1. Arrange the following famous mountaineering tragedies in the order they occurred:  
   (i) 1996 Everest Disaster  
   (ii) Annapurna Avalanche 2014  
   (iii) Kangchenjunga Avalanche 2018  
   (iv) Manaslu Tragedy 2012  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below:  
   (A) (i)-(iv)-(ii)-(iii)  
   (B) (iv)-(i)-(ii)-(iii)  
   (C) (i)-(ii)-(iv)-(iii)  
   (D) (ii)-(i)-(iii)-(iv)

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

Explanation:

* The Everest disaster preceded the others in 1996, triggered by a sudden storm during summit attempts.
* The Manaslu avalanche occurred in 2012 during the autumn climbing season in Nepal.
* Annapurna experienced a deadly avalanche in 2014 impacting trekkers and climbers.
* Kangchenjunga saw a significant avalanche-related tragedy in 2018, making it the most recent in this list.

1. Arrange the following National Parks of Assam in ascending order of distance from Guwahati (nearest to farthest):  
   (i) Orang  
   (ii) Manas  
   (iii) Kaziranga  
   (iv) Dibru-Saikhowa  
   (A) (ii)–(i)–(iii)–(iv)  
   (B) (i)–(ii)–(iii)–(iv)  
   (C) (ii)–(iii)–(i)–(iv)  
   (D) (i)–(iii)–(ii)–(iv)

Answer 72. (A) (ii)–(i)–(iii)–(iv)

Explanation:

* Manas is roughly 150–180 km from Guwahati by road, making it the closest among the listed parks.
* Orang lies north of the Brahmaputra about 150–160 km away, marginally farther than typical access to Manas.
* Kaziranga sits further east at roughly 200–230 km by the main highway corridor.
* Dibru-Saikhowa near Tinsukia/Dibrugarh is the farthest from Guwahati by several hundred kilometers.

1. Match List-I with List-II:  
   List-I                              List-II  
   a. Bioaccumulation                                         1. Build-up of substances in organisms  
   b. Symbiosis                           2. Interaction benefiting both partners  
   c. Plagioclimax                          3. Climax community altered by humans  
   d. Riparian zone                       4. Interface between land and river/stream  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) abcd 1234  
   (B) abcd 3412  
   (C) abcd 4321  
   (D) abcd 2143

Answer 73. (A) abcd 1234

Explanation:

* Bioaccumulation describes the progressive build-up of chemicals within an organism over time.
* Symbiosis refers to close biological interactions; when both benefit, it is mutualism as a common form.
* Plagioclimax denotes a human-maintained climax-like community different from the natural climax.
* Riparian zones are transitional areas along rivers and streams with distinctive ecology.

1. The Assam SAPCC (2015–2020) received technical support and coordination under which national framework/programme?  
   (A) National Adaptation Fund on Climate Change (NAFCC)  
   (B) National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)  
   (C) National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)  
   (D) State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)

Answer 74. (C) National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)

Explanation:

* State Action Plans on Climate Change are state-level blueprints aligned to the NAPCC missions and guided under this national framework.
* Assam’s SAPCC was conceived and supported within the NAPCC architecture with external technical assistance in phases.
* Financing windows like NAFCC may support projects, but the overarching framework is NAPCC.

1. The strategy of using insects to break down organic pollutants for bioremediation is termed  
   (A) entomoremediation  
   (B) rhizoremediation  
   (C) vermiremediation  
   (D) mycoremediation

Answer 75. (A) entomoremediation

Explanation:

* Entomoremediation utilizes insects and their microbiota/enzymes to transform or remove contaminants.
* Rhizoremediation involves plant roots and associated microbes; vermiremediation uses earthworms; mycoremediation uses fungi.

1. Which international agreement uses GWP values to regulate emissions of greenhouse gases?  
   (A) Kyoto Protocol  
   (B) Paris Agreement  
   (C) Montreal Protocol  
   (D) Basel Convention

Answer 76. (A) Kyoto Protocol

Explanation:

* Emissions accounting and caps under Kyoto rely on CO2-equivalent metrics using 100-year GWP values for covered gases.
* The Paris Agreement also uses inventories informed by GWP, but Kyoto explicitly structured binding targets with GWP-based accounting in its commitment periods.
* Montreal governs ozone-depleting substances; Basel concerns hazardous waste movement.

1. The soil horizon commonly called ‘regolith’ corresponds to:  
   (A) C horizon  
   (B) B horizon  
   (C) E horizon  
   (D) O horizon

Answer 77. (A) C horizon

Explanation:

* The C horizon consists of weathered parent material with minimal soil-forming alteration and is often termed regolith.
* The B horizon exhibits illuviation/accumulation; the E horizon shows leaching; the O horizon is organic litter.

1. Which of the following statements is/are true regarding the Western Ghats experts committees?  
   (i) Both Gadgil and Kasturirangan Committees recommend protection of biodiversity hotspots.  
   (ii) Kasturirangan Committee supports less restrictive measures compared to Gadgil Committee.  
   (iii) Gadgil Committee report is fully implemented by all states.  
   (iv) Both committees emphasize community participation in environmental governance.  
   Select the correct answer:  
   (A) (i), (ii), and (iv) only  
   (B) (ii) and (iii) only  
   (C) (i) and (iii) only  
   (D) All of the above

Answer 78. (A) (i), (ii), and (iv) only

Explanation:

* Both panels aim to conserve the Western Ghats’ ecological integrity with differing zoning approaches.
* Kasturirangan proposed a narrower ESA footprint and sought a balance with development, hence relatively less restrictive.
* Full implementation of Gadgil’s recommendations did not occur across states; consensus remained limited.
* Both highlight participatory governance though with different institutional designs.

1. The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) primarily functions as:  
   (A) Regulator of foreign exchange transactions  
   (B) An economic think-tank and policy advisor to the government  
   (C) Custodian of India’s foreign exchange reserves  
   (D) Manager of India’s external commercial borrowings

Answer 79. (B) An economic think-tank and policy advisor to the government

Explanation:

* NITI Aayog serves as the government’s premier policy think-tank, driving strategic planning, cooperative federalism, and monitoring reforms.
* Exchange regulation and reserve management roles are with RBI and related financial authorities.
* Borrowing management is handled by the Ministry of Finance and RBI frameworks.

1. As per the latest MPI statistics, the average percentage of multidimensionally poor population in India is approximately:  
   (A) 20-30%  
   (B) 10-20%  
   (C) 30-40%  
   (D) 40-50%

Answer 80. (B) 10-20%

Explanation:

* Recent national MPI assessments based on NFHS-5 indicate multidimensional poverty around the mid-teens percentage nationally.
* This reflects a significant decline from earlier estimates near one-quarter, consistent with improvements in health, education, and living standards.
* Hence the appropriate bracket is between 10% and 20%.