1. With reference to the “Food Safety Mitra (FSM)” scheme, consider the following:  
   Statement 1: The scheme aims to engage trained personnel to assist food businesses in compliance with FSSAI regulations.  
   Statement 2: Food Safety Mitras are appointed only from central government health departments.  
   Which of the above statements is/are correct?  
   (A) 1 only  
   (B) 2 only  
   (C) Both 1 and 2  
   (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer 11. (A) 1 only

Explanation:

* The scheme is designed to engage trained and certified individuals to support Food Business Operators in meeting food safety compliance requirements such as registration, licensing, training, and hygiene audits under the FSSAI framework.
* Food Safety Mitras are not restricted to central government health department staff; eligible individuals from outside government, meeting specified age, education, and certification criteria, can be empaneled as Mitras.
* The appointment model is certification-based and service-oriented for assisting businesses, rather than a departmental cadre exclusively sourced from the central government.

1. With reference to the Digital India Programme, consider the following objectives:  
   Objective 1: To transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.  
   Objective 2: To promote universal digital literacy and availability of digital infrastructure as a utility to every citizen.  
   Objective 3: To ensure all government services are available exclusively on the blockchain platform by 2025.  
   Objective 4: To encourage the electronics manufacturing ecosystem and reduce import dependence.  
   Which of the above objectives is/are not correct?  
   (A) 1 only  
   (B) 2 and 4 only  
   (C) 3 only  
   (D) 1, 2 and 3 only

Answer 12. (C) 3 only

Explanation:

* The vision explicitly includes transforming into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy, so Objective 1 is correct.
* Pillars include digital infrastructure as a utility to every citizen and universal digital literacy, so Objective 2 is correct.
* There is no objective mandating exclusive migration of all government services to blockchain by 2025; blockchain is explored strategically but not as an exclusive platform, making Objective 3 not correct.
* Strengthening electronics manufacturing and reducing import dependence is within the programme’s and allied initiatives’ scope, so Objective 4 is correct.

1. Which of the following best describes Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) of the IMF?  
   (A) They are a currency issued by the IMF for international loan settlements.  
   (B) They are reserve assets created by the IMF and allocated to member countries.  
   (C) They are bonds issued by developing countries to access IMF funding.  
   (D) They are securities backed by the World Bank for development financing.

Answer 13. (B) They are reserve assets created by the IMF and allocated to member countries

Explanation:

* SDRs are international reserve assets created by the IMF, allocated to members in proportion to quotas, and valued using a basket of major currencies.
* SDRs are not a currency, nor are they bonds or securities; they supplement official reserves and can be exchanged for freely usable currencies through voluntary trading arrangements.
* They function as a potential claim on the freely usable currencies of IMF members, not as direct legal tender.

1. What does Open Market Operations (OMO) by RBI refer to?  
   (A) The process of maintaining cash reserves of commercial banks.  
   (B) The purchase and sale of government securities by RBI to control liquidity in the economy.  
   (C) The taxation of foreign companies by the government.  
   (D) The financing of public sector undertakings through market borrowings.

Answer 14. (B) The purchase and sale of government securities by RBI to control liquidity in the economy

Explanation:

* OMOs are conducted by the central bank through buying and selling government securities to modulate liquidity and influence short-term interest rates.
* Selling securities absorbs liquidity when conditions are surplus; buying securities injects liquidity when conditions are tight.
* Reserve maintenance, taxation, and PSU financing are separate from OMO and governed by different instruments and authorities.

1. Consider the following about Hemis Festival of Ladakh:  
   (i) It celebrates the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava, founder of Vajrayana Buddhism.  
   (ii) The festival includes Cham dance performed by Lamas wearing masks.  
   (iii) It marks the beginning of the Ladakhi New Year under the Buddhist calendar.  
   Which of the above statements are correct?  
   (A) (i) and (ii) only  
   (B) (ii) and (iii) only  
   (C) (i) and (iii) only  
   (D) (i), (ii) and (iii)

Answer 15. (A) (i) and (ii) only

Explanation:

* Hemis commemorates Guru Padmasambhava (Guru Rinpoche), central to the spread of Vajrayana Buddhism across the Himalayan region.
* The hallmark of the festival is the Cham masked dance performed by monks, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil through ritual performance.
* The Ladakhi New Year is observed as Losar on different dates; Hemis does not mark the New Year, rendering statement (iii) incorrect.

1. Which of the following current–ocean connections are correctly matched?  
   (i) Oyashio Current – Cold current of North Pacific  
   (ii) Gulf Stream – Warm current of North Atlantic  
   (iii) Benguela Current – Warm current of South Atlantic  
   (iv) Peru Current – Cold current of South Pacific  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) (i), (ii) and (iv) only  
   (B) (i) and (iii) only  
   (C) (ii), (iii) and (iv) only  
   (D) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

Answer 16. (A) (i), (ii) and (iv) only

Explanation:

* Oyashio is a cold subarctic current flowing southwestward in the North Pacific, bringing nutrient-rich waters.
* The Gulf Stream is a warm western boundary current of the North Atlantic flowing from the Gulf of Mexico toward Europe.
* The Benguela Current is a cold eastern boundary current along southwest Africa; describing it as warm is incorrect, while the Peru (Humboldt) Current is a cold upwelling current in the South Pacific.

1. Which of the following canals derive their headworks from the Ganga River system?  
   (i) Eastern Yamuna Canal  
   (ii) Upper Ganga Canal  
   (iii) Lower Ganga Canal  
   (iv) Agra Canal  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) (i) and (ii) only  
   (B) (ii) and (iii) only  
   (C) (ii), (iii) and (iv) only  
   (D) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

Answer 17. (C) (ii), (iii) and (iv) only

Explanation:

* The Upper Ganga Canal originates at the Bhimgoda/Haridwar barrage on the Ganga, placing it clearly in the Ganga system.
* The Lower Ganga Canal is the downstream continuation, drawing from the Ganga system via subsequent barrages and branches.
* The Agra Canal historically off-takes from the Yamuna at Okhla but is commonly grouped within the Ganga canal network in standard classifications of northern Indian irrigation works; the Eastern Yamuna Canal is treated separately as a Yamuna system canal.

1. Which of the following sequences/statements concerning tributaries in Upper Assam is/are not correct?  
   (i) North Bank from East to West: Dikrong → Ranganadi → Subansiri → Jiadhal  
   (ii) South Bank from East to West: Buri Dihing → Disang → Dhansiri (south) → Buridihing  
   (iii) The Disang originates in the Naga Hills.  
   (iv) Jiadhal is called the “Sorrow of Dhemaji” due to frequent flooding.  
   (A) (i) only  
   (B) (ii) only  
   (C) (ii) and (iii) only  
   (D) (iv) only

Answer 18. (B) (ii) only

Explanation:

* The north bank ordering given in (i) reasonably follows the east-to-west progression with Dikrong and Ranganadi joining before Subansiri and then the Jiadhal area toward the Brahmaputra.
* The south bank sequence in (ii) is inconsistent: it repeats Buri Dihing (Buridihing) and misplaces Dhansiri (south) relative to Upper Assam tributaries, making the sequence not correct.
* Disang (Desang) indeed rises in the Naga Hills before flowing through Sivasagar district, so (iii) is correct.
* Jiadhal is locally termed the “Sorrow of Dhemaji” because of chronic flooding and channel instability, so (iv) is correct.

1. Which of the following canals derive their headworks from the Ganga River system?  
   (i) Eastern Yamuna Canal  
   (ii) Upper Ganga Canal  
   (iii) Lower Ganga Canal  
   (iv) Agra Canal  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) (i) and (ii) only  
   (B) (ii) and (iii) only  
   (C) (ii), (iii) and (iv) only  
   (D) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv)

Answer 19. (C) (ii), (iii) and (iv) only

Explanation:

* The Upper Ganga Canal is sourced from the Ganga at Haridwar and forms the head of the Ganga canal network.
* The Lower Ganga Canal extends the system through downstream barrages and distributaries, remaining within the Ganga headworks framework.
* The Agra Canal, though drawing from the Yamuna at Okhla, is conventionally grouped with the Ganga canal system’s irrigation works; the Eastern Yamuna Canal is categorized under the Yamuna system and excluded here.

1. The rising trend of urban floods in Guwahati can be explained by:  
   (i) Rapid, unplanned urbanization and hill-cutting leading to silted drains.  
   (ii) Shrinking of natural wetlands like Deepor Beel, Silsako Beel, Sarusajai.  
   (A) Only (i) is right  
   (B) Only (ii) is right  
   (C) Both (i) and (ii) contribute inclusively  
   (D) Both (i) and (ii) are correct but not inclusive

Answer 20. (C) Both (i) and (ii) contribute inclusively

Explanation:

* Rapid, unplanned urban growth with hill-cutting increases runoff, destabilizes slopes, and clogs drainage networks with silt, directly elevating flash-flood risk during intense rainfall.
* Contraction and encroachment of wetlands like Deepor Beel, Silsako Beel, and Sarusajai reduce natural water retention and delay, removing vital buffers against urban inundation.
* In combination, watershed degradation and wetland loss act together to intensify flood peaks and shorten time to flooding, making their contribution inclusive rather than isolated.