

1 Consider the following about Sea floor spreading.

1. It is caused by a sinking mantle.
 2. It is verified by the observation that ocean crust rocks are much younger than the continental rocks.
 3. The sediments on the ocean floor get unexpectedly very thick due to sea floor spreading.
- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
 - A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 2 and 3 only
 - C. 1 and 3 only
 - D. 2 only
 - Your Answer : D
 - Correct Answer : D
- **Answer Justification :**

Justification and Learning: Constant eruptions at the crest of oceanic ridges cause the rupture of the oceanic crust and the new lava wedges into it, pushing the oceanic crust on either side. The ocean floor, thus spreads, known as sea floor spreading.

Sea floor spreading is verified using these phenomena:

- It was realised that all along the mid-oceanic ridges, volcanic eruptions are common and they bring huge amounts of lava to the surface in this area. The sediments on the ocean floor are unexpectedly very thin.
- The age of the rocks increases as one moves away from the crest.
- The ocean crust rocks are much younger than the continental rocks.
- The sediments on the ocean floor are unexpectedly very thin.
- The deep trenches have deep-seated earthquake occurrences while in the mid-oceanic ridge areas, the quake foci have shallow depths. It means lava is in close vicinity.

Q Source: Page 30: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

2 Which of the following places in India host important synagogues religious places of worship for the Jews, who have been recently recognized as a minority in Maharashtra?

1. Cochin
 2. Pune
 3. Kolkata
- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
 - A. 1, 2 and 3
 - B. 2 and 3 only
 - C. 1 only
 - D. 2 only

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : A

- **Answer Justification :**

Background and Justification: The Jews of India waited centuries to build their first synagogues, praying in temporary structures or private houses. The buildings that were eventually built vary greatly in their scale, style, and visual orientation.

Some, particularly those belonging to the Baghdadi Jews based in Mumbai, Kolkata, and Pune, are grand and built in various Western styles using fine materials and elaborate detail.

Constructed by the Baghdadi Jewish community who first came from Iraq, Iran, and a handful of other Near Eastern countries and settled in India permanently beginning in the 18th century is a Neo-Baroque synagogue in the Fort section of Mumbai, a Renaissance revival one in central Kolkata and, in English tradition, a neo-Gothic structure in fine condition sitting within an open site in the Camp area of Pune.

The largest synagogue in Asia outside Israel is considered to be in Pune (Ohel David Synagogue)

You can read more about Jewish synagogues here

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synagogues_in_India#Origins

Q Source: As mentioned above

3 Consider the following statements.

Assertion (A): An observer standing at sea level on either pole is closer to Earth's central point than if standing at sea level on the Equator.

Reason (R): A rotating body tends to form an oblate spheroid rather than a sphere.

- 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 : A
- Correct Answer : A

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification: An equatorial bulge is a difference between the equatorial and polar diameters of a planet, due to the centrifugal force exerted by the rotation about the body's axis. A rotating body tends to form an oblate spheroid rather than a sphere.

The Earth has an equatorial bulge of 42.77 km; that is, its diameter measured across the equatorial plane (12,756.274 km) is 42.77 km more than that measured between the poles (12,713.56 km).

An observer standing at sea level on either pole, therefore, is 21.36 km closer to Earth's central

point than if standing at sea level on the Equator. The value of Earth's radius may be approximated by the average of these radii.

Learning: As a result of Earth's equatorial bulge, the highest point on Earth, measured from the center and outwards, is the peak of Mount Chimborazo in Ecuador rather than Mount Everest. But since the ocean also bulges, like Earth and its atmosphere, Chimborazo is not as high above sea level as Everest is.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 31: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

4 In a simple open Keynesian economy, if investment equals savings then the budget deficit should be met by and equal

- A. Private savings
- B. Trade balance ✓
- C. Investment shocks ✗
- D. Consumption

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: The identities below

$$C + I + G + X - M \equiv C + S + T$$

Cancelling final consumption expenditure C from both sides we get

$$I + G + X - M \equiv S + T$$

In other words $(I - S) + (G - T) \equiv M - X$ (2.8)

In (2.8), $G - T$ measures by what amount the government expenditure exceeds the tax revenue earned by it. This is referred to as budget deficit.

$M - X$ is known as the trade deficit - it measures the excess of import expenditure over the export revenue earned by the economy (M is the outflow from the country, X is the inflow into the country).

If there is no government, no foreign trade then $G = T = M = X = 0$.

Hence (2.8) yields $I \equiv S$ (2.9)

(2.9) is simply an accounting identity. Out of the GDP, a part is consumed and a part is saved (from the recipient side of the incomes). On the other hand, from the side of the firms, the aggregate final expenditure received by them (\equiv GDP) must be equal to consumption expenditure and investment expenditure.

The aggregate of incomes received by the households is equal to the expenditure received by the

firms because the income method and expenditure method would give us the same figure of GDP. Since consumption expenditure cancels out from both sides, we are left with aggregate savings equal to the aggregate gross investment expenditure.

Q Source: Page 23: 12th NCERT: Macroeconomics

5 The Gondwana system of sediments from India is known to have its counter parts in six different landmasses. These landmasses do not include

- A. Africa
- B. Falkland Island
- C. Madagascar
- D. Mongolia

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Option D, Mongolia, is ruled out because these deposits are only found in Southern Hemisphere, apart from being found in India.

Learning: Tillite is the sedimentary rock formed out of deposits of glaciers. The Gondawana system of sediments from India is known to have its counter parts in six different landmasses of the Southern Hemisphere.

At the base the system has thick tillite indicating extensive and prolonged glaciation. Counter parts of this succession are found in Africa, Falkland Island, Madagascar, Antarctica and Australia besides India.

Overall resemblance of the Gondwana type sediments clearly demonstrates that these landmasses had remarkably similar histories.

The glacial tillite provides unambiguous evidence of palaeoclimates and also of drifting of continents.

Q Source: Page 31: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

6 What is the rationale and effect of fixing the maximum of GNI per capita at \$75,000?

1. Contribution of income to human development tends to diminish as incomes rise after a certain limit.
2. Putting a cap on income levels would allow for a more realistic assessment of human development, without which rich countries would dominate the rankings.

- 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: Income is instrumental to human development, but the contribution diminishes as incomes rise.

Also a high income without being translated into other human development outcomes is of less relevance for human development.

Fixing the maximum at \$75,000 means that for countries with GNI per capita greater than \$75,000, only the first \$75,000 contributes to human development. In this way the higher income is prevented from dominating the HDI value.

Currently we have only 4 countries with GNI pc above the cap - Liechtenstein, Kuwait, Qatar and Singapore. The projections based on fairly realistic growth rates have shown that by 2018 not more than five countries will exceed the limit.

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/faq-page/human-development-index-hdi#t292n51>

Q Source: Additional Research: Chapter 3: Shankar Ganesh: Economy

7 Consider the following statements.

1. Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were successfully used on an experimental basis for the first time in general elections of 1998.
2. The None of the Above (NOTA) option was employed in the 2014 general elections.
3. Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines were successfully used for the first time in 2016 Rajasthan assembly elections.

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
 - A. 1 and 3 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. 1 and 2 only
 - D. None of the above

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: EVMs were used on an experimental basis for the first time in elections to 16 Assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh (5), Rajasthan (5) and Delhi (6) held in November, 1998. Earlier attempts had sort of failed.

Statement 2: In the 2014 general election, NOTA polled 1.1% of the votes, counting to over 6,000,000.

The specific symbol for NOTA, a ballot paper with a black cross across it, was introduced on 18 September 2015.

Statement 3: Voter-verified paper audit trail (VVPAT) system was introduced in 8 of 543 parliamentary constituencies as a pilot project in Indian general election, 2014. It was first used in an election in India in September 2013 in Noksen (Assembly Constituency) in Nagaland.

Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines and next generation EVMs will be used for the first time in Rajasthan in the ensuing assembly elections (2018).

The 'M3'-type electronic voting machines (EVMs), which the Election Commission plans to use, are equipped with a self-diagnostic system for authentication of genuineness of the machines.

These machines would bring more transparency and polling would be easy and convenient.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 29: Chapter 2: 12th NCERT: Indian Since Independence

<https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/for-the-1st-time-vvpat-machines-and-evm-m3s-to-be-used-in-upcoming-rajasthan-assembly-elections/1216667/>

8 Dr. B.R. Ambedkar resigned from the interim cabinet of independent India was triggered over an issue related to

- A. Dominance of centre in the Indian union
- B. Hindu Code Bill
- C. Constitutional rights of Dalits
- D. Extreme socialist bias of Congress

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: There are several reasons behind Dr. Ambedkar's resignation from the cabinet as are evident from his resignation speech.

Hindu code bill disagreement was the trigger.

During the debates in the Constituent Assembly, Ambedkar demonstrated his will to reform Indian society by recommending the adoption of a Uniform Civil Code. Ambedkar resigned from the cabinet in 1951, when parliament stalled his draft of the Hindu Code Bill, which sought to enshrine gender equality in the laws of inheritance and marriage.

Some of the other reasons can be:

He was never a congressmen and was always treated like an outcast in the Congress Party and was

never included in any substantial Cabinet Committee except the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs and that too on Dr. Ambedkar's own protest. Also, there was little freedom in the Law Ministry where he was working.

Most of the tenure of Dr. Ambedkar passed by while making and drafting the constitution till 26 January 1950. When the constitution was enacted he wanted to leave the cabinet but he stayed for several reasons. One of the major reason was the upliftment of the Scheduled Classes, Backward Classes and Women.

Other reasons are not amenable to discussion here. But, you can find them in his speech here <https://ambedkarism.wordpress.com/2011/03/10/dr-ambedkars-resignation-speech/>

This is not a very authentic source, but for the purpose of general reading, no harm.

Q Source: Page 35: Chapter 2: 12th NCERT: Indian Since Independence

9 Consider the following statements.

1. Mid-Atlantic ridge is an example of convergent boundary.
 2. A subduction zone cannot be formed between an Oceanic and a continental plate.
 3. Transform faults are the planes of separation generally perpendicular to the mid-oceanic ridges.
- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
 - A. 3 only
 - B. 1 only
 - C. 1 and 2 only
 - D. 1 and 3 only
 - Your Answer : A
 - Correct Answer : A
 - **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: Divergent Boundaries are formed where new crust is generated as the plates pull away from each other.

The sites where the plates move away from each other are called spreading sites. The best-known example of divergent boundaries is the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

At this, the American Plate(s) is/are separated from the Eurasian and African Plates.

Statement 2: Where the crust is destroyed as one plate dives under another is called a convergent boundary. The location where sinking of a plate occurs is called a subduction zone.

There are three ways in which convergence can occur. These are: (i) between an oceanic and continental plate; (ii) between two oceanic plates; and (iii) between two continental plates.

Statement 3: Transform Boundaries form where the crust is neither produced nor destroyed as the plates slide horizontally past each other. Transform faults are the planes of separation generally perpendicular to the mid-oceanic ridges.

As the eruptions do not take all along the entire crest at the same time, there is a differential movement of a portion of the plate away from the axis of the earth. Also, the rotation of the earth has its effect on the separated blocks of the plate portions.

Q Source: Page 36: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

10 Who was leading the protests against the supposedly unfair election of Indira Gandhi in 1975 that led to proclamation of National Emergency?

- A. Ram Manohar Lohia
- B. Jay Prakash Narayan
- C. C. P. Mazumdar
- D. A. N. Ray

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: In 1975, Allahabad High Court passed a judgment declaring Indira Gandhi's election to the Lok Sabha invalid.

The judgment of the High Court meant that legally she was no more an MP and therefore, could not remain the Prime Minister unless she was once again elected as an MP within six months.

The stage was now set for a big political confrontation. The opposition political parties led by Jayaprakash Narayan pressed for Indira Gandhi's resignation and organised a massive demonstration in Delhi's Ramlila grounds on 25 June 1975.

Jayaprakash announced a nationwide satyagraha for her resignation and asked the army, the police and government employees not to obey "illegal and immoral orders". This too threatened to bring the activities of the government to a standstill. The political mood of the country had turned against the Congress, more than ever before.

Indira Gandhi responded with proclaiming the national emergency, the details of which are well covered in the NCERT.

Q Source: Page 108: Chapter 6: 12th NCERT: Indian Since Independence

11 2018 Earth Overshoot Day will fall on August 1. If the Day is celebrated on the September 1, next year in 2019, it implies that

- A. Earth has necessarily increased its carrying capacity.
- B. Human ecological footprint as compared to earth's bio-capacity has reduced considerably.
- C. The amount of natural resources generated by Earth in 2019 has reduced.
- D. Humanity's consumption of Earth's natural resources for that year has increased compared to 2018.

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

- **Answer Justification :**

Learning: It is date when humanity annual demand on nature exceeds what Earth can regenerate over the entire year. It is calculated by Global Footprint Network and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). If the earth overshoot day occurs later, it simply means that we have become more efficient in the usage of our natural resources, or that we have bought more time for the earth.

Currently, humankind is using 170% of the world's natural output. That means we are using up the equivalent of 1.7 Earths. And, according to the Global Footprint Network , we're on track to be using two Earths by the end of the 21st Century.

In 1963, we used 78% of the Earth's biocapacity. However by the early 1970s we began to consume more energy than the planet could produce. By 10 years ago, we were using 144% of the Earth's biocapacity.

The two greatest contributing factors to humanity's Ecological Footprint are carbon emissions, which accounts for 60%, and food, 26%.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/26/insights-daily-current-affairs-26-july-2018/>

12 Which of the following is/are example(s) of organically formed sedimentary rocks?

1. Limestone
2. Coal
3. Basalt
4. Shale

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

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : A

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1 and 2: Depending upon the mode of formation, sedimentary rocks are classified into three major groups: (i) mechanically formed — sandstone, conglomerate, limestone, shale, loess etc. are examples; (ii) organically formed— geyserite, chalk, limestone, coal etc. are some examples; (iii) chemically formed — chert, limestone, halite, potash etc. are some examples.

Statement 3: It is an igneous rock.

Statement 3: This is mechanically formed.

Q Source: Page 42: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

13 Ministry of Earth Sciences has unveiled state-of-the-art Air Quality and Weather Forecast System-SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting) recently. It covers which of the following pollutants?

1. PM2.5 and PM10
2. Ozone
3. Carbon dioxide
4. Methane

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: It is first of its kind and most advanced system in India.

SAFAR was developed indigenously by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and operationalized by India Meteorological Department (IMD).

It has been introduced for greater metropolitan cities of India to provide location-specific information on air quality in near real time and its forecast 1-3 days in advance for the first time in India.

It is integral part of India's first Air Quality Early Warning System operational in Delhi. It will monitor all weather parameters like temperature, rainfall, humidity, wind speed and wind direction.

Pollutants monitored: PM1, PM2.5, PM10, Ozone, CO, NOx (NO, NO2), SO2, BC, Methane (CH4), Non-methane hydrocarbons (NMHC), VOC's, Benzene, Mercury.

Monitored Meteorological Parameters: UV Radiation, Rainfall, Temperature, Humidity, Wind speed, Wind direction, solar radiation.

Significance of the system:

It has been introduced for greater metropolitan cities of India to provide location-specific information on air quality in near real time and its forecast 1-3 days in advance for the first time in India.

The World Meteorological Organization has recognised SAFAR as a prototype activity on the basis of the high quality control and standards maintained in its implementation.

The ultimate objective of the project is to increase awareness among general public regarding the

air quality in their city well in advance so that appropriate mitigation measures and systematic action can be taken up for betterment of air quality and related health issues.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/23/insights-daily-current-affairs-23-july-2018/>

14 Consider the following statements.

1. Decaying plant and animal matter help in the production of humic, carbonic and other acids which enhance decay and solubility of some elements in the soil.
 2. Biomes and biodiversity is basically a result of forests and forests depend upon the depth of weathering mantles.
- 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: Biological weathering is contribution to or removal of minerals and ions from the weathering environment and physical changes due to growth or movement of organisms.

Burrowing and wedging by organisms like earthworms, termites, rodents etc., help in exposing the new surfaces to chemical attack and assists in the penetration of moisture and air. Human beings by disturbing vegetation, ploughing and cultivating soils, also help in mixing and creating new contacts between air, water and minerals in the earth materials.

Decaying plant and animal matter help in the production of humic, carbonic and other acids which enhance decay and solubility of some elements. Algae utilise mineral nutrients for growth and help in concentration of iron and manganese oxides. Plant roots exert a tremendous pressure on the earth materials mechanically breaking them apart

Statement 2: Weathering processes are responsible for breaking down the rocks into smaller fragments and preparing the way for formation of not only regolith and soils, but also erosion and mass movements.

Erosion cannot be significant if the rocks are not weathered. That means, weathering aids mass wasting, erosion and reduction of relief and changes in landforms are a consequence of erosion.

Q Source: Page 51: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

15 Consider the following statements.

1. India's average spending on health, as a proportion of GDP, is the lowest among BRICS nations.
2. The three poorest states of India account for over four-fifths of the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in

the country.

- 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 :**

Justification: Statement 1: This should be no surprise given the poor health outcomes in India.

Statement 2: Nine of India's poorest states-home to 581 million or 48% of India's population-account for 70% of the country's infant deaths, 75% of under-five deaths and 62% of maternal deaths

Of the nine poorest states, Rajasthan spent the highest (5.6%) and Bihar the lowest (3.8%) proportion of aggregate expenditure on public healthcare and family welfare.

Bihar, along with UP, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan contributed 67% of the country's MMR.

The "high-focus" states are Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Assam.

Uttar Pradesh (78), Madhya Pradesh (65), Chhattisgarh (64), Bihar (58) and Assam (56) report India's highest under-five mortality rates-deaths per 1,000 live births - India Spend reported on March 20, 2017.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/why-581-million-indians-endure-india-s-worst-healthcare/story-wWV7yvVWTKYtGcsGS0gYQO.html>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/state-imr-mmr-better-thanks-to-govt-spend/articleshow/56818327.cms>

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

16 Which of the following activities is most likely to be classified under the secondary sector?

- A. Obtaining milk from the cow
- B. Weaving cloth from cotton obtained from a plant fibre
- C. Cutting trees to obtain wood
- D. Net trawling of fishes in the ocean

- Your Answer : B

- Correct Answer : B

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification: In options A, C and D something is directly being obtained from nature without modifying it at the initial stage. These are classified as primary activities.

This is because it forms the base for all other products that we subsequently make. Since most of the natural products we get are from agriculture, dairy, fishing, forestry, this sector is also called agriculture and related sector.

The secondary sector covers activities in which natural products are changed into other forms through ways of manufacturing that we associate with industrial activity. It is the next step after primary. The product is not produced by nature but has to be made by us, for e.g. cloth from a yarn of cotton.

Q Source: Page 20: 10th NCERT: Economics

17 Consider the following statements.

The Rajya Sabha does not have a procedure for moving of

1. Adjournment motion
2. Censure motion
3. No-confidence motion

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

- Your Answer : C

- Correct Answer : C

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification: S1 and S2 are not possible because these are motions that censure the government, and Rajya Sabha does not enjoy this power.

Rule 198 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha lays down the procedure for moving a Motion of No-Confidence in the Council of Ministers.

There is no mention of a no-confidence motion in the constitution.

The Speaker of Lok Sabha, Sumitra Mahajan has admitted a no-confidence motion moved by the opposition against the ruling government.

A no-confidence motion is a parliamentary motion which is moved in the Lok Sabha against the entire council of ministers, stating that they are no longer deemed fit to hold positions of responsibility due to their inadequacy in some respect or their failure to carry out their obligations. No prior reason needs to be stated for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/20/insights-daily-current-affairs-20-july-2018/>

18 Alluvial fans are formed when

1. Streams flowing from higher levels break into foot slope plains of low gradient
2. The river does not carry much load or carries only fine sediments
3. A river is nearing the sea

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 3 only

◦ Your Answer : A

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Normally very coarse load is carried by streams flowing over mountain slopes. This load becomes too heavy for the streams to be carried over gentler gradients and gets dumped and spread as a broad low to high cone shaped deposit called alluvial fan.

Usually, the streams which flow over fans are not confined to their original channels for long and shift their position across the fan forming many channels called distributaries.

Alluvial fans in humid areas show normally low cones with gentle slope from head to toe and they appear as high cones with steep slope in arid and semi-arid climates.

Deltas are like alluvial fans but develop at a different location. The load carried by the rivers is dumped and spread into the sea. If this load is not carried away far into the sea or distributed along the coast, it spreads and accumulates as a low cone. Unlike in alluvial fans, the deposits making up deltas are very well sorted with clear stratification.

The coarsest materials settle out first and the finer fractions like silts and clays are carried out into the sea.

As the delta grows, the river distributaries continue to increase in length and delta continues to build up into the sea.

Q Source: Page 60: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

19 Consider the following about the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) that was recently seen in news.

1. It was launched by the World Health Organization (WHO).
2. It is a public-private alliance to finance and coordinate the development of new vaccines to tackle epidemics.
3. It will fund programmes in LDCs that build a geographical information system (GIS) for mapping epidemic prone regions.

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : C

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: It was officially launched at World Economic Forum (WEF) Davos this year (2017).

Statement 2: CEPI's plan includes preparations for possible outbreaks of Marburg fever, Lassa fever, MERS, SARS, Nipah virus, Rift Valley fever, chikungunya, and others.

Statement 3: There are no proposals to fund GIS maps in LDCs. SO, 3 is wrong.

Under it, CEPI will solicit proposals from academic researchers and industry to develop candidate vaccines for its three target viruses.

Q Source:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/coalition-takes-shape-to-fight-epidemics-117011901672_1.html

20 Lagoons can be formed in

1. High rocky coasts
2. Low sedimentary coasts

- 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: Along the high rocky coasts, the rivers appear to have been drowned with highly irregular coastline.

The coastline appears highly indented with extension of water into the land where glacial valleys (fjords) are present. The hill sides drop off sharply into the water. Erosion features dominate.

When barrier bars and spits form at the mouth of a bay and block it, a lagoon forms. The lagoons

would gradually get filled up by sediments from the land giving rise to a coastal plain.

Statement 2: Along low sedimentary coasts the rivers appear to extend their length by building coastal plains and deltas. The coastline appears smooth with occasional incursions of water in the form of lagoons and tidal creeks.

The land slopes gently into the water. Marshes and swamps may abound along the coasts. Depositional features dominate.

When waves break over a gently sloping sedimentary coast, the bottom sediments get churned and move readily building bars, barrier bars, spits and lagoons.

Lagoons would eventually turn into a swamp which would subsequently turn into a coastal plain. The maintenance of these depositional features depends upon the steady supply of materials.

Q Source: Page 70: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

21 Western Asia is located directly south of Eastern Europe. The region is surrounded by seven major seas which include?

1. Black Sea
2. Red Sea
3. Aegean Sea
4. Caspian Sea

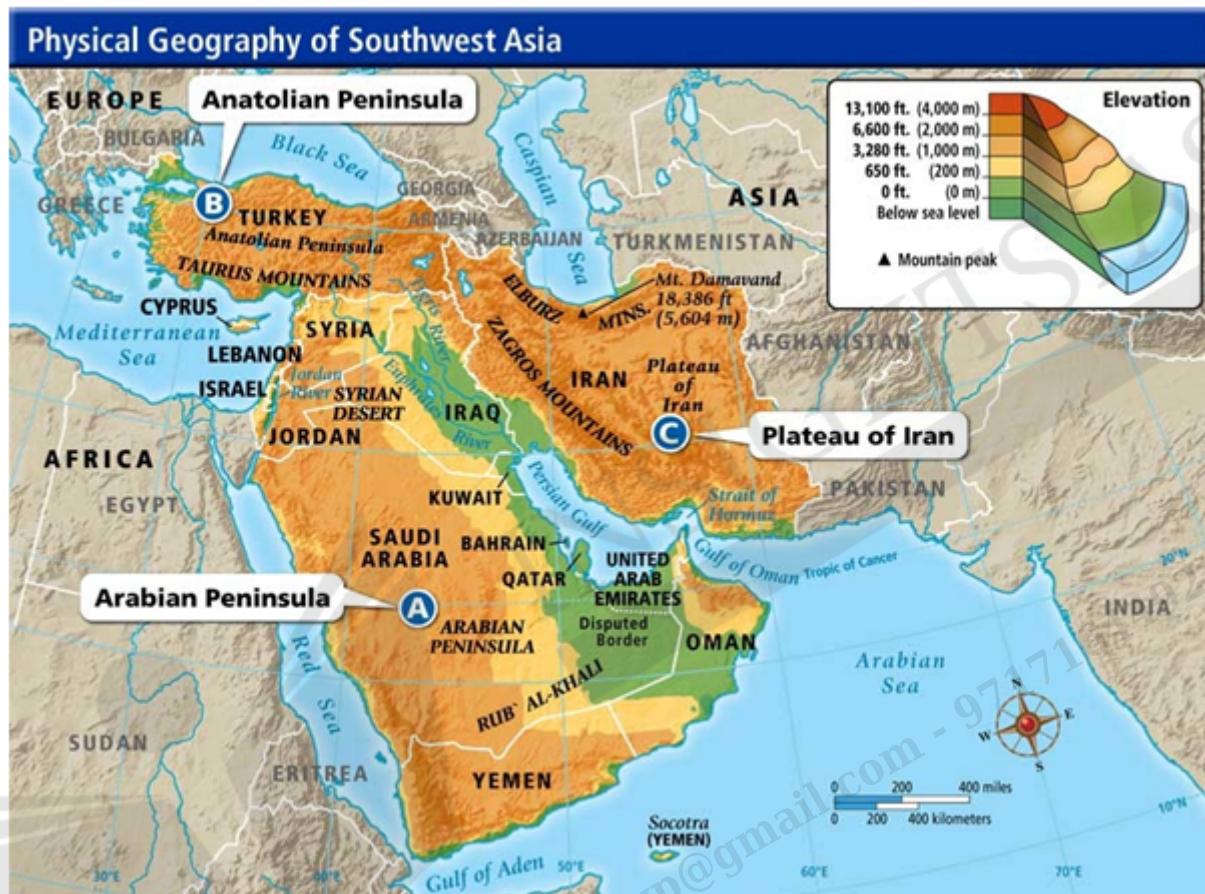
- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
 - A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 1, 2 and 4 only X
 - C. 3 and 4 only
 - D. 1, 2, 3 and 4 ✓

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: These are the Aegean Sea, the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea.

To the north, the region is delimited from Europe by the Caucasus Mountains, to the southwest, it is delimited from Africa by the Isthmus of Suez, while to the east, the region adjoins Central Asia and South Asia.



Q Source: West Asia Map

22 The Socialist Party went through many splits and reunions leading to the formation of many socialist parties. These included the

1. Nav Mazdoor Sangh
2. Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party
3. Praja Socialist Party

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: These parties were Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party, the Praja Socialist Party and Samyukta Socialist Party.

Jayaprakash Narayan, Achyut Patwardhan, Asoka Mehta, Acharya Narendra Dev, Rammanohar Lohia and S.M. Joshi were among the leaders of the socialist parties. Many parties in contemporary

India, like the Samajwadi Party, the Rashtriya Janata Dal, Janata Dal (United) and the Janata Dal (Secular) trace their origins to the Socialist Party.

Learning: The origins of the Socialist Party can be traced back to the mass movement stage of the Indian National Congress in the pre-independence era.

The Congress Socialist Party (CSP) was formed within the Congress in 1934 by a group of young leaders who wanted a more radical and egalitarian Congress.

In 1948, the Congress amended its constitution to prevent its members from having a dual party membership. This forced the Socialists to form a separate Socialist Party in 1948. The Party's electoral performance caused much disappointment to its supporters.

Although the Party had presence in most of the states of India, it could achieve electoral success only in a few pockets.

The socialists believed in the ideology of democratic socialism which distinguished them both from the Congress as well as from the Communists.

Q Source: Page 34: Chapter 2: 12th NCERT: India Since Independence

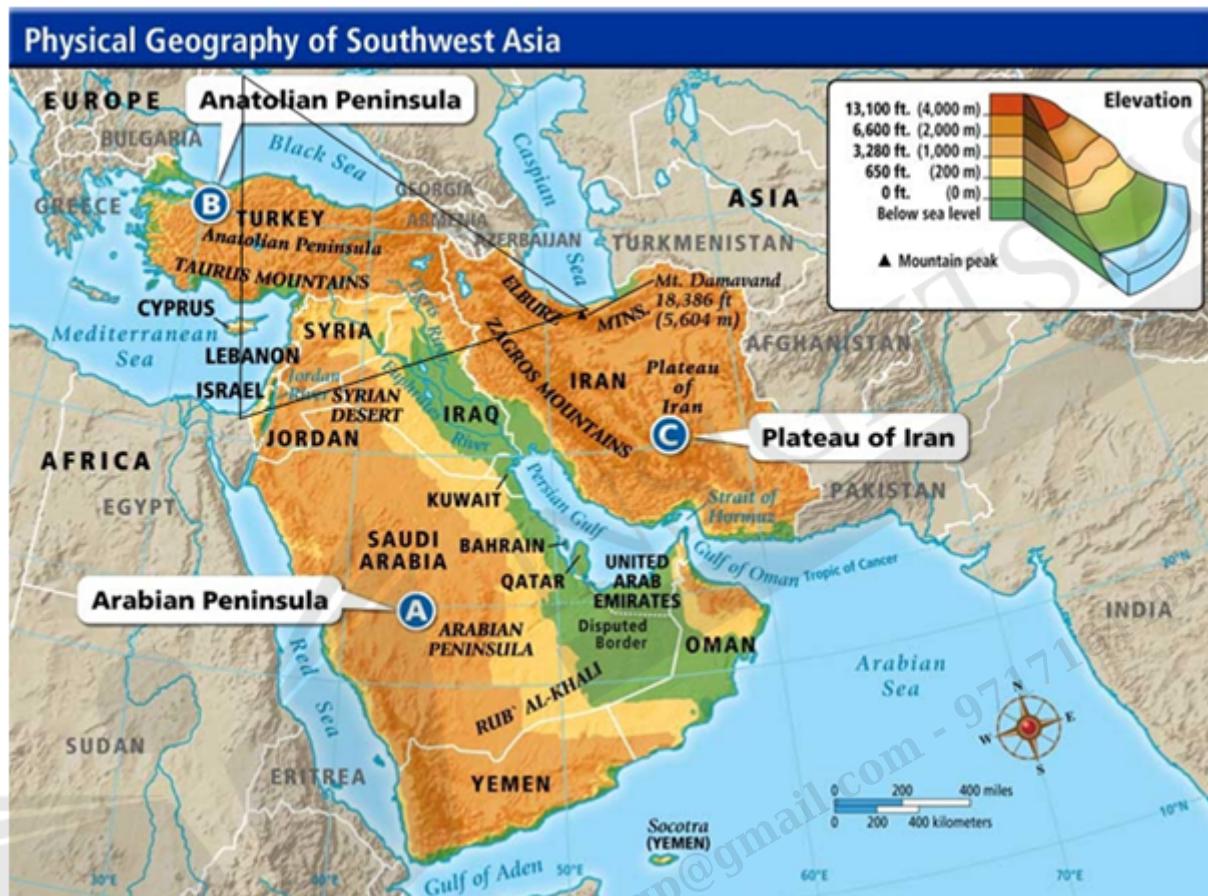
23 Consider a triangle that is formed from the following.

- Southernmost point of Mediterranean Sea
- Northernmost point of Black Sea
- Southernmost point of Caspian Sea

Which of these nations would such a triangle partially or fully encompass?

1. Syria
 2. Turkey
 3. Iran
- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 1, 2 and 3
 - C. 2 and 3 only
 - D. 1 and 2 only
 - Your Answer : B
 - Correct Answer : B
- **Answer Justification :**

Justification:



Q Source: West Asia Map

24 The only Asian member of the G-7 is

- A. China
- B. South Korea
- C. Japan
- D. Singapore

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

◦ Answer Justification :

Learning: The Group of Seven (G7) is a group consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These countries, with the seven largest advanced economies in the world, represent more than 62% of the global net wealth (\$280 trillion).

The G7 countries also represent more than 46% of the global gross domestic product (GDP) based on nominal values, and more than 32% of the global GDP based on purchasing power parity. The European Union is also represented at the G7 summit.

Q Source: Page 63: Chapter 4: 12th NCERT: Contemporary World Politics



25 What is the present status of Golan Heights, which is sometimes seen in news?

- A. Internationally recognized as Syrian territory occupied by Israel
- B. Internationally recognized as Israeli territory occupied by Egypt
- C. Internationally recognized as Egyptian territory occupied by Israel
- D. Internationally recognized as Israeli territory occupied by Syria

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: The Golan Heights is a region in the Levant, spanning about 1,800 square kilometres.

As a geopolitical region, the Golan Heights is the area captured from Syria and occupied by Israel during the Six-Day War, territory which Israel effectively annexed in 1981. This region includes the western two-thirds of the geological Golan Heights, as well as the Israeli-occupied part of Mount Hermon.



Q Source: West Asia Map

26 Consider the following statements.

1. The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was developed in 1991 by the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI).
2. The global Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) is a North-North initiative under UNDP that supports policymakers to develop multidimensional poverty measures.

- 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 a very recently developed index. The MPI was developed in 2010 by the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the United Nations Development Programme and uses different factors to determine poverty beyond income-based lists. It replaced the previous Human Poverty Index.

The global MPI is released annually by OPHI and the results published on its website.

Statement 2: It is a south-south initiative hosted under OHPI. South-South initiative means that at an initiative of developing countries. The “North” refers to developed countries because there is a larger concentration of developed countries in the north.

It promotes the use of such measures for more effective poverty eradication efforts at the global, national and local levels.

The Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) is a growing global community of more than 70 countries and organizations that focuses on multidimensional poverty. The network provides south-south dialogue, capacity building and, access to a repository of experiences and lessons learned about measuring multidimensional poverty.

Created in 2013, the Network was established to provide support to policymakers who are implementing a Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) or are exploring the possibility of developing multidimensional measures of poverty.

Q Source: Additional Research: Chapter 3: Shankar Ganesh: Economy

27 If a nation has high positive net foreign factor income (NFFI), it necessarily implies that

1. More people are working in the host country than the people of host country working abroad
2. The host country has a higher abundance of factors of production than the country where its nationals work

- 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: Net foreign factor income (NFFI) is the difference between the aggregate amount that a country's citizens and companies earn abroad, and the aggregate amount that foreign citizens and overseas companies earn in that country. In mathematical terms, $NFFI = GNP - GDP$.

S1: NFIA has to do with income and not the number of people working necessarily.

S2: A nation might have scarce but highly valuable factors employed abroad. The same goes for the other nations as well. S2 is incorrect.

GDP refers to all economic output that occurs domestically or within a nation's boundaries, regardless of whether production is owned by a local company or foreign entity. GNP, on the other hand, measures output from the citizens and companies of a particular nation, regardless of whether they are located within its boundaries or overseas. For example, if a Japanese company has a production facility in the U.S., its output will count toward U.S. GDP, but Japan's GNP.

Learning: The net foreign factor income level is generally not substantial in most nations, since factor payments earned by their citizens and those paid to foreigners more or less offset each other.

However, the NFFI's impact may be significant in smaller nations with substantial foreign investment in relation to their economy and few assets overseas, since their GDP will be quite high compared to GNP.

Q Source: Chapter 2: 12th NCERT: Macroeconomics

28 Which of these East Asian Countries has a larger latitudinal spread than India?

1. Japan
2. North and South Korea combined
3. Mongolia

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. None of the above

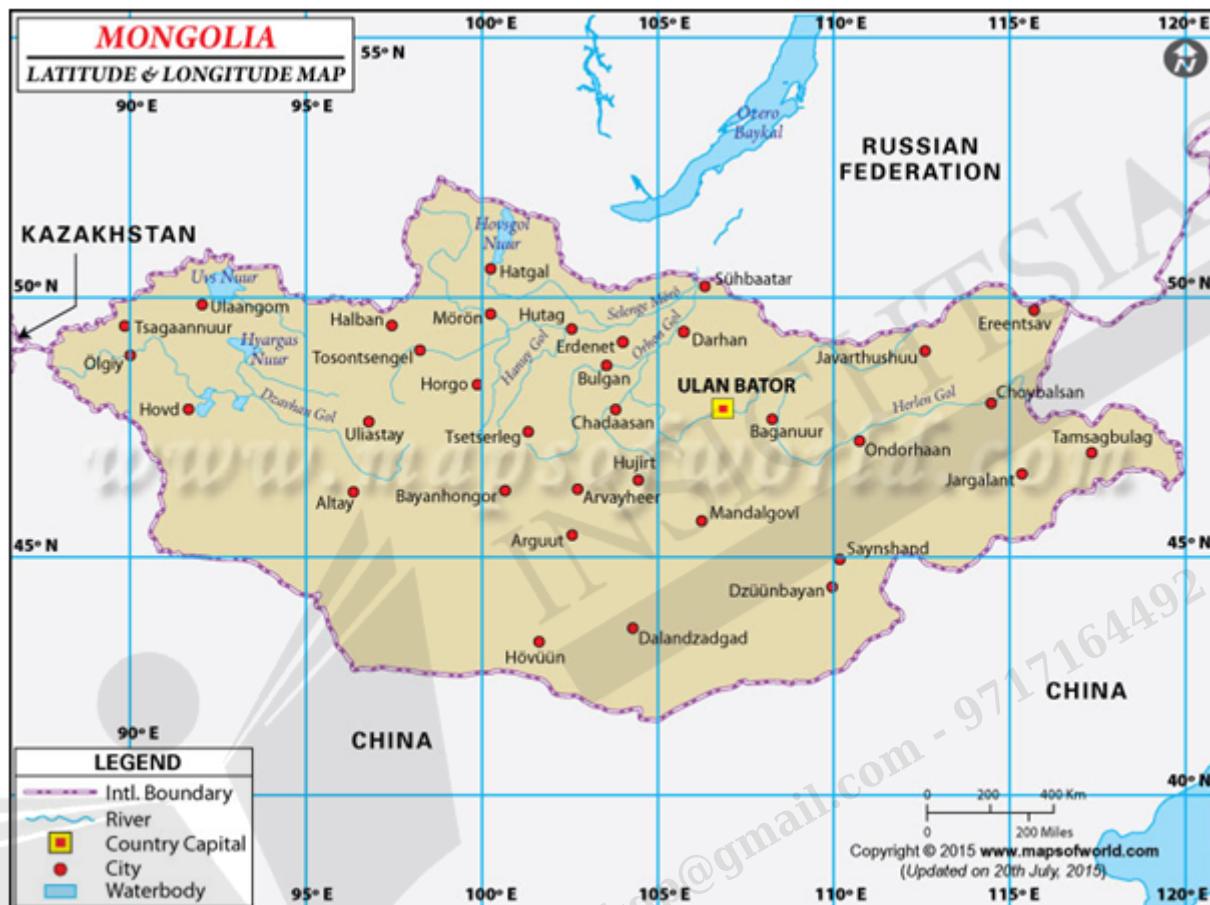
- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : D

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: Japan has roughly from 30N to 45N.

Statement 2: Mongolia roughly from 40 to 50N.

Statement 3: Korea combined roughly from 35N to 45N.





Q Source: Japan map

29 As per the Constitution of this country, war is unconstitutional. But, the provision was re-interpreted by the government few years ago and now the country can send material support to allies engaged in combat internationally. The country is

- A. Mexico
- B. Spain
- C. Sweden
- D. Japan

◦ Your Answer : D

- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: According to Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, war is unconstitutional. This article within the Constitution of Japan was intended to prevent the country from being needlessly aggressive in multinational affairs after World War Two.

The official English translation of the article is:

- (1) Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.
- (2) In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.

In July 2014, instead of using Article 96 of the Japanese Constitution to amend the Constitution, the Japanese government approved a reinterpretation which gave more powers to the Japan Self-Defense Forces, allowing them to defend other allies in case of war being declared upon them, despite concerns and disapproval from mainland China, South Korea and North Korea, whereas the United States supported the move.

This change is considered illegitimate by some Japanese political parties and citizens, since the Prime Minister circumvented Japan's constitutional amendment procedure.

In September 2015, the Japanese National Diet made the reinterpretation official by enacting a series of laws allowing the Japan Self-Defense Forces to provide material support to allies engaged in combat internationally. The stated justification was that failing to defend or support an ally would weaken alliances and endanger Japan.

This was a major issue few years ago and is re emerging due to assertiveness of China in the South China Sea.

Q Source: Inspired from the mention of China and Japan in 12th NCERT Contemporary World Politics

<https://thediplomat.com/2015/08/japan-farewell-to-one-country-pacifism/>

30 The waters of the Oyashio Current, near Japan, form probably the richest fishery in the world owing to the

1. Extremely high-nutrient content of the warm water
 2. Very high tides in some areas which enhances the availability of nutrients
- 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 : B

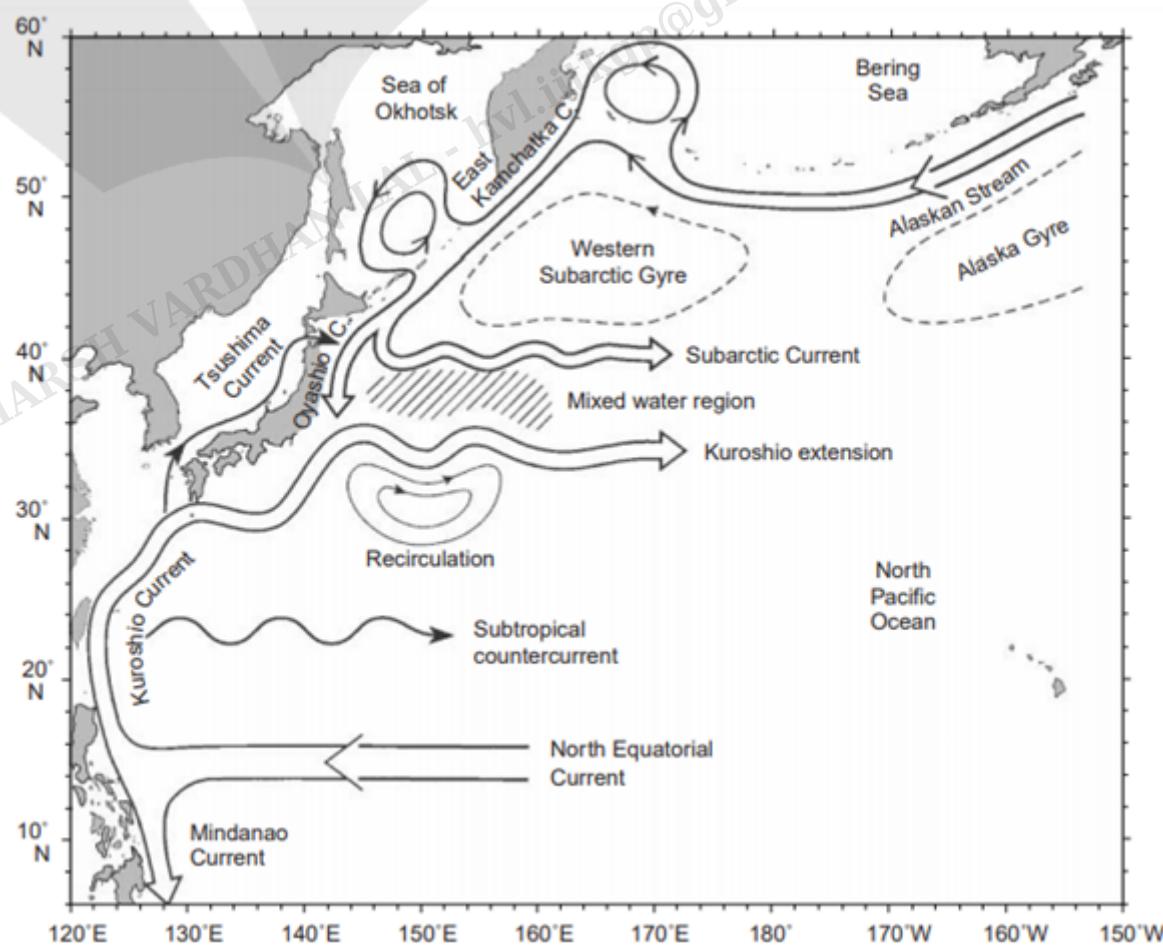
◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Oyashio is a cold subarctic ocean current that flows south and circulates counterclockwise in the western North Pacific Ocean.

- The nutrient-rich Oyashio is named for its metaphorical role as the parent that provides for and nurtures marine organisms.
- The current has an important impact on the climate of the Russian Far East, mainly in Kamchatka and Chukotka, where the northern limit of tree growth is moved south up to ten degrees compared with the latitude it can reach in inland Siberia.
- The waters of the Oyashio Current form probably the richest fishery in the world owing to the extremely high-nutrient content of the cold water and the very high tides (up to ten metres) in some areas – which further enhances the availability of nutrients.
- Because the Oyashio Current brings water of subarctic origin southward, the Subarctic Current is accompanied by a distinct temperature-salinity front between cold, fresher water to the north and warm, saltier water of subtropical origin to the south.

Learning: The waters of the Oyashio Current originate in the Arctic Ocean and flow southward via the Bering Sea, passing through the Bering Strait and transporting cold water from the Arctic Sea into the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Okhotsk. It collides with the Kuroshio Current off the eastern shore of Japan to form the North Pacific Current (or Drift).

The Oyashio Current colliding with the Kuroshio Current near Hokkaido. When two currents collide, they create eddies. Phytoplankton growing in the surface waters become concentrated along the boundaries of these eddies, tracing out the motions of the water.





Q Source: From Japan Physical map

<http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/oceanography/bo/Q01.pdf>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oyashio_Current

31 The Inner Line Permit (ILP) is applicable in

- A. J&K and north-eastern states
- B. Some UTs, J&K and north-eastern states
- C. Some north-eastern states
- D. J&K only

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: ILP is an official travel document issued by the Government of India to grant inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period. It is obligatory for Indians residing outside those states to obtain permission prior to entering the protected areas.

Currently, the Inner Line Permit is operational in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland.

The document has been issued under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873 and the conditions and restrictions vary from state to state.

It can be issued for travel purposes solely. Visitors are not allowed to purchase property in these regions. However, there might be a different set of rules for long term visitors, though they are not valid for central government employees and security forces.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/05/29/insights-daily-current-affairs-29-may-2018/>

32 The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has free trade agreements with which of these partners?

1. People's Republic of China
2. Japan
3. India
4. Australia and New Zealand

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

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : D

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Countries in East Asia region have thriving trade and economic relations with each other through free trade agreements.

ASEAN has six partners namely People's Republic of China (ACFTA), Republic of Korea (AKFTA), Japan (AJCEP), India (AIFTA) as well as Australia and New Zealand (AANZFTA).

In order to broaden and deepen the engagement among parties and to enhance parties' participation in economic development of the region, the leaders of 16 participating countries established the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

The RCEP was built upon the existing ASEAN+1 FTAs with the spirit to strengthen economic linkages and to enhance trade and investment related activities as well as to contribute to minimising development gap among the parties.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 57: Chapter 4: 12th NCERT: Contemporary World Politics - This is where UPSC lifted this question in 2018 Prelims from -

http://asean.org/?static_post=rcep-regional-comprehensive-economic-partnership

33 Consider the following statements.

1. Basalt is an example of an intrusive igneous rock.
2. Igneous and sedimentary rocks can change into metamorphic rocks under great heat and pressure, but metamorphic rocks cannot change into either of them.
3. Granite rocks were formed due to cooling down of magma inside the earth.

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1 only
- B. None of the above
- C. 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

- Your Answer : D

- Correct Answer : C

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification: When the molten magma cools, it becomes solid. Rocks thus formed are called igneous rocks. They are also called primary rocks. There are two types of igneous rocks: intrusive rocks and extrusive rocks.

When this molten lava comes on the earth's surface, it rapidly cools down and becomes solid. Rocks formed in such a way on the crust are called extrusive igneous rocks. They have a very fine grained structure. For example, basalt. The Deccan plateau is made up of basalt rocks.

Sometimes the molten magma cools down deep inside the earth's crust. Solid rocks so formed are called intrusive igneous rocks. Since they cool down slowly they form large grains. Granite is an example of such a rock. Grinding stones used to prepare paste/powder of spices and grains are

made of granite.

Statement 3: Metamorphic rocks can melt under the earth due to high pressure and become igneous rocks again; or they can be eroded, transported and deposited to become sedimentary rock again.

Q Source: Page 8: 7th NCERT: Geography

34 Consider the following statements.

1. The Kangra fort includes richly carved temples with idols embossed in their walls.
 2. Dilwara temples are famous for their use of marble and intricate marble carvings.
- 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: Kangra Fort is one of the oldest forts in India. The war records of Alexander the Great mention this 4th Century BC temple of Himachal Pradesh. The fort was devastated by a disastrous earthquake in 1905, but it stands as testimony to the architectural skills of the times. The fort includes richly carved temples with idols embossed in their walls.

Statement 2: The Dilwara Temples are located about 2½ kilometres from Mount Abu, Rajasthan's only hill station.

These Jain temples were built by Vimal Shah and designed by Vastupal-Tejpal, Jain laymen, between the 11th and 13th centuries AD and are famous for their use of marble and intricate marble carvings.

The five marble temples of Dilwara are a sacred pilgrimage place of the Jains. Some consider them to be one of the most beautiful Jain pilgrimage sites in the world.

The temples have an opulent entranceway, the simplicity in architecture reflecting Jain values like honesty and frugality. The temples are in the midst of a range of forested hills. A high wall shrouds the temple complex.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 9 diagram of Red fort and Taj Mahal stones: 7th NCERT: Geography

35 Consider the following statements.

1. Lithospheric plates carry both continents and ocean floor.
2. Lithospheric plates are prone to movement because of movement of molten magma inside the earth.

- 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: Lithospheric plates are regions of Earth's crust and upper mantle that are fractured into plates that move across a deeper plasticine mantle.

Earth's crust is fractured into 13 major and approximately 20 total lithospheric plates. Each lithospheric plate is composed of a layer of oceanic crust or continental crust superficial to an outer layer of the mantle.

Containing both crust and the upper region of the mantle, lithospheric plates are generally considered to be approximately 60 mi (100 km) thick.

Although containing only continental crust or oceanic crust in any one cross-section, lithospheric plates may contain various sections that exclusively contain either oceanic crust or continental crust and therefore lithospheric plates may contain various combinations of oceanic and continental crust.

Lithospheric plates move on top of the asthenosphere (the outer plastically deforming region of Earth's mantle).

Q Source: Page 12: 7th NCERT: Geography

36 Which of the following economic or trade blocs, presently functional or proposed, will be the largest in the World in terms of combined GDP?

- A. Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)
- B. North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA)
- C. Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)
- D. European Union (EU)

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : C

- **Answer Justification :**

Learning: Negotiations to create the RCEP began in November 2012, during an Asean summit in Cambodia. The proposed trade zone will include the 10 Asean countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) as well as six other nations—India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

The RCEP has been viewed as an alternative to the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade agreement that had been spearheaded by the US under President Barack Obama's administration.

The TPP included some of the countries that fall into the proposed RCEP—Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Vietnam, Brunei, Japan and Malaysia – India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

If it comes into being, the RCEP will sprawl over a zone that is home to around 3.4 billion people. The combined GDP of the countries involved totals \$22 trillion and their exports constitute nearly a quarter of global trade.

Note: The Asean countries collectively want a removal of customs duties on at least 90 per cent of all traded commodities; some members, such as Australia, have pressed for an even higher proportion of duties to be eliminated.

India fears that removing these barriers will permit its domestic market to be flooded by cheap goods imported from China. India's trade deficit with China stood at roughly \$51 billion in the 2016-17 fiscal year that ended in March.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 57: Chapter 4: 12th NCERT: Contemporary World Politics

37 With reference to Loess, consider the following statements.

1. It can be created by wind as well as movement by glaciers.
2. It mostly tends to accumulate at the edges of coasts.
3. It is devoid of mineral deposits.
4. It is the fastest eroding soil deposit among all different types of soil.

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1 and 3: Loess is an aeolian sediment formed by the accumulation of wind-blown silt, typically in the 20-50 micrometer size range, twenty percent or less clay and the balance equal parts sand and silt that are loosely cemented by calcium carbonate.

Loess is mostly created by wind, but can also be formed by glaciers. When glaciers grind rocks to a fine powder, loess can form. Streams carry the powder to the end of the glacier. This sediment becomes loess.

It is usually homogeneous and highly porous and is traversed by vertical capillaries that permit the sediment to fracture and form vertical bluffs.

In some parts of the world, windblown dust and silt blanket the land. This layer of fine, mineral-rich material is called loess.

10% of the Earth's land area is covered by loess or similar deposits.

Statement 2: Loess accumulates, or builds up, at the edges of deserts. For example, as wind blows across the Gobi, a desert in Asia, it picks up and carries fine particles. These particles include sand crystals made of quartz or mica. It may also contain organic material, such as the dusty remains of skeletons from desert animals.

Extensive loess deposits are found in northern China, the Great Plains of North America, central Europe, and parts of Russia and Kazakhstan. The thickest loess deposits are near the Missouri River in the U.S. state of Iowa and along the Yellow River in China.

Statement 4: Loess often develops into extremely fertile agricultural soil. It is full of minerals and drains water very well. It is easily tilled, or broken up, for planting seeds. Loess usually erodes very slowly—Chinese farmers have been working the loess around the Yellow River for more than a thousand years.

Loess ranges in thickness from a few centimeters to more than 300 feet. Unlike other soils, loess is pale and loosely packed. It crumbles easily; in fact, the word “loess” comes from the German word for “loose.” Loess is soft enough to carve, but strong enough to stand as sturdy walls. In parts of China, residents build cave-like dwellings in thick loess cliffs.



Q Source: Additional Research: Page 17: 7th NCERT: Geography

38 World Development Indicators report is being published by

- A. UN Development Programme (UNDP) X
- B. World Bank ✓
- C. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- D. World Economic Forum (WEF)

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: WDI is the primary World Bank collection of development indicators, compiled from officially-recognized international sources.

It presents the most current and accurate global development data available, and includes national, regional and global estimates.

Topics: Agriculture and Food Security Climate Change Economic Growth Education Energy and Extractives Environment and Natural Resources Financial Sector Development Gender Health, Nutrition and Population Macroeconomic Vulnerability and Debt Poverty Private Sector Development Public Sector Management Social Development Social Protection and Labor Trade Urban Development

Economy Coverage: High Income IBRD IDA Low Income Lower Middle Income Upper Middle Income

Q Source: Page 2: 10th NCERT: Economics

39 Based on International Monetary Fund (2017) estimates, which of the following is the closest “Per Capita Income (Nominal) or GDP (Nominal) per capita” figure of India?

- A. Slightly than \$1000 X
- B. Slightly less than \$2000 ✓
- C. Between \$2500-\$3000
- D. Between \$3000-\$4000

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: India's GDP per capita (nominal) is \$1983 as per IMF (2017) estimates. We rank overall at 139th position in the World.

But, in GDP (nominal) overall, we rank 6th as per IMF with a GDP (Nominal) of about \$2.6 trillion.

Learning: The figures presented here do not take into account differences in the cost of living in

different countries, and the results vary greatly from one year to another based on fluctuations in the exchange rates of the country's currency.

Comparisons of national income are also frequently made on the basis of purchasing power parity (PPP), to adjust for differences in the cost of living in different countries.

PPP largely removes the exchange rate problem but not others; it does not reflect the value of economic output in international trade, and it also requires more estimation than GDP per capita. On the whole, PPP per capita figures are more narrowly spread than nominal GDP per capita figures.

Per capita (PPP) of India is around \$7,174 as per IMF (2017).

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 2: 10th NCERT: Economics

40 'Kamraj plan' was related to the reformation of the ranks of which of the following parties?

- A. Labour party
- B. Indian National Congress
- C. Bharatiya Jan Sangh
- D. Congress Socialist Party

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: In 1963 he proposed that all senior Congressmen should resign from office to make way for younger party workers—this proposal is famous as the 'Kamraj plan.'

K. Kamraj (1903-1975): was a freedom fighter and Congress President; Chief Minister of Madras (Tamil Nadu); having suffered educational deprivation, made efforts to spread education in Madras province; introduced mid-day meal scheme for schoolchildren;

Q Source: Page 91: Chapter 5: 12th NCERT: Indian Since Independence

41 Why are avalanches more common in the Northern Himalayas than in the Nilgiris?

- 1. Due to difference in rock structure and tectonic stability
- 2. Due to higher rainfall and a higher temperature gradient experienced in the Himalayan region

- 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 :**

Justification: Mechanical weathering due to temperature changes and ranges is pronounced. In our country, debris avalanche and landslides occur very frequently in the Himalayas.

There are many reasons for this. One, the Himalayas are tectonically active. They are mostly made up of sedimentary rocks and unconsolidated and semi-consolidated deposits. The slopes are very steep.

Compared to the Himalayas, the Nilgiris bordering Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Kerala and the Western Ghats along the west coast are relatively tectonically stable and are mostly made up of very hard rocks; but, still, debris avalanches and landslides occur though not as frequently as in the Himalayas, in these hills.

Many slopes are steeper with almost vertical cliffs and escarpments in the Western Ghats and Nilgiris. Mechanical weathering due to temperature changes and ranges is pronounced. They receive heavy amounts of rainfall over short periods.

So, there is almost direct rock fall quite frequently in these places along with landslides and debris avalanches.

Q Source: Page 54: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

42 Consider the following about Body Mass Index (BMI).

1. It is not applicable to growing children.
 2. The calculation of BMI is done independently of age.
 3. A BMI of 5-15 is considered unhealthy.
- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
 - A. 1 and 3 only
 - B. 1, 2 and 3
 - C. 2 and 3 only
 - D. 1 only

- Your Answer :
- Correct Answer : B

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification: One way to find out if adults are undernourished is to calculate what nutrition scientists call Body Mass Index (BMI). This is easy to calculate. Take the weight of the person in kg. Then take the height in metres.

Divide the weight by the square of the height. If this figure is less than 18.5 then the person would be considered undernourished. However, if this BMI is more than 25, then a person is overweight. Do remember that this criterion is not applicable to growing children.

Q Source: Page 13: 10th NCERT: Economics

43 The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), describes 'Gross Enrolment Ratio' as the total enrolment within a country "in a specific level of education, expressed as a percentage of the population in the official age group corresponding to this level of education." Consider the following about GER.

1. It is calculated for all levels of education - primary, secondary and tertiary.
2. GER can be more than cent per cent.

○ Which of the above is/are correct?

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

○ Your Answer : A

○ Correct Answer : C

○ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) or Gross Enrollment Index (GEI) is a statistical measure used in the education sector, and formerly by the UN in its Education Index, to determine the number of students enrolled in school at several different grade levels (like elementary, middle school and high school), and use it to show the ratio of the number of students who live in that country to those who qualify for the particular grade level.

Statement 2: The GER can be over 100% as it includes students who may be older or younger than the official age group. For instance, the GER includes students who are repeating a grade, those who enrolled late and are older than their classmates, or those who have advanced quickly and are younger than their classmates. This allows the total enrollment to exceed the population that corresponds to that level of education.

Learning: The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) is designed to serve as a statistical framework for assembling, compiling and presenting comparable indicators and statistics of education both within individual countries and internationally.

It presents standard concepts, definitions and classifications. ISCED covers all organized and sustained learning opportunities for children, youth and adults including those with special needs education, irrespective of the institution or entity providing them or the form in which they are delivered.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 13: 10th NCERT: Economics

<https://data.gov.in/keywords/gross-enrolment-ratio>

44 National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) is an organisation under the

Mock Test 4

- A. Ministry of Statistics, Planning and Programme Implementation 
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs 
- C. Ministry of Rural Development
- D. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : A

- **Answer Justification :**

Learning: The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) headed by a Director General is responsible for conduct of large scale sample surveys in diverse fields on All India basis. Primarily data are collected through nation-wide household surveys on various socio-economic subjects, Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), etc.

Besides these surveys, NSSO collects data on rural and urban prices and plays a significant role in the improvement of crop statistics through supervision of the area enumeration and crop estimation surveys of the State agencies. It also maintains a frame of urban area units for use in sample surveys in urban areas.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 18: 10th NCERT: Economics

45 Consider the following statements about soil structure.

1. Soils will usually develop to be thin on steep slopes and thick over flat upland areas.
2. Soils over flat areas may develop a thicker layer of clay with good accumulation of organic matter giving the soil dark colour, as compared to in hilly areas.

- 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: Topography like parent materials is another passive control factor in the formation of soil. The influence of topography is felt through the amount of exposure of a surface covered by parent materials to sunlight and the amount of surface and sub-surface drainage over and through the parent materials.

Soils will be thin on steep slopes and thick over flat upland areas. Over gentle slopes where erosion is slow and percolation of water is good, soil formation is very favourable. Soils over flat areas may develop a thick layer of clay with good accumulation of organic matter giving the soil dark colour.

In middle latitudes, the south facing slopes exposed to sunlight have different conditions of

vegetation and soils and the north facing slopes with cool, moist conditions have some other soils and vegetation.

Q Source: Page 56: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

46 'Social audit' is increasingly being seen as an important tool to improve accountability in governance. Which of these can be assigned the responsibility for the social audit of a government scheme?

- A. Comptroller General of India only
- B. Gram Sabha or Gram Panchayat only
- C. A community group or professional institution
- D. Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) only

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: Social audit means the process in which people collectively monitor and evaluate the planning and implementation of a programme or scheme.

- For e.g. a social audit was conducted by Society for Social Audit Accountability and Transparency (SSAAT) in two districts viz., Khammam and Chittoor of Andhra Pradesh during 2012-13.
- Encouraged by the outcome MHRD has issued detailed guidelines for conducting of social audit under Mid Day Meal Scheme.
- The states/UTs were advised to select the eminent institute available in their respective states for this purpose.
- Similarly, the Gram Sabha is entitled for the social audit of fund usage under MGNREGA as a mandatory provision.
- Therefore, social audit is comprehensive and involves stakeholders other than government.

Q Source: Page 29: 10th NCERT: Economics: Based on social audits in National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (NREGA 2005)

47 The major tributaries of Mahanadi are

1. Gandak
2. Son
3. Seonath

4. Ong

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification: The Mahanadi River is a river of eastern India. The Mahanadi rises in the Satpura Range of central India, and flows east to the Bay of Bengal.

The major tributaries of Mahanadi are Seonath, Jonk, Hasdo, Mand, Ib, Ong, Tel etc.

Mahanadi is one of the largest Indian peninsular rivers that drains into the Bay of Bengal. The 857 km long river originates in Raipur district of the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh and flows through the eastern state of Orissa before meeting the sea.

Odisha government has launched Green Mahanadi Mission. Under the mission, a total of two crore saplings will be planted on the banks of the Mahanadi.

The Green Mahanadi Mission envisages rejuvenating Mahanadi river and its tributaries Tel and Ib by increasing recharging capacity through massive plantation.

Under the mission, a green belt with width of 1 km will be created on both sides of the river beginning from the place, where the river enters Odisha to Paradip, where it merges with the Bay of Bengal.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/26/insights-daily-current-affairs-26-july-2018/>

48 GDP is the total value of 'X' produced during a particular year.

- A. All goods and services
- B. All final goods and services
- C. All intermediate goods and services
- D. All intermediate and final goods and services

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : B

- **Answer Justification :**

Learning: Gross domestic product (GDP) is the monetary value of all the finished goods and services produced within a country's borders in a specific time period.

We exclude intermediary goods because they are included in the price of the final goods and services.

Q Source: Chapter 3: 10th NCERT: Economics

49 Sanskrit language can be found to be written in which of these languages in various manuscripts found in India?

1. Oriya script
2. Grantha script
3. Bengali script
4. Telugu script

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : D

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Sanskrit, though not necessarily Classical Sanskrit, is the root language of many Prakrit languages. Examples include numerous modern daughter Northern Indian subcontinental languages such as Hindi, Nepali, Bengali, Punjabi and Marathi.

Brahmi evolved into a multiplicity of Brahmic scripts, many of which were used to write Sanskrit. Roughly contemporary with the Brahmi, Kharosthi was used in the northwest of the subcontinent.

Sometime between the fourth and eighth centuries, the Gupta script, derived from Brahmi, became prevalent.

Around the eighth century, the Śāradā script evolved out of the Gupta script. The latter was displaced in its turn by Devanagari in the 11th or 12th century, with intermediary stages such as the Siddham script. In East India, the Odia alphabet, and the Bengali alphabet, were used.

In the south, where Dravidian languages predominate, scripts used for Sanskrit include the Kannada, Telugu, the Malayalam and Grantha alphabets.

Q Source: Additional Research:

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/24/insights-daily-current-affairs-24-july-2018/>

50 Consider the following about India BPO Promotion scheme (IBPS).

1. It was envisaged under Digital India Programme.
2. Incentives under the scheme are distributed among each State in proportion of State's population.
3. It provides incentive for generating employment beyond target and wider dispersal within state including rural areas.

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: The India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS), envisaged under Digital India Programme, seeks to incentivize establishment of 48,300 seats in respect of BPO/ITES operations across the country.

It is distributed among each State in proportion of State's population with an outlay of Rs. 493 Crore. This would help in capacity building in smaller cities in terms of infra & manpower and would become basis for next wave of IT/ITES led growth.

Salient Features:

- Financial Support: Up to 50% of expenditure incurred on BPO/ITES operations towards capital expenditure (CAPEX) and/or operational expenditure (OPEX) on admissible items, subject to an upper ceiling of Rs. 1 Lakh/Seat.
- Special incentives toward employment of women & specially enabled persons.
- Incentive for generating employment beyond target & wider dispersal within state including rural areas.
- Encouragement for local entrepreneurs.
- Special consideration for Hilly states of HP, J&K and UK.

Significance of the scheme:

This scheme has potential to create employment opportunities of around 1.5 lakh direct jobs considering three shift operations. It may also create good number of indirect jobs.

Q Source: Recently in news

51 With reference to Glaciers in India, consider the following statements.

1. Among the Northern states of India, Uttarakhand does not host a glacier.
2. Bhagirathi river is fed by meltwaters from under the snout of the Gangotri glacier.

3. Rivers Alkananda and Bhagirathi join to make river Ganga near Deoprayag.

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

- Your Answer : B

- Correct Answer : B

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification: We have several glaciers in India moving down the slopes and valleys in Himalayas. Higher reaches of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir host some of the most important ones.

Bhagirathi is basically fed by meltwaters from under the snout (Gaumukh) of the Gangotri glacier. In fact, Alkapuri glacier feeds waters to Alakananda river.

Rivers Alkananda and Bhagirathi join to make river Ganga near Deoprayag.

We will cover more on this later.

Q Source: Page 66: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

52 Consider the following about Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana.

1. As an extension of the Jan Dhan Yojana, the scheme allows retail users the ability of overdraft at rural banks and other financial institutions.
2. The scheme aims at indigenizing the production material and technology of currency coins and notes in India.

- 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: Both statements are wrong and irrelevant.

- Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Limited (MUDRA), is a refinance institution set-up by the Government of India for development of micro units by extending funding

support to encourage entrepreneurship in India, mostly from non-corporate small business sector.

- MUDRA shall refinance through state level institutions, NBFCs, MFIs, Regional Rural Banks, Nationalized Banks, Private Banks and other intermediaries.
- Any Indian citizen who is involved in income generating activity such as manufacturing, processing, trading and service sector and whose credit need is less than 10 lakh can approach either banks, MFIs, financial institutions or NBFC for availing of MUDRA loans under PMMY.
- It has been since decided to extend funding support under PMMY for activities allied to agriculture also.

Q Source: Chapter on Finance: India Yearbook 2017

53 Consider the following statements.

1. The Lewellyn Smith Committee (1920) re-examined the tenure system operating from Lord Curzon's time in 1905.
2. The Maxwell Committee (1937) suggested that the secretary of the department should be responsible to the minister concerned.

- 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: The Lewellyn Smith Committee observed that the tenure of the office of secretaries and deputy secretaries should remain fixed at four years to bring about stability in the working of secretariat. The Secretarial Committee (1935), or Wheeler Committee, studied the problem of delays in the working of the secretariat and recommended the practice of double notings to speed up the work.

Further, the Maxwell Committee (1937) suggested that the secretary of the department should be responsible to the minister and that the secretary was the officer competent to guide the minister. Later, the Tottenham Committee (1945-46) reported on the organization of departments, the question of staffing and the reorganization of the entire secretariat system. It recommended that distinct duties be assigned to different grades of secretarial officers and agreed nomenclatures for each grade.

Q Source: Additional Research: British committees (Chapter 1: Indian Polity: Laxmikanth)

54 Who came to be known as the Father of Communal Electorate in India?

- A. Montague
- B. Minto
- C. Cornwallis
- D. Wellesely

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: He was known for the act of 1909 which introduced a system of communal representation for Muslims by accepting the concept of 'separate electorate'. Under this, the Muslim members were to be elected only by Muslim voters.

Thus, the Act 'legalised communalism' and Lord Minto came to be known as the Father of Communal Electorate.

It also provided for the separate representation of presidency corporations, chambers of commerce, universities and zamindars.

Q Source: Revision: Chapter 1: Indian Polity: M Laxmikanth

55 Consider the following statements about Partition of India.

1. Punjab and Bengal were the two provinces divided or separated on the basis of religion.
2. The scheme of Partition included an overall plan for transfer of population across the border.

- 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 : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: On 20 June 1947, the Bengal Legislative Assembly met to decide the future of the Bengal Presidency, on whether it would be a United Bengal within India or Pakistan; or be divided into East and West Bengal. At the preliminary joint session, the assembly decided by 120 votes to 90 that it should remain united if it joined the new Constituent Assembly of Pakistan. Later, a separate meeting of legislators from West Bengal decided by 58 votes to 21 that the province should be partitioned and that West Bengal should join the existing Constituent Assembly

of India.

Statement 2: There was no conception that population transfers would be necessary because of the partitioning. Religious minorities were expected to stay put in the states they found themselves residing in. However, an exception was made for Punjab where transfer of populations were organised because of the communal violence affecting the province. This did not apply to other provinces.

Q Source: Revision: 12th NCERT: Themes in Indian History - Part III

56 The term "bipolarity" and "multi-polarity" often used in the context of international relations refers to

- A. Liberal vis-à-vis conservative trends in international negotiations
- B. Success of democracy in modern world
- C. Ideological tilt of international bureaucracy
- D. Balance of power in the world 

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: The cold war saw new defensive alliances, NATO in the west and the Warsaw Pact of the Soviet satellites.

The world was divided into two camps, and the "third world" nations were courted and pressured to join one or the other. The world was thus divided into two World (poles) which came to be known as a bipolar world.

USSR and USA emerged as major powers, and thus the balance of power in the world was essentially bipolar.

Later, when the cold war ended, the USSR could not remain a superpower and USA emerged as the sole superpower, resulting in a unipolar world.

However, in the modern world, many new powers emerged, such as EU, China, Japan and the world effectively became multi-polar in nature.

Q Source: Chapter 2: 12th NCERT: Contemporary World Politics

57 Which of these values can be found both in Directive Principles and Fundamental Duties?

1. Environmental conservation
 2. Upholding noble ideals that inspired the national struggle for freedom
 3. Promoting harmony and the spirit of fraternity
- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
 - A. 1 only 
 - B. 1 and 2 only

- C. 2 and 3 only
 D. None of the above

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: According to Article 51 A, it shall be the duty of every citizen of India:

- to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;
- to cherish and follow the noble ideals that inspired the national struggle for freedom;
- to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;
- to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
- to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities and to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;
- to value and preserve the rich heritage of the country's composite culture;
- to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures;
- to develop scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;
- to safeguard public property and to abjure violence;
- to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement; and
- to provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years. This duty was added by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002

Of the above, only environmental conservation and child education can be found in the DPSP. So, all except 1 are wrong.

Q Source: Chapter 2: 11th NCERT: Indian Constitution at Work

58 Boundary currents are ocean currents with dynamics determined by the presence of a coastline. Which of the following distinguish western boundary currents and eastern boundary currents?

1. Eastern boundary currents are relatively deeper, narrower and faster-flowing than western boundary currents.
 2. Eastern boundary currents transport organisms long distances rapidly, unlike Western boundary currents that are slow and relatively still.
- 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 : D

○ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: The Kuroshio and Oyashio Currents are the western boundary currents in the wind-driven, subtropical and subarctic circulations of the North Pacific Ocean.

Statement 1: Eastern boundary currents are relatively shallow, broad and slow-flowing. They are found on the eastern side of oceanic basins (adjacent to the western coasts of continents).

Subtropical eastern boundary currents flow equatorward, transporting cold water from higher latitudes to lower latitudes; examples include the Benguela Current, the Canary Current, the Humboldt Current, and the California Current. Coastal upwelling often brings nutrient-rich water into eastern boundary current regions, making them productive areas of the ocean.

Statement 2: Western boundary currents transport organisms long distances rapidly and a variety of commercially important marine organisms migrate in these currents in the course of completing their lives.

Subtropical gyres occupy a large fraction of the world's ocean and are more productive than originally thought. In addition, their fixation of carbon dioxide is an important factor in the global budget for carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

The Kuroshio ("Black Tide", "Japan Current") is a north-flowing ocean current on the west side of the North Pacific Ocean. It is similar to the Gulf Stream in the North Atlantic and is part of the North Pacific Ocean gyre. Like the Gulf Stream, it is a strong western boundary current.

Q Source: Based on Japan Physical map

59 What evidence is proposed in support of the Continental Drift Theory?

1. Jigsaw fit of the coastlines on either side of the Southern Atlantic Ocean

2. Belt of ancient rocks of from Brazil coast matches with those from western Africa
3. Occurrence of rich placer deposits of gold in the Ghana coast and the absence of any such source rock there

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

◦ Your Answer : C

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: The shorelines of Africa and South America facing each other have a remarkable and unmistakable match. It may be noted that a map produced using a computer programme to find the best fit of the Atlantic margin was presented by Bullard in 1964. It proved to be quite perfect. The match was tried at 1,000- fathom line instead of the present shoreline.

Statement 2: The radiometric dating methods developed in the recent period have facilitated correlating the rock formation from different continents across the vast ocean. The belt of ancient rocks of 2,000 million years from Brazil coast matches with those from western Africa. The earliest marine deposits along the coastline of South America and Africa are of the Jurassic age. This suggests that the ocean did not exist prior to that time.

Statement 3: The occurrence of rich placer deposits of gold in the Ghana coast and the absolute absence of source rock in the region is an amazing fact.

The gold bearing veins are in Brazil and it is obvious that the gold deposits of the Ghana are derived from the Brazil plateau when the two continents lay side by side.

Q Source: Page 30: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

60 Consider the following statements.

1. Depreciation does not take into account unexpected or sudden destruction or disuse of capital as can happen with accidents.
2. It is a common practice in India to adjust the GDP each year by a fixed depreciation amount owing to natural calamities.

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

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

◦ Your Answer : B

◦ Correct Answer : A

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: It only accounts for gradually depreciation of capital due to wear and tear.

Statement 2: There is no such policy, but the policymakers are conscious of the depreciation induced decline in capital and thus the focus on Gross Capital formation (GCF) is considerable.

Q Source: Chapter 2: 12th NCERT: Macroeconomics

61 The constitution upholds the rights of labour and ensures labour welfare in which of the following ways via Directive principles?

1. It makes provision for just and humane conditions for work and maternity relief.
2. It exhorts the government to take steps to secure the participation of workers in the management of industries.

- 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: Acts like Maternity Benefit Act or its recent amendment have been enacted in the spirit of the DPSP (Article 42).

Statement 2: These are socialist principles which draw their moorings from the history of economic thought in India. India upholds an economic system based on the principles of equity, fairness and justice, and therefore, such rights (provisions) are crucial to ensure labour welfare.

Learning: Some other provisions are:

- To secure a living wage, a decent standard of life and social and cultural opportunities for all workers (Article 43).
- To raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living of people and to improve public health (Article 47).

Q Source: Chapter 2: 11th NCERT: Indian Constitution at Work

62 National Urban Information system (NUIS) intends to

1. Create an urban GIS database with the help of satellite images and aerial photography
2. Connect all major port cities with high speed “instant” broadband network

◦ 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: ISRO, Survey of India under directions of the Ministry of Urban Development (MoURD) are creating an urban GIS database with the help of satellite images and aerial photography.

It will be a geospatial thematic database for 152 towns .

For e.g. under its Disaster Management Programme, ISRO has provided the flood inundation maps using satellite data extensively during the recent floods of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Such information will be collated and consolidated in one integrated urban information system.

It will be a strategic move towards urban planning and infrastructure creation.

Q Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=133911>

63 Tidal force experienced by Oceans would, theoretically, change if

1. If a new celestial body, comparable to the size of earth, is to be introduced between the earth, moon and the sun
2. If the Earth, moon and Sun change their alignments with respect to each other

◦ Which of the above is/are correct?

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

◦ Your Answer : C

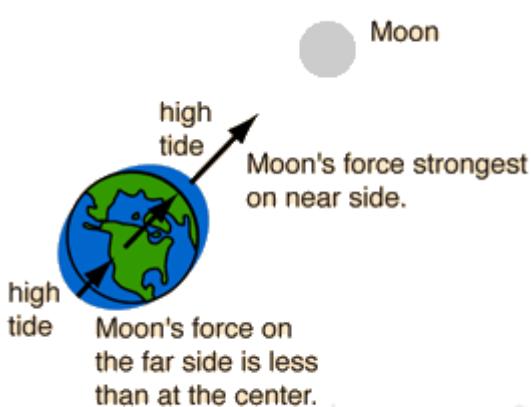
◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

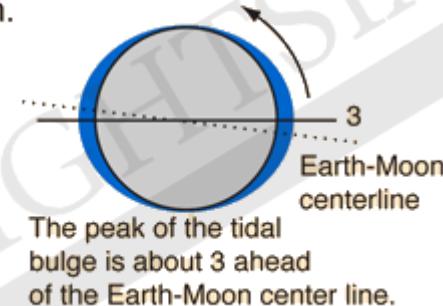
Justification: The Earth experiences two high tides per day because of the difference in the Moon's gravitational field at the Earth's surface and at its center. You could say that there is a high tide on the side nearest the Moon because the Moon pulls the water away from the Earth, and a high tide on the opposite side because the Moon pulls the Earth away from the water on the far side. The



tidal effects are greatly exaggerated in the sketches.



The Moon's gravitational field on the near side is $1.068 \times$ that on the far side, a 6.8% differential across the Earth.



The tidal influence on a close object is greater because the inverse square law drop in gravitational force gives a greater ratio of the force on the near side of the object to that on the far side. As shown below, the tidal ratio of the force per unit mass on the near side compared to that on the far side is much larger for the closer object.

Statement 1: If you introduce a new celestial body, it would lead to a change in the gravitational field as experienced by the oceans causing a change in the tidal force.

It is a different matter that the new celestial body would also attract the earth and try to influence its orbit, but we ignore the extraneous considerations here.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 31: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

64 Arrange these major East Asian cities from North to South

1. Beijing
2. Tokyo
3. Seoul
4. Shanghai

◦ Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- A. 1324 ✓
- B. 2143 ✗
- C. 2134 ✗
- D. 1243

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification:



Q Source: Japan map

65 The term "Moral Hazard" is often used by policymakers to point out to a situation where

1. A person takes more risks because someone else bears the cost of those risks
2. A government servant abuses his authority and financial powers to the detriment of public interest

◦ 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: In economics, moral hazard occurs when one person takes more risks because someone else bears the cost of those risks.

▪ It is one among the two kinds of market failures associated with the insurance sector.

▪ It means that the people with insurance cover may take greater risks than the uncovered ones



as they know they are protected so the insurer may get more claims it bargained for.

- The other kind of market failure is the adverse selections also related to insurance business.
- Adverse selection occurs when there's a lack of symmetric information prior to a deal between a buyer and a seller.
- Here the insurer is confronted with the probability of loss due to risk not factored in at the time of sale.

Q Source: Surprise questions

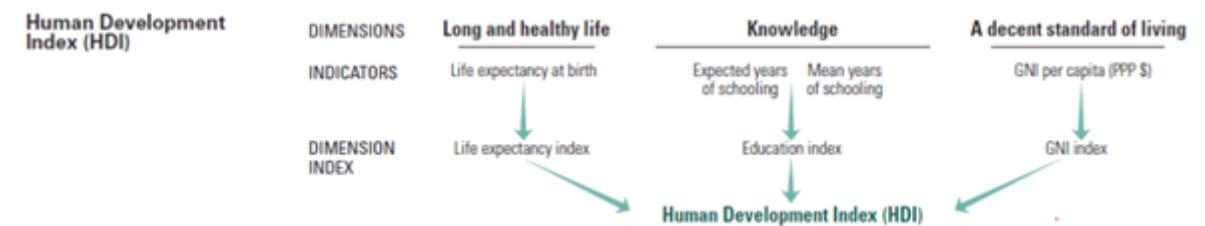
66 Which of these indicators do NOT form part of the calculation of the new Human Development Index (HDI)?

- A. Mean years of prior schooling for adults aged 25 and older X
- B. Combined Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) ✓
- C. Life expectancy at Birth
- D. Gross National Income (PPP) Per capita

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: The HDI was created to emphasize that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth alone. The HDI can also be used to question national policy choices, asking how two countries with the same level of GNI per capita can end up with different human development outcomes.



Q Source: Chapter 3: Shankar Ganesh: Economy

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi>

67 Which of the following differentiate between Human Development Index (HDI) and Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MDPI)?

1. While HDI measures the achievements in some dimensions of human development, MDPI measures

the under achievement in certain dimensions.

2. While HDI measures and includes the income of an individual, MDPI uses an asset-based approach where the conditions of living of an individual are measured.

- Which of the above is/are correct?

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

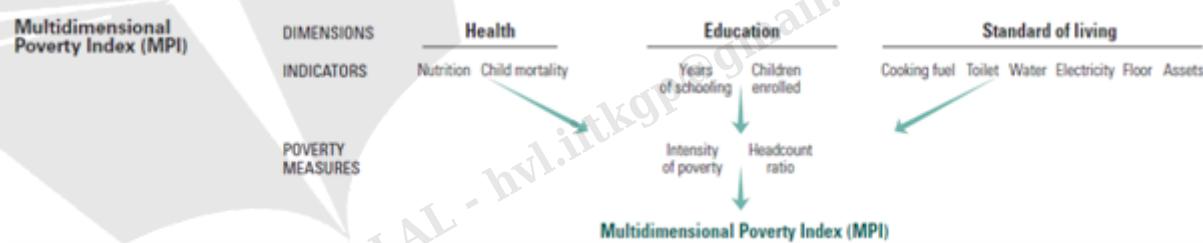
- Your Answer : D

- Correct Answer : C

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: MDPI measures poverty based on health, education and conditions of living. HDI measures achievement in these regards.

Statement 2: MDPI covers several parameters of condition of living such as access to housing, cooking fuel, house floor, movable assets etc. HDI restricts itself only to the per capita income.



Q Source: Chapter 3: Shankar Ganesh: Economy

- 68** The modern convention for the land boundary between Asia and Africa runs along the

- A. Isthmus of Suez and the Suez Canal in Egypt 
- B. Persian Gulf
- C. The narrow strait that joins Caspian and Black Sea
- D. Saudi Peninsula

- Your Answer : A

- Correct Answer : A

- **Answer Justification :**

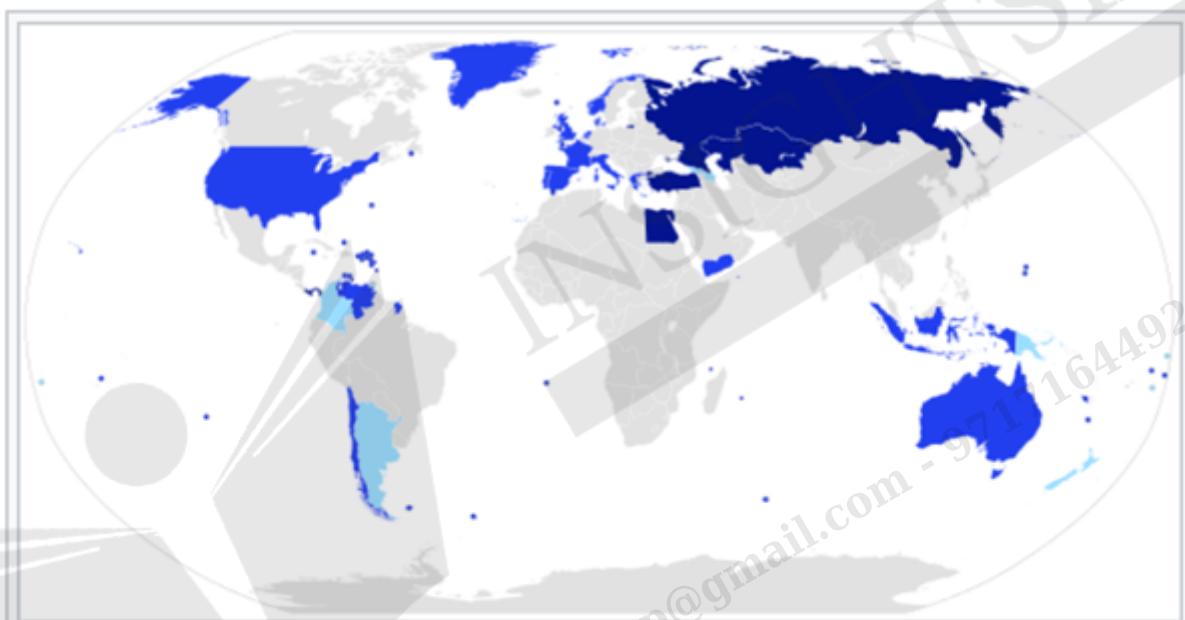
Learning: The border continues through the Gulf of Suez, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. In antiquity, Egypt had been considered part of Asia, with the Catabathmus Magnus escarpment taken as the boundary with Africa (Libya).

Two of 27 governorates of Egypt lie entirely on the Asian Sinai Peninsula and two are transcontinental: Ismailia Governorate is nearly equally divided by the Suez Canal, and Suez



Governorate, which is coterminous with the "transcontinental city" of Suez, has a small portion east of the Canal.

While there are many countries with non-contiguous overseas territories fitting this definition, only a limited number of countries have territory straddling an overland continental boundary, most commonly the line that separates Europe and Asia.



A map of transcontinental countries, and countries that control territory in more than one continent.

- Contiguous transcontinental countries.
- Non-contiguous transcontinental countries.
- Countries whose transcontinental status depends on either the legal status of their claims or the definition of continental boundaries used.

Q Source: West Asia Map

69 Consider the following statements.

1. Mid-Oceanic ridges are likely to be found in the approximate gravitational centre of continental or oceanic plates.
 2. The mid-ocean ridges of the world are connected and form the Ocean Ridge, a single global mid-oceanic ridge system that is part of every ocean.
- 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 : B

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: A mid-ocean ridge (MOR) is an underwater mountain system formed by plate tectonics. It is found usually in continental margins (not at the centre).

It consists of various mountains linked in chains, typically having a valley known as a rift running along its spine.

This type of oceanic mountain ridge is characteristic of what is known as an 'oceanic spreading center', which is responsible for seafloor spreading.

A mid-ocean ridge demarcates the boundary between two tectonic plates, and consequently is termed a divergent plate boundary.

Statement 2: This makes it the longest mountain range in the world. The continuous mountain range is 65,000 km long (several times longer than the Andes, the longest continental mountain range), and the total length of the oceanic ridge system is 80,000 km long.

Mid-ocean ridges are geologically active, with continuing volcanism and seismicity. New magma steadily emerges onto the ocean floor and intrudes into the ocean crust at and near rifts along the ridge axes.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 32: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

70 What is/are the limitations of the Gender Inequality Index (GII)?

1. It does not reveal gender disparities in labour market participation.
 2. Asset ownership and gender-based violence are not accounted for in the index.
 3. Participation in local community decision-making and local government is not part of the index.
- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 2 only

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : B

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification: The GII includes reproductive health and goes beyond the literacy and primary education. It also reveals gender disparities in labour market participation, instead of using the flawed sex-disaggregated income measure.

Like all composite measures, the GII has some limitations. First, it does not capture the length and

breadth of gender inequality. For example, the use of national parliamentary representation excludes participation at the local government level and elsewhere in community and public life.

The labour market dimension lacks information on employment, having an adequate job and unpaid work that is mostly done by women.

The index misses other important dimensions, such as time use—the fact that many women have the additional burden of caregiving and housekeeping cuts into their leisure time and increases stress and physical exhaustion.

Asset ownership, child care support, gender-based violence and participation in community decision-making are also not captured in the GII, mainly due to limited data availability.

Q Source: Additional Research: Chapter 3: Shankar Ganesh: Economy

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/faq-page/gender-inequality-index-gii#t294n2423>

71 Maastricht Treaty is related to the formation of

- A. Soviet Union
- B. Warsaw Pact
- C. European Union ✓
- D. North-Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: Treaty of Maastricht is one of two treaties forming the constitutional basis of the European Union (EU), the other being the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU; also referred to as the Treaty of Rome).

The TEU was originally signed in 1992 by the members of the European Community in Maastricht, Netherlands to further European integration.

TEU comprised two novel titles respectively on Common Foreign and Security Policy and Cooperation in the Fields of Justice and Home Affairs, which replaced the former informal intergovernmental cooperation bodies named TREVI and European Political Cooperation on EU Foreign policy coordination.

Q Source: Page 55: Chapter 4: 12th NCERT: Contemporary World Politics

72 Which of the following ideologies is closest to the “ASEAN Way”?

- A. Forming formal supra-national structures and institutions
- B. Settling disputes by informal cooperative methods ✓
- C. Relying on cultural rather than economic force ✗

D. Assisting the development of Least Development Countries (LDCs)

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: The ASEAN Way is defined a shared of norms, principles, and values governing the interactions of ASEAN member states.

Keeping ASEAN together despite these deep cultural, economic and political differences - along with mistrust between different members - has always been an immense challenge.

Unlike other regional or international organizations, ASEAN possesses its own model of diplomatic engagement: the ASEAN Way.

The framework for cooperation is based on non-intervention and consensus. All ASEAN decisions must be unanimous. The alliance also is not permitted to intervene in members' matters of national interest.

This special political style is proudly known as the "ASEAN way." It is characterized by an informal and personal approach that aims at conflict prevention and is often not carried out in public. It is also important not to embarrass members or to drive them into a corner.

Q Source: Page 55: Chapter 4: 12th NCERT: Contemporary World Politics

73 Consider the following statements.

#5218

1. The Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) is an annual summit of non-state actors to promote cooperation between ASEAN, SAARC and GCC members.
2. The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is a forum for security dialogue concerning the Asia Pacific region.

◦ 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 : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: It is an inter-governmental organization created on 18 June 2002 to promote Asian cooperation at a continental level and to help integrate separate regional organizations such as ASEAN, SAARC, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Eurasian Economic Union.

The ACD's main members states are Pakistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Indonesia, Thailand, Uzbekistan, China and Japan, the so-called Major Ten ACD Nations.

Statement 2: The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is an important forum for security dialogue in Asia. It draws together 27 members which have a bearing on the security of the Asia Pacific region.

ARF was established in 1994. It comprises 27 members: the 10 ASEAN member states (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), the 10 ASEAN dialogue partners (Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States), one ASEAN observer (Papua New Guinea), as well as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, Timor-Leste, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

The ARF is characterised by consensus decision making and frank dialogue.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 57: Chapter 4: 12th NCERT: Contemporary World Politics

74 The thinnest of all layers on earth is

- A. Crust
- B. Upper Mantle
- C. Lower mantle
- D. Core

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: The uppermost layer over the earth's surface is called the crust. It is the thinnest of all the layers. It is about 35 km. on the continental masses and only 5 km. on the ocean floors.

The crust forms only 0.5 per cent of the volume of the earth, 16 per cent consists of the mantle and 83 per cent makes the core.

The main mineral constituents of the continental mass are silica and alumina. It is thus called sial (si-silica and al-alumina).

The oceanic crust mainly consists of silica and magnesium; it is therefore called sima (si-silica and ma-magnesium).

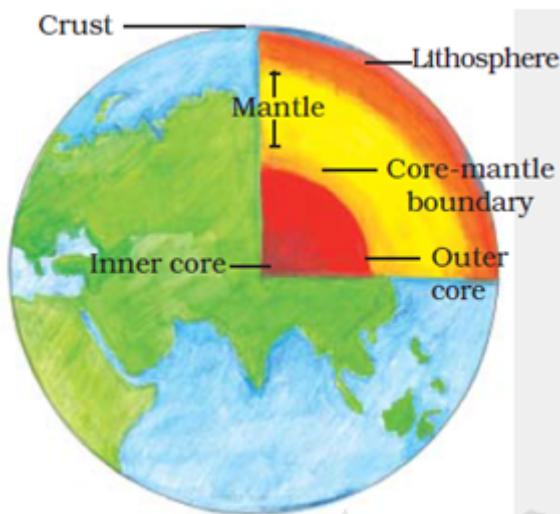


Fig. 2.1: Interior of the Earth

Q Source: Page 7: 7th NCERT: Geography

75 Which of the following arguments, usually, are advanced against economic blocs?

1. They tend to erode sovereignty of member nations.
 2. They increase mutual economic dependence between member countries leading to widespread repercussions of economic shocks.
 3. They promote Economies of Scale.
- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
- A. 1 and 2 only ✓
 - B. 1 only
 - C. 2 and 3 only
 - D. 1, 2 and 3
- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: A trading bloc, particularly when it is coupled with a political goal, is likely to lead to at least partial loss of sovereignty for its participants. For example, the European Union, started as a trading bloc in 1957 by the Treaty of Rome, has transformed itself into a far-reaching political organization that deals not only with trade matters, but also with human rights, consumer protection, greenhouse gas emissions and other issues which are only marginally related.

Statement 2: Because trading blocs increase trade among participating countries, those countries become increasingly dependent on each other. A disruption of trade within a trading bloc as a result of a natural disaster, conflict or revolution may have severe consequences for the economies of all participating countries.

Statement 3: This is actually an advantage.

The larger markets created by trade blocs permit companies to take advantage of economies of scale. Since the average cost of each good produced tends to fall as production increases, this results in lower prices for consumers.

Increased competition and the removal of tariffs, which may act as a price floor, drive down prices and allow for increased consumption. This reduces deadweight loss and hence improves market efficiency.

Learning: Some other disadvantages of economics blocs are:

- No country wants to let foreign firms gain domestic market share at the expense of local companies without getting something in return. Any country that wants to join a trading bloc must be prepared to make concessions. For example, allowing MNCs to enter their home markets, hurting the business of some local firms.
- Also, Trading blocs inherently favor their participating countries. Regional economies establish tariffs and quotas that protect intra-regional trade from outside forces. Rather than pursuing a global trading regime within the World Trade Organization, which includes the majority of the world's countries, regional trade bloc countries contribute to regionalism rather than global integration.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 57: Chapter 4: 12th NCERT: Contemporary World Politics

76 With reference to river, which of the following will most likely not exist if coriolis force were to be absent?

- A. Tributaries
- B. Distributaries X
- C. Meanders ✓
- D. Delta

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Option A: A tributary is an initial stage of the river. It is found closer to the source of the river. Coriolis force isn't very effective at such high speeds of river flow.

Option B and D: At times the river overflows its banks, this leads to the flooding of the neighbouring areas. As it floods, it deposits layers of fine soil and other material called sediments along its banks. This leads to the formation of a flat fertile floodplain

As the river approaches the sea, the speed of the flowing water decreases and the river begins to break up into a number of streams called distributaries. The river becomes so slow that it begins to deposit its load.



Each distributary forms its own mouth. The collection of sediments from all the mouths forms a delta.

Option C: The mechanism of meander formation has been explained clearly in the NCERT, and we need not repeat it again here.

Q Source: Page 15-16: 7th NCERT: Geography

77 A line joining Addis Ababa with Mecca will cross which of these seas

- A. Red Sea ✓
- B. Caspian Sea
- C. Persian Gulf ✗
- D. Mediterranean Sea

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: Addis Ababa is a popular venue for conferences. Please keep such important locations in mind.



Q Source: West Asia Map

78 The Ring of Fire does NOT touch which of these countries?

- A. Peru
- B. Australia
- C. United States of America
- D. Indonesia

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: You can examine the same in the diagram below. This distribution of the ring of fire has to do with the plate tectonics. Since no major plate criss-crosses the Australian continent or in other words, since Australia is far from continental margins, the ring of fire does not pass through it.

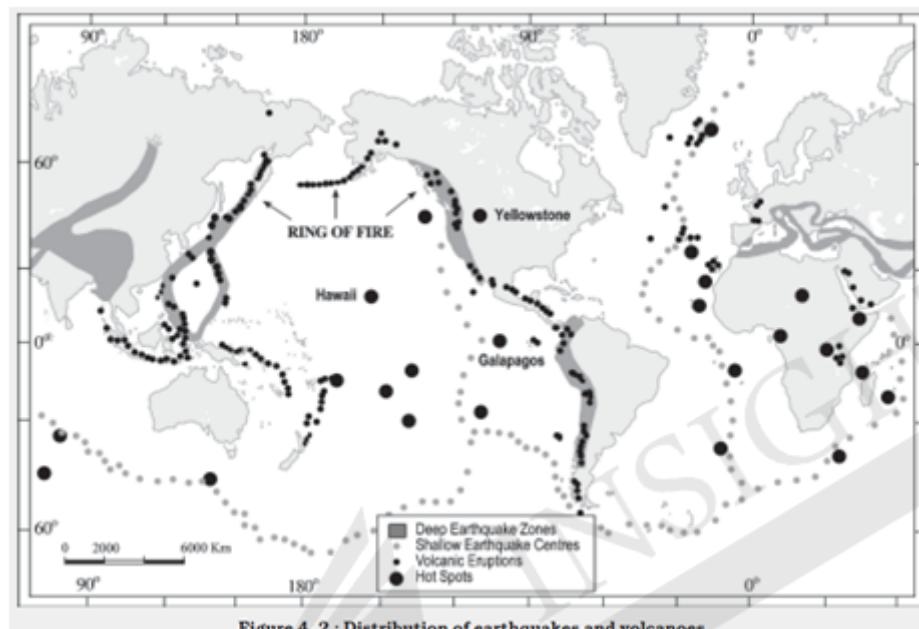


Figure 4. 2 : Distribution of earthquakes and volcanoes

Q Source: Page 33: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

79 Consider the following statements.

1. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur was the Minister for Health in independent India's first ministry and a member of constituent assembly.
 2. Acharya Narendra Dev was a founding President of the Congress Socialist Party.
- Which of the above is/are correct?
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only X
 - C. Both 1 and 2 ✓
 - D. None
 - Your Answer : B
 - Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: A Gandhian and Freedom fighter; she belonged to the royal family of Kapurthala; inherited Christian religion from her mother; served as a member of Constituent Assembly and Minister for Health in independent India's first ministry; she continued as Health Minister till 1957.

Statement 2: A Freedom fighter and founding President of the Congress Socialist Party; he was jailed several times during the freedom movement; and was active in peasants' movement. A scholar of Buddhism; after independence he led the Socialist Party and later the Praja Socialist Party.

Q Source: Page 32 and 34: Chapter 2: 12th NCERT: Indian Since Independence

80 Public Affairs Index (PAI) 2018 has been released by the

- A. Public Affairs Centre (PAC), an Indian think tank ✓
- B. Transparency International ✗
- C. Human Rights Watch
- D. Association for Democratic Reforms, an NGO working in India

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: The index is released since in 2016 by Bengaluru base Public Affairs Centre (PAC), a not for profit think tank which aims to improve governance in India.

It is based on 10 themes, 30 focus subjects and 100 indicators, relying solely upon government data.

It covers wide range of themes such as support to human development, social protection, essential infrastructure, women and children, crime, law and order, delivery of justice, transparency and accountability, environment, fiscal management and economic freedom.

2018 PAI also included separate index on children of India, giving measure of how child-friendly each of the states are.

Kerala tops the list as best-governed state in the country. Kerala has topped PAI as the best-governed state for the third consecutive year.

Kerala is followed by Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka and Gujarat.

Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar ranked the lowest, indicating higher social and economic inequalities in the states.

Smaller states (with population less than two crore): Himachal Pradesh topped the list followed by Goa, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura. Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya were ranked at bottom of the index among small states.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/23/insights-daily-current-affairs-23-july-2018/>

81 The constitution of which of these countries permits only a single party to rule the country?

1. Republic of Cuba
2. People's Republic of China
3. Republic of Iran
4. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
5. Socialist Republic of Vietnam

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
- A. 3 and 5 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only ✓
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 ✗

- Your Answer : D
- Correct Answer : C

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification: It is a type of state in which one political party has the right to form the government, usually based on the existing constitution. All other parties are either outlawed or allowed to take only a limited and controlled participation in elections.

China, Cuba, Vietnam, North Korea, Eritrea (due to legal and military measures) and Laos have such one-party systems or dominance of a single party.

So, India is not the only country to have experienced the dominance of one party. But there is a crucial difference between these and the Indian experience. In the rest of the cases the dominance of one party was ensured by compromising democracy.

What distinguished the dominance of the Congress party in India from all these cases was it happened under democratic conditions.

This was similar to the dominance the African National Congress has enjoyed in South Africa after the end of apartheid.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 35: Chapter 2: 12th NCERT: Indian Since Independence

82 Which of the following is NOT considered to be a Major tectonic plate?

- A. Pacific Plate
- B. Eurasian Plate
- C. Arabian Plate
- D. Antarctica and the surrounding oceanic plate

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification: The major plates are as follows:

- (i) Antarctica and the surrounding oceanic plate
- (ii) North American (with western Atlantic floor separated from the South American plate along the Caribbean islands) plate
- (iii) South American (with western Atlantic floor separated from the North American plate along the Caribbean islands) plate

- (iv) Pacific plate
- (v) India-Australia-New Zealand plate
- (vi) Africa with the eastern Atlantic floor plate
- (vii) Eurasia and the adjacent oceanic plate.

Some important minor plates are listed below:

- (i) Cocos plate : Between Central America and Pacific plate
- (ii) Nazca plate : Between South America and Pacific plate
- (iii) Arabian plate : Mostly the Saudi Arabian landmass
- (iv) Philippine plate : Between the Asiatic and Pacific plate

Q Source: Page 35: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

83 Operation Gibraltar was the codename given to the

- A. Strategy of Pakistan to infiltrate Jammu and Kashmir
- B. India's Kargil operation
- C. Sino-Indian border negotiation post-1962 war
- D. Invasion of China in Tibet

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: Operation Gibraltar intended to start a rebellion against Indian rule. If successful, Pakistan hoped to gain control over Kashmir, but the operation resulted in a major failure.

Pakistan specifically chose this name to draw a parallel to the Arab invasion of Spain that was launched from the port of Gibraltar.

In August 1965, Pakistan Army's Azad Kashmir Regular Force troops, disguised as locals, entered Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistan with the goal of fomenting an insurgency among Kashmiri Muslims. However, the strategy went awry from the outset due to poor coordination, and the

infiltrators were soon discovered.

The operation sparked the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, the first major engagement between the two neighbours since the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947.

Q Source: Additional Research: Chapter 5: 12th NCERT: Indian Since Independence

84 Consider the following Indian states and union territories by GDP (Nominal) and GDP per capita (Nominal).

1. Delhi has the highest GDP Per capita.
 2. All Island based Union Territories (UTs), individually, have lesser GDP per capita than all coastal states.
 3. Uttar Pradesh has the lowest GDP Per capita of all due to the high population.
 4. Of all the states listed in 5th or 6th Schedule or States with special provisions, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has the lowest GDP Per capita.
- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
 - A. 1, 2, 3 and 4 X
 - B. 1 only ✓
 - C. 2 and 4 only
 - D. 1 and 3 only
 - Your Answer : A
 - Correct Answer : B
 - **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: Delhi has the highest GDP per capita, followed by Goa and Chandigarh.

Statement 2: This is incorrect. In fact, several island UTs (e.g. Puducherry) have better figures than coastal states.

Statement 3: Bihar has the lowest GDP per capita (₹38,546), followed by UP (₹48,520).

Statement 4: This will be Manipur, to be followed by Assam, Tripura etc.

Article 371 C special provision for Manipur: President is authorized to provide for creation of a committee of Manipur legislative assembly consisting of members elected from hill areas.

Check out the list here

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Indian_states_and_union_territories_by_GDP_per_capita

Learning: In terms of overall GDP, Maharashtra has the highest, followed by TN and Gujarat.

Check the list here

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Indian_states_and_union_territories_by_GDP

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



85 About 98 per cent of the total crust of the earth is composed of eight elements. These eight elements most likely do NOT include

- A. Oxygen
- B. Carbon
- C. Silicon
- D. Iron

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: The major 8 elements are oxygen, silicon, aluminium, iron, calcium, sodium, potassium and magnesium, and the rest is constituted by titanium, hydrogen, phosphorous, manganese, sulphur, carbon, nickel and other elements.

Option B: Carbon is NOT a major element, even though organic life constitutes carbon; please note that.

Table 5.1 : The Major Elements of the Earth's Crust

Sl. No.	Elements	By Weight(%)
1.	Oxygen	46.60
2.	Silicon	27.72
3.	Alumium	8.13
4.	Iron	5.00
5.	Calcium	3.63
6.	Sodium	2.83
7.	Potassium	2.59
8.	Magnesium	2.09
9.	Others	1.41

Q Source: Page 40: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

86 How will the new Petroleum and Natural Gas (Amendment) Rules, 2018 benefit this sector?

1. Petroleum would now come to include coal, lignite and helium and the whole sector would be brought in the ambit of GST.
2. It would open up exploration of all hydrocarbons in existing fields which is line with the new Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP).

- 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: The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has liberalised the definition of petroleum to bring more hydrocarbons such as coal bed methane and shale gas under its fold. Petroleum and Natural Gas (Amendment) Rules, 2018 have been amended in this regard.

Statement 1: Petroleum will now mean naturally occurring hydrocarbons, whether in the form of natural gas, in a liquid, viscous or solid form, or a mixture of these. It, however, does not include coal, lignite and helium occurring in association with petroleum or coal or shale.

The exclusion of natural gas from the purview of GST remains a deterrent to attracting large-scale investments as neither the producers nor the consumers are able to set off the taxes paid on their input and output.

While the Goods and Service Tax (GST) was implemented from July 1, 2017, crude oil, natural gas, petrol, diesel, and jet fuel (ATF) were kept out of it for the time being. No date for their inclusion in GST regime has yet been announced.

Statement 2: The amendment of the definition of petroleum is a welcome move as it would open up exploration of all hydrocarbons in existing fields which is line with the new Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP).

It would help in enhancing domestic exploration and production of hydrocarbons and increasing India's energy security and reducing dependency on imports.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/26/insights-daily-current-affairs-26-july-2018/>

87 Consider the following statements.

1. Invest India is the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India and acts as the first point of reference for investors in India.
2. Invest India is set up as a non profit venture under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industries.

- 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: Operationalized in early 2010, Invest India is set up as a joint venture company between the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry (35% equity), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) (51% equity), and State Governments of India (0.5% each).

The core mandate of Invest India is investment promotion and facilitation. It provides sector-specific and state-specific information to a foreign investor, assists in expediting regulatory approvals, and offers hand-holding services. Its mandate also includes assisting Indian investors to make informed choices about investment opportunities overseas.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/26/insights-daily-current-affairs-26-july-2018/>

88 Consider the following statements.

1. A mineral is a naturally occurring inorganic substance.
 2. Minerals cannot be formed from a single element.
 3. The basic source of all minerals is the hot magma in the interior of the earth.
- 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 : B
 - Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1 and 2: A mineral is a naturally occurring inorganic substance, having an orderly atomic structure and a definite chemical composition and physical properties.

A mineral is composed of two or more elements. But, sometimes single element minerals like sulphur, copper, silver, gold, graphite etc. are found.

Statement 3: When magma cools, crystals of minerals appear and a systematic series of minerals are formed in sequence to solidify so as to form rocks.

Minerals such as coal, petroleum and natural gas are organic substances found in solid, liquid and gaseous forms respectively.

Learning: Though the number of elements making up the lithosphere are limited they are combined in many different ways to make up many varieties of minerals.

There are at least 2,000 minerals that have been named and identified in the earth crust; but almost all the commonly occurring ones are related to six major mineral groups that are known as major rock forming minerals.

Q Source: Page 40: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

89 Apart from the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), which of the following is/are important sources of industrial statistics in India?

1. Annual Survey of Industries
2. NSSO Survey of Unorganized sector

3. Census of registered SSI units

- 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 : D

- Correct Answer : D

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: The Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) is the principal source of Industrial Statistics in India. The survey is conducted annually under the statutory provisions of the Collection of Statistics Act 1953 and the rules framed there under in 1959 except in the State of Jammu & Kashmir where it is conducted under the State Collection of Statistics Act 1961 and rules framed there under in 1964.

Statement 2: The NSSO surveys the unregistered sector at the national level and collects data from house hold enterprises as part of its multi-purpose surveys. The first such survey was conducted during the 7th round covering the period from October 1953 to March 1954.

Statement 3: Office of the Development Commissioner for Small Scale Industries under the Ministry of Small Scale Industries is the nodal agency for collecting data on SSI units which are not coming under other ministries /departments /boards /specialized agencies.

Q Source: Additional Research: Page 18: 10th NCERT: Economics

90 Funds that are eligible for 100% tax deduction under the Income Tax Act, 1961, subject to the limits and conditions prescribed in the said Section and relevant Rules, include

1. All mutual funds
2. Any debt fund
3. National Culture Fund (NCF)
4. Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

- Your Answer : D

- Correct Answer : D

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Statement 1: Mutual funds that invest in Equity linked savings scheme (ELSS) only

are eligible for tax deduction.

Statement 2: Not eligible.

Statement 3: National Culture Fund (NCF) was set up as a Trust under the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890 in November 1996 by the Government, with a view to mobilize extra resources through Public Private Partnerships.

The Fund aims at inviting the participation of the corporate sector, non-government organizations, private/public sector as well as individuals in the task of promoting, protecting and preserving India's cultural heritage.

Statement 4: Same with the PMNRF.

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/24/insights-daily-current-affairs-24-july-2018/>

91 "Fiscal capacity" term is used by policymakers to refer to

1. Openness of an economy
 2. Government's tax and expenditure volumes
 3. Private sector savings
- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
 - A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. 2 and 3 only
 - D. 1 and 3 only
 - Your Answer : B
 - Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Justification: Fiscal capacity is related to capacity of the government to tax and spend. India's fiscal capacity can be assessed through tax-GDP and spending-GDP ratios.

- There is a strong relationship between a country's fiscal capacity and the level of economic development.
- Overall tax to GDP ratio, overall expenditure to GDP and human capital expenditure to GDP are some of the indicators used to assess the overall quality of fiscal capacity.
- India's case: Overall tax to GDP ratio is lower in India than OECD countries as well as its EME peers. India's spending to GDP ratio is lowest among BRICS.
- The government has made limited progress in increasing its taxing and spending capacity.

India's tax-GDP ratio has increased by about 10 percentage points over the past six decades from 6 per cent in 1950s to about 17 per cent in FY2013.

- However, the progress is appreciable given that India is a young democracy. Other mature democracies like USA have taken many years for development of good fiscal capacity.

Q Source: Often in news

92 Lok Sabha has passed Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2017 to reduce the number of cheque dishonour cases pending in courts. Which of the following is NOT a negotiable instrument?

- A. Cheque
- B. Promissory note
- C. Exchange traded fund
- D. Bills of exchange

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Background: a negotiable instrument refers to any legal documents like cheques, promissory notes, bill of exchange etc which promises to pay bearer or holder of instrument or person whose name is written on instrument specific amount of money either on demand or after specified time i.e. on some future date.

The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 defines promissory notes, bills of exchange and cheques. It also specifies penalties for bouncing of cheques and other violations with respect to such negotiable instruments.

Learning: The bill amends Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 to primarily address issues of dishonor of cheques and deal with unnecessary delay in disposal of such cases.

The Act defines promissory notes, bills of exchange, and cheques. It also specifies penalties for bouncing of cheques, and other violations with respect to such negotiable instruments.

The Bill inserts new Section 143 A in parent Act to allow court trying offence related to cheque bouncing to direct drawer (person who writes cheque) to pay interim compensation to complainant.

This compensation may be paid under certain circumstances, including where drawer pleads not guilty of accusation. It will not exceed 20% of cheque amount and will be paid by drawer within 60 days of trial court's order to pay such compensation.

In case drawer is acquitted during trial or by appellate court, then court will direct complainant to return interim compensation (or deposit in case of an appeal case), along with interest. This amount will be repaid within 60 days of court's order.

Q Source: Additional Research:

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/24/insights-daily-current-affairs-24-july-2018/>

93 Which of these nations is keen to set up a border 'haat' (market) on its border with India and an official team from this neighbouring country recently visited Kasba market in Tripura to study the functioning of border haats?

- A. Bhutan
- B. Laos
- C. Myanmar
- D. Vietnam

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: The move comes in the wake of the successful operation of such markets along India's border with Bangladesh.

A five-member team led by Myanmar's Ministry of Labour Affairs Director Soe Paing Myint and Indian officials visited the Kasba border 'haat' in western Tripura on the India-Bangladesh border.

Four northeastern Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Manipur (398 km), Nagaland (215 km) and Mizoram (510 km) share a 1,643-km unfenced border with Myanmar.

Border 'haats' have been set up at Kalaichar-Baliamari and Balat-Dalora on the India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya, and at Kasba in western Tripura and Srinagar in southern Tripura.

The border 'haats' are allowed to sell local agricultural and horticultural products, spices, minor forest products (excluding timber), wet and dry fish, dairy and poultry products, cottage industry items, wooden furniture, handloom and handicraft items.

The 'haats' are set up within five km on each side of the international border.

Q Source: Additional Research:

<http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/24/insights-daily-current-affairs-24-july-2018/>

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/myanmar-keen-to-set-up-border-haat-indian-official-117051000680_1.html

94 Which of the following geographical features separate West Asia (in Eastern Iran) from rest of the Asia?

- A. Anatolian plateau
- B. Taurus mountains
- C. Lut desert
- D. Zagros mountains



Mock Test 4

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

- **Answer Justification :**

Learning: The Dasht-e Kavir and Dasht-e Lut deserts in eastern Iran naturally delimit the region somewhat from Asia itself.

The Lut Desert, is a large salt desert located in the provinces of Kerman and Sistan and Baluchestan, Iran.

It is the world's 27th-largest desert, and was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2016.

The surface of its sand has been measured at temperatures as high as 70 °C making it one of the world's driest and hottest places.



Q Source: West Asia Map

95 Which of the following can be classified as endogenic geomorphic processes?

1. Weathering
2. Wind Erosion and deposition
3. Diastrophism
4. Volcanism

- Select the correct answer using the codes below.

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

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

- **Answer Justification :**

Justification: More details on these phenomena will be covered later. A broad sketch will suffice for now.

The energy emanating from within the earth is the main force behind endogenic geomorphic processes. This energy is mostly generated by radioactivity, rotational and tidal friction and primordial heat from the origin of the earth.

The endogenic and exogenic forces causing physical stresses and chemical actions on earth materials and bringing about changes in the configuration of the surface of the earth are known as geomorphic processes. Diastrophism and volcanism are endogenic geomorphic processes. Weathering, mass wasting, erosion and deposition are exogenic geomorphic processes.

Q Source: Page 46: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

96 Located in Gujarat's Patan, the 900-year-old structure, Rani-ki-Vav, is a major tourist attraction, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and was awarded as the cleanest iconic place in India in 2016. It is located on the banks of the mythical

- A. Saraswati River
- B. Vaitarni River
- C. Triveni River
- D. Dungamatra River

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : A

- **Answer Justification :**

Learning: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will soon be releasing a new lavender Rs 100 currency note. The banknote highlights the rich and diverse cultural heritage of India as it prominently displays a photograph of 'Rani-ki-vav' (The Queen's Stepwell), an 11th century architectural wonder.

It was built by the Solanki dynasty's queen Udayamati in the 11th century as a memorial to her deceased husband Bhimdev I.

Architectural significance: Rani-ki-Vav was built in the complex Maru-Gurjara architectural style. It

highlights the sanctity of water as it is designed as an inverted temple under the earth's surface. The central theme is the Dasavataras, or ten incarnations of Vishnu, including Buddha. The avatars are accompanied by sadhus, brahmins, and apsaras (celestial dancers).

Q Source: <http://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/07/21/insights-daily-current-affairs-21-july-2018/>

97 The term "Arctic Shelf" is often used to refer to

- A. Oil and gas deposits ✗
- B. Major fishing zones
- C. Large ice-free docking areas
- D. Continental shelves ✓

- Your Answer : A
- Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: The Ocean's Arctic shelf comprises a number of continental shelves, including the Canadian Arctic shelf, underlying the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, and the Russian continental shelf, which is sometimes simply called the "Arctic Shelf" because it is greater in extent.

The Siberian Shelf holds large oil and gas reserves, and the Chukchi shelf forms the border between Russia and the United States as stated in the USSR-USA Maritime Boundary Agreement. The whole area is subject to international territorial claims.

Q Source: Frequently in news

98 Meanders are most likely to be formed in which of the following stages of the river?

- A. Youth stage
- B. Mature stage ✓
- C. Old Stage
- D. They are equally likely to be formed in all three stages.

- Your Answer : B
- Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: in the Youth stage, streams are few during this stage with poor integration and flow over original slopes showing shallow V-shaped valleys with no floodplains or with very narrow floodplains along trunk streams.

Streams divides are broad and flat with marshes, swamp and lakes. Meanders if present develop over these broad upland surfaces. These meanders may eventually entrench themselves into the uplands.

Waterfalls and rapids may exist where local hard rock bodies are exposed.

During the mature stage, streams are plenty with good integration. The valleys are still V-shaped but deep; trunk streams are broad enough to have wider floodplains within which streams may flow in meanders confined within the valley.

The flat and broad inter stream areas and swamps and marshes of youth disappear and the stream divides turn sharp. Waterfalls and rapids disappear.

Q Source: Page 60: Fundamentals of Physical Geography: 11th NCERT

99 Consider the following statements about literacy in India.

1. A formal education or minimum educational standard is necessary to be considered as literate in India.
 2. Literacy of an individual must be tested in the official language of India.
- 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: Literacy, as defined in Census operations, is the ability to read and write with understanding in any language.

A person who can merely read but cannot write is not classified as literate. Any formal education or minimum educational standard is not necessary to be considered literate.

So, both 1 and 2 are incorrect. Literacy can be tested in any language, not only in our official languages.

Learning: The information on literacy was collected in all censuses.

Information on the standard of education was collected for the first time in 1941 census and after that it was asked in every subsequent censuses. In 1971 the information on Literacy and Educational level was collected from each individual.

Q Source: Chapter 2: 10th NCERT: Economics

100 'Swachh Bharat Pakhwada' seen in news sometime back was a/an

- A. Cleanliness drives in major slum regions of India
- B. Awareness drive by celebrities with a focus on sanitation and good hygiene practices

- C. Cleansing campaign of government offices and departments in all possible ways
- D. Fund raising initiative of the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation to finance urban sanitation projects

- Your Answer : C
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Learning: Seeking to give impetus to Prime Minister 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan', all central government ministries and departments were directed to carry out a drive to weed out old files and discarded furniture and vehicles.

They were directed to organise a series of activities like 'mass pledge on swacchta' by the employees, cleanliness drive, carrying out inspection and repair work of all sanitary facilities in office premises, weeding out of old files, disposal of old items including furniture, machines and vehicles, and conducting pest control.

It was observed for a fortnight in the month of May.

Q Source: In news