formaldehyde solutions can be flammable when there are high concentrations of formaldehyde or methanol.

Q Source: Additional Research:

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/09/insights-daily-current-affairs-09-july-2018/>

<http://www.ecu.edu/cs-admin/oehs/envmgmnt/Formalin.cfm>

83 Currency derivatives are used to

1. Hedge against currency movements
2. Prevent arbitrage between different currencies

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only ✓
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None ✗

◦ Your Answer : D

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Background: Prior to the introduction of currency derivatives on exchanges, there was only the OTC - over the counter - market to hedge currency risks and where forward contracts were negotiated and entered into. It was kind of an opaque and closed market where mostly banks and financial institutions traded. Exchange-based currency derivatives segment is a regulated and transparent market that can be used by small businesses and even individuals to hedge their currency risks.



Justification: Statement 1: Currency derivatives are exchange-based futures and options contracts that allow one to hedge against currency movements.

Simply put, one can use a currency future contract to exchange one currency for another at a future date at a price decided on the day of the purchase of the contract.

In India, one can use such derivative contracts to hedge against currencies like dollar, euro, U.K. pound and yen. Corporates, especially those with a significant exposure to imports or exports, use these contracts to hedge against their exposure to a certain currency.

While all such currency contracts are cash-settled in rupees, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), early this year, gave a go-ahead to start cross currency contracts as well on euro-dollar, pound-dollar and dollar-yen.

Statement 2: Arbitrage is the process of exploiting differences in the price of an asset by simultaneously buying and selling it. In the process the arbitrageur pockets a risk-free return. For e.g. if you can buy USD and sell it for Dinar to buy Rupees, if the market allows you can make some profits!

Currency derivatives do not guard against such transactions.

The Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), the country's largest commodity bourse in terms of market share, is planning to enter the currency derivatives segment.

Q Source: Additional Research:

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/09/insights-daily-current-affairs-09-july-2018/>

84 With reference to the industrialization of India induced by the British, consider the following statements with reference to its impact, as also noted by the Census reports of the 20th CE.

1. Establishment of western type industries gave an impetus to the village industries.
2. The high prices of agricultural produce, owing to industrialization, led many village artisans to abandon their hereditary craft in favour of agriculture.
3. Increase in the pace of industrialization led more people moving into urban areas.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1, 2 and 3
- B. 2 only ✓
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 3 only ✗

◦ Your Answer : D

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1 and 2: The Census of India Report, 1911, notes that, "The extensive importation of cheap European piece goods and utensils, and the establishment in India itself of numerous factories of the Western type, have more or less destroyed many village industries.



The high prices of agricultural produce have also led many village artisans to abandon their hereditary craft in favour of agriculture...The extent to which this disintegration of the old village organisation is proceeding varies considerably in different parts. The change is most noticeable in the more advanced provinces."

Statement 3: It was then noted that unlike Britain where the impact of industrialisation led to more people moving into urban areas, in India the initial impact of the same British industrialisation led to more people moving into agriculture.

Q Source: Page 8: Chapter 1: 12th NCERT: Social Change and Development in India

85 Who among the following is well known for significantly contributing to the estimation of National and Per capita Incomes during the colonial period in India?

- A. Womesh Chandra Banerjee
- B. V.K.R.V. Rao ✓
- C. Ramesh Chandra Dutt ✗
- D. Lala Lajpat Rai

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: The colonial government never made any sincere attempt to estimate India's national and per capita income.

Some individual attempts which were made to measure such incomes yielded conflicting and inconsistent results. Among the notable estimators — Dadabhai Naoroji, William Digby, Findlay Shirras, V.K.R.V. Rao and R.C. Desai — it was Rao whose estimates of the national and per capita incomes during the colonial period were considered very significant.

However, most studies did find that the country's growth of aggregate real output during the first half of the twentieth century was less than two per cent coupled with a meagre half per cent growth in per capita output per year.

You can read about Rao here <http://www.isec.ac.in/VKRV%20Rao.htm>

He was a prominent figure in Indian economic history.

Q Source: Page 5: 11th NCERT: Economics

86 Countries that lie west to a straight line joining Warsaw and Athens are

1. Austria
2. Belarus
3. Italy
4. Belgium

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1, 3 and 4 only ✓
- B. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 2 and 4 only

- Your Answer : A

- Correct Answer : A

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification:



Q Source: EU Map

- 87** Which of the following state/UT governments has introduced school curriculums focussed on happiness, has a Happiness government department and aims to evaluate its citizen's happiness based on a "Happiness Index"?

- A. Delhi
- B. Madhya Pradesh ✓
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Kerala ✗

- Your Answer : D

- Correct Answer : B

- **Answer Justification :**



Justification and Learning: Option A: Delhi does not have a happiness department or happiness Index. It has introduced Happiness curriculum in schools though recently.

The curriculum involves a “happiness period” of 45 minutes and five minutes of meditation before each class. It will include meditation, moral values and mental exercises.

Option B: Madhya Pradesh, which is in the process of developing a happiness index to find out how happy its population is, has decided to introduce on pilot basis happiness-based activities in 10 schools, five each in Bhopal and Jabalpur. Keeping the emotional needs of students in mind, an effort will be made to develop their personalities to help them lead a meaningful life.

After the idea of a happiness department was floated by the MP Chief Minister in 2017, the state government signed an MoU with IIT Kharagpur to assess and develop the Happiness index.

The 14 domains were arrived at after reviewing global, country and city indices with which happiness is associated while the sub-domains and their indicators were chosen after study of various reports on the basis of ground realities that emerged from primary unstructured and domain-specific interviews with 600 respondents from 10 districts of the state.

You can read more about these developments here

<https://indianexpress.com/article/education/madhya-pradesh-plans-happiness-based-activities-in-10-schools-5076058/>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/now-madhya-pradesh-to-measure-peoples-happiness-quotient/articleshow/63256206.cms>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/the-pursuit-of-happiness-in-shivrajs-madhya-pradesh/articleshow/62888305.cms>

Q Source: Additional Research:

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/04/insights-daily-current-affairs-04-july-2018/>

88 With reference to the authority of the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCT), consider the following statements.

1. The NCT government need to obtain his formal “concurrence” on all issues of day-to-day governance.
2. The LG is not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers (CoM).
3. In case of difference of opinion between the LG and the CoM, the LG should straightaway refer the dispute to the President for a final decision.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 only ✓
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1 and 3 only

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : B



◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: These are some of the Supreme Court's observations:

The L-G is bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. In case of difference of opinion, the L-G should straightaway refer the dispute to the President for a final decision.

The Lieutenant-Governor should act as a "facilitator" for good governance in the national capital and not as an "obstructionist".

The Lieutenant-Governor's authority, saying he cannot exercise his discretion in "each and every matter" of daily governance. His discretionary powers are in fact limited to only matters in the State List — public order, police and land — over which the legislative power of the Delhi Legislative Assembly stand excluded under Article 239AA.

The NCT government need only to inform the L-G of its "well-deliberated" decisions. The government need not obtain his "concurrence" on every issue of day-to-day governance.

The elected government could make policies on laws enacted by its own Assembly. The executive power of the NCT government was co-extensive with its legislative powers.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/05/insights-daily-current-affairs-05-july-2018/>

89 For an Individual, information extracted from his DNA Profiling can be used to

1. Determine the colour of the skin and eyes
2. Establish immigration eligibility based on his family lineage
3. Determine allergies and susceptibility to diseases

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1 only ✗
- B. 1, 2 and 3 ✓
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

◦ Your Answer : A

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: DNA profiling (also called DNA fingerprinting) is the process of determining an individual's DNA characteristics, which are as unique as fingerprints. DNA analysis intended to identify a species, rather than an individual, is called DNA barcoding.

information from DNA samples can reveal not just how a person looks, or what their eye colour or skin colour is, but also more intrusive information like their allergies, or susceptibility to diseases. As a result, there is a greater risk of information from DNA analysis getting misused.

DNA profiling is commonly used as a forensic technique in criminal investigations, for example comparing one or more individuals' profiles to DNA found at a crime scene so as to assess the

likelihood of their involvement in the crime.

It is also used in parentage testing, to establish immigration eligibility (based on their family lineage), and in genealogical and medical research. DNA profiling has also been used in the study of animal and plant populations in the fields of zoology, botany, and agriculture.

Q Source: Additional Research:

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/05/insights-daily-current-affairs-05-july-2018/>

90 Consider the following statements.

1. It separates southern England from northern France.
2. It links the southern part of the North Sea to the Atlantic Ocean.
3. It is considered to be the busiest shipping area in the world.

◦ The above refers to which of the following water bodies?

- A. Bay of Biscay
- B. San Marine Waterway
- C. English Channel ✓
- D. North Circle

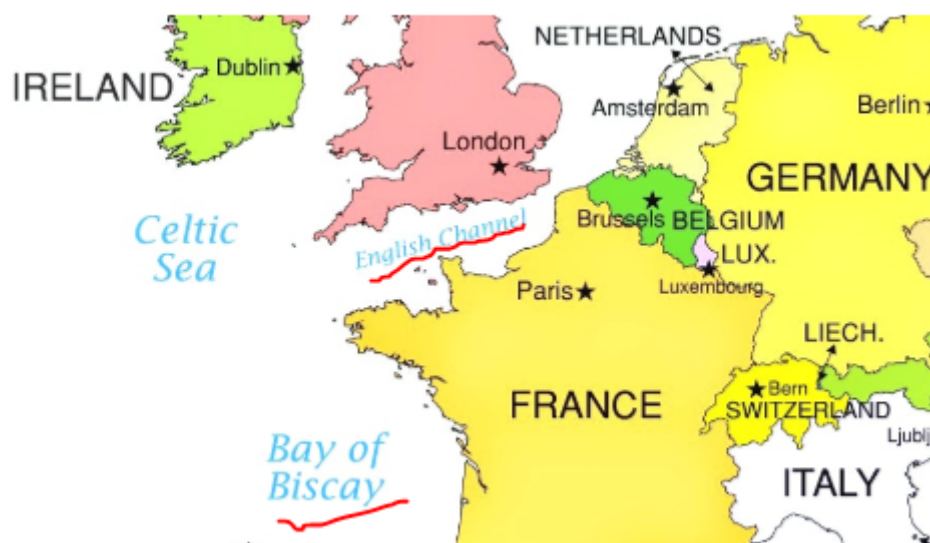
◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: The English Channel is the body of water that separates southern England from northern France and links the southern part of the North Sea to the Atlantic Ocean. It is the busiest shipping area in the world.

It is about 560 km long and is the smallest of the shallow seas around the continental shelf of Europe.



Q Source: EU Map



91 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are owned by

- A. The Central Government ❌
- B. The Reserve Bank of India
- C. Jointly by the Central, State governments and the sponsor banks ✅
- D. Jointly by the State Government and Sponsor Banks

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: A Regional Rural Banks Ordinance was promulgated in September 1975, which was replaced by the Regional Rural Banks Act 1976.

RRBs were set up with the objective to provide credit and other facilities, especially to the small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans and small entrepreneurs in rural areas for development of agriculture, trade, commerce, industry and other productive activities.

RRBs are jointly owned by Government of India, the concerned State Government and Sponsor Banks with the issued capital shared in the proportion of 50%, 15% and 35% respectively.

Cabinet recently approved extension of Scheme of Recapitalization of Regional Rural Banks upto 2019-20.

This will enable the RRBs to maintain the minimum prescribed Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 9%. A strong capital structure and minimum required level of CRAR will ensure financial stability of RRBs which will enable them to play a greater role in financial inclusion and meeting the credit requirements of rural areas.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/05/insights-daily-current-affairs-05-july-2018/>

92 Factors that help in the evolution of landforms on earth include

1. Movement of magma within the earth
2. Growth and decay of vegetation
3. Erosion and deposition
4. Frost action and glacial movement

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
 - A. 1 and 3 only
 - B. 2 and 4 only
 - C. 1, 3 and 4 only ❌
 - D. 1, 2, 3 and 4 ✅

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**



Justification: Statement 1: It causes plate movements (tectonics), results in volcanic eruptions and is therefore a significant factor in the evolution of landforms on earth.

Statement 2: If Vegetation cover is high, it protects the surface from rain splash as root mass is sufficient to stabilize the materials on the slope.

Even surface runoff become less effective in carving out landforms in areas where there is dense vegetation, since there is little scope for soil erosion.

Statement 3: Self-explanatory. For e.g. all the plains that you are the result of active erosion and deposition by water.

Statement 4: When water freezes to ice, its volume increases. Under specific circumstances, this expansion is able to displace or fracture rocks where water exist in its pores. Repeated frost action thus weathers (breaks) the rocks.

- In some mountains, there are permanently frozen rivers of ice. They are called glaciers. Glaciers move at a very slow rate. When they do, they erode the soil beneath them.
- Also, formation of glaciers and their retreat affects the soil profile of the region and thus the landforms.

Q Source: Page 39-40: NCERT 6th Geography: The Earth Our Habitat

93 During the later part of the British rule, Indian mainly imported

1. Raw silk
2. Indigo
3. Woollen clothes

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 only ✓
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1 and 3 only

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: This is where UPSC in 2018 picked its questions from (check British India trade related question in CSP 2018).

India has been an important trading nation since ancient times. But the restrictive policies of commodity production, trade and tariff pursued by the colonial government adversely affected the structure, composition and volume of India's foreign trade.



Consequently, India became an exporter of primary products such as raw silk, cotton, wool, sugar, indigo, jute etc. and an importer of finished consumer goods like cotton, silk and woollen clothes and capital goods like light machinery produced in the factories of Britain.

For all practical purposes, Britain maintained a monopoly control over India's exports and imports. As a result, more than half of India's foreign trade was restricted to Britain while the rest was allowed with a few other countries like China, Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Persia (Iran).

The opening of the Suez Canal further intensified British control over India's foreign trade.

Q Source: Page 8: 11th NCERT: Economics

94 The species recovery programme of the Union Environment Ministry covers which of the following species?

1. Common Myna
2. Red Panda
3. Vultures
4. Clouded Leopard

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only ✓
- D. 1 and 4 only

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification and Learning: Species already included in the recovery programme: Snow Leopard, Bustard (including Floricans), Dolphin, Hangul, Nilgiri Tahr, Marine Turtles, Dugongs, Edible Nest Swiftlet, Asian Wild Buffalo, Nicobar Megapode, Manipur Brow-antlered Deer, Vultures, Malabar Civet, Indian Rhinoceros, Asiatic Lion, Swamp Deer and Jerdon's Courser.

The species recovery programme of the Union Environment Ministry is implemented under Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats — a centrally sponsored umbrella scheme for management and conservation of parks, wildlife habitats and conservation.

Started in 2008-09, IDWH is meant for providing support to protected areas (national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, conservation reserves and community reserves except tiger reserves), protection of wildlife outside protected areas and recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats.

National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) recently added four species into the center's recovery Programme for critically endangered species - Northern River Terrapin, Clouded Leopard, Arabian Sea Humpback Whale and Red Panda.



This decision will lead to targeted conservation of these species whose population is on the decline.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/06/insights-daily-current-affairs-06-july-2018/>

95 Consider the following statements. Oceanic crust is

1. Less dense than continental crust
2. Thinner than continental crust
3. A result of erupted mantle material
4. Poor in magnesium, but rich in Silica and Aluminium

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 2 and 3 only ✓
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1 and 4 only

◦ Your Answer : A

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification & Learning: The crust overlies the solidified and uppermost layer of the mantle.

Oceanic crust is the result of erupted mantle material originating from below the plate, cooled and in most instances, modified chemically by seawater.

It is primarily composed of mafic rocks, or sima, which is rich in iron and magnesium.

It is thinner than continental crust, or sial, generally less than ten km thick; however Oceanic crust is denser. So, both A and R are incorrect.

Q Source: Chapter 2: Goh Cheng Leong - Certificate Physical and Human Geography

96 The Government of India Act of 1935 provided for the establishment of an All-India Federation consisting of provinces and princely states as units. However, the federation never came into being because

- A. The reversal of the principle of communal representation by the GoI 1935 Act, providing general electorates for all classes of citizens, was protested by some provinces
- B. Princely states never joined the federation as proposed by the Act. ✓
- C. It introduced diarchy in the provinces and bicameralism at the Centre which obviated the need for provinces to join the federation
- D. In the opinion of several provincial governments, the Act divided the powers between the Centre and provinces unfairly

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : B



◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: It provided for the establishment of an All-India Federation consisting of provinces and princely states as units.

The Act divided the powers between the Centre and units in terms of three lists—Federal List (for Centre, with 59 items), Provincial List (for provinces, with 54 items) and the Concurrent List (for both, with 36 items). Residuary powers were given to the Viceroy.

However, the federation never came into being as the princely states did not join it.

Option C: It abolished dyarchy in the provinces and introduced 'provincial autonomy' in its place. The provinces were allowed to act as autonomous units of administration in their defined spheres.

Moreover, the Act introduced responsible governments in provinces, that is, the governor was required to act with the advice of ministers responsible to the provincial legislature. This came into effect in 1937 and was discontinued in 1939.

Option D: It provided for the adoption of dyarchy at the Centre. Consequently, the federal subjects were divided into reserved subjects and transferred subjects. However, this provision of the Act did not come into operation at all.

It introduced bicameralism in six out of eleven provinces. Thus, the legislatures of Bengal, Bombay, Madras, Bihar, Assam and the United Provinces were made bicameral consisting of a legislative council (upper house) and a legislative assembly (lower house). However, many restrictions were placed on them.

Option A: It further extended the principle of communal representation by providing separate electorates for depressed classes (scheduled castes), women and labour (workers).

Q Source: Previous test syllabus: Additional Research: Chapter 1: Indian Polity: M Laxmikanth

97 Which of the following methods of income determination suffers from the well known problem of 'double counting'?

- A. Income method
- B. Expenditure method
- C. Product method
- D. Investment Method

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: The term that is used to denote the net contribution made by a firm is called its value added. We have seen that the raw materials that a firm buys from another firm which are completely used up in the process of production are called 'intermediate goods'. Therefore the value added of a firm is, value of production of the firm - value of intermediate goods used by the firm.



Let's suppose that we calculate the total value added in a bread.

The total value of the bread includes the contribution of several intermediaries that add a certain value to it.

To calculate the net contribution of the bakers, we need to subtract the value of the wheat that they have bought from the farmers. If we do not do this we shall commit the mistake of 'double counting'.

This is because Rs 50 worth of wheat (that comes from farmers) will be counted twice. First it will be counted as part of the output produced by the farmers. Second time, it will be counted as the imputed value of wheat in the bread produced by the bakers.

Therefore, the net contribution made by the bakers is, $\text{Rs } 200 - \text{Rs } 50 = \text{Rs } 150$.

Hence, aggregate value of goods produced by this simple economy is Rs 100 (net contribution by the farmers) + Rs 150 (net contribution by the bakers) = Rs 250.

Q Source: Page 18: Chapter 2: 12th NCERT Macroeconomics

98 The "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030" was adopted during the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan in 2015. Consider the following about it.

1. It is a voluntary and non-binding agreement.
 2. It is a successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015.
- Which of the above is/are correct?
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. None
 - Your Answer : C
 - Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: It is the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda, with seven targets and four priorities for action.

It was endorsed by the UN General Assembly following the 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR).

The Framework is for 15-year. It is a voluntary and non-binding agreement which recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.

The new Framework is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.



Q Source: Previous test's syllabus

99 Which of the following had a bearing on the establishment of a Public Service Commission in India?

1. First Dispatch of the Government of India on the Indian Constitutional Reforms, 1919
2. Lee Commission, 1924
3. Whitley Commission, 1929
4. Government of India Act, 1935

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only ✓
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

◦ Your Answer : A

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: This is a long explanation, and important because it covers the history of UPSC.

Statement 1 and 3: The origin of the Public Service Commission in India is found in the First Dispatch of the Government of India on the Indian Constitutional Reforms on the 5th March, 1919 which referred to the need for setting up some permanent office charged with the regulation of service matters.

- This concept of a body intended to be charged primarily with the regulation of service matters, found a somewhat more practical shape in the Government of India Act, 1919. Section 96(C) of the Act provided for the establishment in India of a Public Service Commission which should "discharge, in regard to recruitment and control of the Public Services in India, such functions as may be assigned thereto by rules made by the Secretary of State in Council".
- After passing of the Government of India Act, 1919, in spite of a prolonged correspondence among various levels on the functions and machinery of the body to be set up, no decision was taken on setting up of the body.
- The subject was then referred to the Royal Commission on the Superior Civil Services in India (also known as Lee Commission). The Lee Commission, in their report in the year 1924, recommended that the statutory Public Service Commission contemplated by the Government of India Act, 1919 should be established without delay.
- Subsequent to the provisions of Section 96(C) of the Government of India Act, 1919 and the strong recommendations made by the Lee Commission in 1924 for the early establishment of a Public Service Commission, it was on October 1, 1926 that the Public Service Commission



was set up in India for the first time.

Statement 4: The functions of the Public Service Commission were not laid down in the Government of India Act, 1919, but were regulated by the Public Service Commission (Functions) Rules, 1926 framed under sub-section (2) of Section 96(C) of the Government of India Act, 1919.

Further, the Government of India Act, 1935 envisaged a Public Service Commission for the Federation and a Provincial Public Service Commission for each Province or group of Provinces. Therefore, in terms of the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935 and with its coming into effect on 1st April, 1937, the Public Service Commission became the Federal Public Service Commission.

With the inauguration of the Constitution of India in January 26, 1950, the Federal Public Service Commission came to be known as the Union Public Service Commission.

Statement 2: A Whitley Council is a workplace partnership institution in the UK and elsewhere that serves as a forum between employers and employees.

During World War I, in 1917, John Henry Whitley chaired a committee which produced a report on the 'Relations of Employers and Employees'. The smooth running of industry was vital to the war effort, so good industrial relations were a priority.

He proposed a system of regular formal consultative meetings between workers and employers, known to this day as Whitley Councils. These are empowered to cover issues of pay and conditions of

Q Source: Additional Research: Chapter 1: Indian Polity: M Laxmikanth

100 PAT (pad abort test), recently conducted by ISRO, is likely to be useful in

- A. Future space manned missions ✓
- B. Conserving solid onboard fuel of rockets
- C. Auto-recovery of orbiting spacecrafts
- D. Harnessing solar power in geo-synchronous orbits

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: PAT (pad abort test) is the first in a series of tests to qualify a crew escape system technology of a manned mission in the future.

Crew Escape System is an emergency escape measure to quickly pull the astronaut cabin along with crew out to a safe distance from launch vehicle during a launch abort.

ISRO recently conducted the first 'pad abort' test critical for a future human space mission. The Pad Abort Test demonstrated the safe recovery of the crew module in case of any exigency at the launch



pad.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/06/insights-daily-current-affairs-06-july-2018/>



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