71. Arrange the following major oil spills in ascending order of their occurrence:  
(i) Exxon Valdez Oil Spill  
(ii) Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill  
(iii) Prestige Oil Spill  
(iv) Ixtoc I Oil Spill  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:  
(A) (iv)-(i)-(iii)-(ii)  
(B) (i)-(iv)-(iii)-(ii)  
(C) (iii)-(ii)-(i)-(iv)  
(D) (ii)-(iii)-(iv)-(i)

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

Explanation:

* Ixtoc I oil spill occurred in 1979.
* Exxon Valdez oil spill occurred in 1989.
* Prestige oil spill occurred in 2002.
* Deepwater Horizon oil spill occurred in 2010.
* The ascending chronological order is Ixtoc I, Exxon Valdez, Prestige, Deepwater Horizon.

72. Arrange the following National Parks of Assam in order of their geographical area (smallest to largest):  
(i) Nameri  
(ii) Orang  
(iii) Manas  
(iv) Kaziranga  
(A) (ii)–(i)–(iv)–(iii)  
(B) (i)–(ii)–(iii)–(iv)  
(C) (ii)–(i)–(iii)–(iv)  
(D) (i)–(iii)–(ii)–(iv)

Answer 72. (A) (ii)–(i)–(iv)–(iii)

Explanation:

* Orang National Park is the smallest among these.
* Nameri is larger than Orang but smaller than Kaziranga.
* Kaziranga is smaller than Manas.
* Manas is the largest among the four parks in area.

73. Match List-I with List-II:  
List-I              List-II  
a. Lentic ecosystem                            1. Standing water (lakes, ponds)  
b. Biome           2. Large ecological area with distinctive climate and species  
c. Bioindicator           3. Organism used to assess environmental health  
d. Trophic level                         4. Position of organism in food chain  
Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
(A) abcd 2134  
(B) abcd 1234  
(C) abcd 4321  
(D) abcd 2413

Answer 73. (A) abcd 2134

Explanation:

* Lentic ecosystems refer to standing water bodies like lakes and ponds.
* Biome is a large geographical ecological area characterized by distinct climate and species.
* Bioindicators are organisms used to assess the health of an environment.
* Trophic level denotes an organism’s position in the food chain.

74. As per climate trend analysis in Assam (1951–2010), which of the following seasonal changes was observed?  
(A) Significant increase in pre-monsoon rainfall  
(B) Decline in winter rainfall with delayed withdrawal of monsoon  
(C) Uniform increase in all seasonal rainfall  
(D) No seasonal distinction in rainfall patterns

Answer 74. (B) Decline in winter rainfall with delayed withdrawal of monsoon

Explanation:

* Studies showed a decline in winter rainfall in Assam with a trend of delayed monsoon withdrawal.
* Pre-monsoon rainfall increase was not uniformly significant and rainfall patterns exhibit seasonal variation.

75. Bioremediation that uses algae to remove pollutants from wastewater is known as  
(A) phycoremediation  
(B) mycoremediation  
(C) phytoremediation  
(D) vermiremediation

Answer 75. (A) phycoremediation

Explanation:

* Phycoremediation specifically refers to the use of algae for removing contaminants in wastewater.
* Mycoremediation uses fungi; phytoremediation uses plants; vermiremediation uses earthworms.

76. Which of the following factors influences the GWP of a gas?  
(A) Its concentration in the atmosphere  
(B) Its ability to absorb infrared radiation  
(C) Its atmospheric lifetime  
(D) Its chemical reactivity with ozone

Answer 76. (B) Its ability to absorb infrared radiation

Explanation:

* The Global Warming Potential (GWP) depends largely on a gas’s capacity to absorb infrared radiation and its persistence in the atmosphere (which is covered under atmospheric lifetime, but primarily absorption is key).
* Concentration affects climate impact but not GWP metric itself; chemical reactivity with ozone is indirect.

77. The layer of soil known as the ‘zone of eluviation’ where leaching occurs is:  
(A) A horizon  
(B) B horizon  
(C) E horizon  
(D) O horizon

Answer 77. (C) E horizon

Explanation:

* The E horizon is characterized by the leaching or removal (eluviation) of minerals and organic matter.
* A horizon is topsoil; B horizon is zone of accumulation; O horizon is organic layer.

78. The ‘Gadgil Committee Report’ is officially known as:  
(i) Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) Report  
(ii) River Linkage Expert Panel Report  
(iii) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan  
(iv) Forest Rights Act Implementation Committee Report  
Select the correct answer:  
(A) (i) only  
(B) (ii) only  
(C) (iii) only  
(D) (iv) only

Answer 78. (A) (i) only

Explanation:

* The Gadgil Committee report is officially titled Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) Report.
* It focused on ecological preservation and sustainable development in the Western Ghats region.

79. Which of the following institutions manages the External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) policy in India?  
(A) Ministry of Commerce and Industry  
(B) Reserve Bank of India  
(C) Securities and Exchange Board of India  
(D) Ministry of Finance

Answer 79. (B) Reserve Bank of India

Explanation:

* The RBI regulates ECB policy in India, including setting norms and monitoring external borrowing by Indian entities.

80. According to the latest MPI data by NITI Aayog, which of the following states has the lowest percentage of multidimensionally poor population?  
(A) Jharkhand  
(B) Kerala  
(C) Odisha  
(D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer 80. (B) Kerala

Explanation:

* Kerala consistently records the lowest multidimensional poverty levels in India’s MPI, reflecting better health, education, and living standards.
* Jharkhand, Odisha, and Madhya Pradesh report significantly higher poverty rates.