71. Arrange the following natural disasters in ascending (year wise) order:  
(i) Indian Ocean Tsunami  
(ii) Haiti Earthquake  
(iii) Nepal Earthquake  
(iv) Sichuan Earthquake  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:  
(A) (i)-(iv)-(ii)-(iii)  
(B) (iv)-(i)-(ii)-(iii)  
(C) (ii)-(iii)-(iv)-(i)  
(D) (iv)-(iii)-(ii)-(i)

Answer 71. (B) (iv)-(i)-(ii)-(iii)

Explanation:

* The Sichuan Earthquake occurred in 2008.
* The Indian Ocean Tsunami happened in 2004.
* The Haiti Earthquake took place in 2010.
* The Nepal Earthquake struck in 2015.
* Ordering by year: Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004), Sichuan Earthquake (2008), Haiti Earthquake (2010), Nepal Earthquake (2015).
* However, since the option (B) puts Sichuan (2008) before Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004), the accurate order based on years actually is (i) 2004, (iv) 2008, (ii) 2010, (iii) 2015 which matches option (A).
* On closer check: The Indian Ocean Tsunami was in 2004, which precedes Sichuan Earthquake in 2008.
* Therefore, the correct ascending order is (i)-(iv)-(ii)-(iii).

72. Consider the following National Parks of Assam and arrange them in ascending order of their year of declaration as National Parks:  
(i) Kaziranga  
(ii) Orang  
(iii) Manas  
(iv) Raimona  
(A) (i)–(iii)–(ii)–(iv)  
(B) (iii)–(i)–(ii)–(iv)  
(C) (i)–(ii)–(iii)–(iv)  
(D) (ii)–(iv)–(iii)–(i)

Answer 72. (A) (i)–(iii)–(ii)–(iv)

Explanation:

* Kaziranga was declared a National Park in 1974.
* Manas was declared in 1990.
* Orang was declared National Park in 1999.
* Raimona was declared most recently in 2021.
* Thus, the correct order by year of declaration is Kaziranga, Manas, Orang, Raimona.

73. Match List-I with List-II:  
List-I                              List-II  
a. Detritus                           1. Organisms that feed on dead organic matter  
b. Limnology                              2. Study of inland water bodies  
c. Keystone species                               3. Species whose influence on ecosystem is disproportionate  
d. Ecotone                               4. Transitional zone between two communities  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
(A) abcd 1234  
(B) abcd 2341  
(C) abcd 3214  
(D) abcd 1324

Answer 73. (A) abcd 1234

Explanation:

* Detritus refers to dead organic matter, and detritivores are organisms that feed on it.
* Limnology is the study of inland water bodies.
* Keystone species are species whose impact on an ecosystem is disproportionately large relative to their abundance.
* Ecotone is a transitional zone between two different ecological communities or ecosystems.

74. According to the SAPCC (2015–2020), which sector in Assam is considered the most vulnerable to climate change impacts?  
(A) Forestry  
(B) Agriculture and allied sectors  
(C) Tourism  
(D) Urban development

Answer 74. (B) Agriculture and allied sectors

Explanation:

* The State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) identifies agriculture and its allied sectors as highly vulnerable in Assam due to dependence on rainfed farming, erratic rainfall, and floods.

75. The use of green plants to clean up soil, air, and water contaminated with hazardous contaminants is called  
(A) phytoremediation  
(B) mycoremediation  
(C) rhizoremediation  
(D) bioventing

Answer 75. (A) phytoremediation

Explanation:

* Phytoremediation is the process using plants to remove, transfer, stabilize, or destroy contaminants in soil, water, or air.
* Mycoremediation involves fungi and rhizoremediation focuses on plant roots but phytoremediation is the general term.

76. The global warming potential (GWP) of a greenhouse gas is defined relative to:  
(A) Methane (CH4) over a 20-year period  
(B) Carbon dioxide (CO2) over a 100-year period  
(C) Nitrous oxide (N2O) over a 50-year period  
(D) Water vapor over a 10-year period

Answer 76. (B) Carbon dioxide (CO2) over a 100-year period

Explanation:

* GWP is a measure of heat a greenhouse gas traps in the atmosphere relative to CO2, standardized over a 100-year timeframe.

77. Which of the following soil horizons is characterized by the accumulation of organic matter?  
(A) O horizon  
(B) E horizon  
(C) B horizon  
(D) C horizon

Answer 77. (A) O horizon

Explanation:

* The O horizon is the topmost soil layer rich in organic matter such as decomposed leaves and plant residues.
* E horizon is for eluviation; B horizon accumulates leached minerals; C horizon is weathered parent material.

78. The ‘Kasturirangan Committee Report’ mainly focuses on:  
(i) The conservation strategy for the Western Ghats  
(ii) Zoning and demarcation of eco-sensitive areas  
(iii) Recommendations on industrial activities in protected zones  
(iv) Water management policies for river basins  
Select the correct answer:  
(A) (i) and (ii) only  
(B) (ii) and (iv) only  
(C) (i), (ii), and (iii) only  
(D) (iii) and (iv) only

Answer 78. (C) (i), (ii), and (iii) only

Explanation:

* The Kasturirangan Committee report offers recommendations for conserving the Western Ghats, including eco-sensitive zoning and guidelines for industrial activity with environmental safeguards.
* Water management policies are not a primary focus of the report.

79. Which organization is responsible for regulating foreign exchange transactions in India under FEMA?  
(A) The Exim Bank  
(B) The Reserve Bank of India  
(C) The Ministry of Finance  
(D) Directorate General of Foreign Trade

Answer 79. (B) The Reserve Bank of India

Explanation:

* The Reserve Bank of India regulates and monitors foreign exchange transactions under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).
* Other organizations have different roles related to trade and finance but RBI holds regulatory authority over foreign exchange.

80. As per the NITI Aayog’s Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2022-23, the percentage of population classified as poor in Bihar falls under which range?  
(A) 35-60%  
(B) 25-34%  
(C) 18-24%  
(D) 10-17%

Answer 80. (A) 35-60%

Explanation:

* Bihar has one of the highest poverty levels in India by MPI measurements, with over a third of its population classified as multidimensionally poor.
* The figure lies in the range of 35-60% indicating significant deprivation in health, education, and living standards.