1. To mitigate drought impact in semi-arid regions, which strategies are relevant?  
   (i) Promotion of drought-resistant crop varieties  
   (ii) Increasing dependence on water-intensive cash crops  
   (iii) Watershed management with local participation  
   (iv) Construction of check dams and percolation tanks  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below:  
   (A) (i) and (iii) only  
   (B) (i), (iii) and (iv) only  
   (C) (ii), (iii) and (iv) only  
   (D) All are correct

Answer 21. (B) (i), (iii) and (iv) only

Explanation:

* Promotion of drought-resistant crops helps ensure agricultural productivity in water-scarce conditions.
* Watershed management involving local communities supports sustainable water use and soil conservation.
* Check dams and percolation tanks improve groundwater recharge and reduce surface runoff, mitigating drought effects.
* Increasing reliance on water-intensive cash crops is contrary to drought mitigation goals.

1. The authors Rajen Saikia, Yasmin Saikia, and Amalendu Guha share common ground in their works:  
   (i) Research on Assam’s colonial history and tea plantations.  
   (ii) Studies of Partition, migration, and memory in Northeast India.  
   (iii) Focus on Vaishnava Satras and Sankardev’s writings.  
   (iv) Socio-political history of Brahmaputra Valley.  
   (A) (i), (ii), and (iv) only  
   (B) (ii) only  
   (C) (i) and (iii) only  
   (D) All are correct

Answer 22. (A) (i), (ii), and (iv) only

Explanation:

* These authors have extensively researched Assam’s colonial history with an emphasis on tea plantations, migration, Partition experiences, and socio-political transformations in the Brahmaputra Valley.
* Focus on Vaishnava Satras and Sankardev’s writings is typically found in different specialized literature, less connected with all three authors.

1. Population density in India shows stark spatial differences due to  
   (i) high soil fertility and irrigation potential encouraging dense settlement  
   (ii) historical industrialisation and colonial-era port cities  
   (iii) harsh climatic conditions in arid, semi-arid, and Himalayan regions  
   (iv) prevalence of Buddhist monasteries in sparsely populated trans-Himalayan zones  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) (i), (ii) and (iii) only  
   (B) (ii), (iii) and (iv) only  
   (C) (i) and (iv) only  
   (D) All are correct

Answer 23. (A) (i), (ii) and (iii) only

Explanation:

* High soil fertility and irrigation infrastructure have historically attracted dense rural populations.
* Industrialization and colonial port development promoted urban clustering and economic hubs.
* Harsh climates in arid and Himalayan regions deter dense settlement.
* Buddhist monasteries, while culturally significant, do not majorly influence population density patterns.

1. Mayong (Morigaon district) and Sualkuchi village (Kamrup district) have distinct fame because  
   (i) Mayong is historically associated with Tantrik practices and magic traditions.  
   (ii) Sualkuchi is called the "Manchester of Assam" for silk weaving.  
   (iii) Both were declared UNESCO Craft-Heritage villages in 2024.  
   (A) Only (i) and (ii) are correct  
   (B) Only (ii) is correct  
   (C) Only (iii) is correct  
   (D) All are correct

Answer 24. (A) Only (i) and (ii) are correct

Explanation:

* Mayong is known for its folklore relating to Tantrik and magical traditions, earning it the nickname “Land of Black Magic.”
* Sualkuchi is famously known as the “Manchester of Assam” due to its prolific silk weaving industry.
* Neither Mayong nor Sualkuchi was declared UNESCO Craft-Heritage villages in 2024.

1. Consider the following about petrochemical and gas-based industries of Assam:  
   (i) Assam Petrochemicals Limited (APL) at Namrup is one of India’s earliest gas-based chemical plants.  
   (ii) BCPL Lepetkata is part of the Assam Gas Cracker Project.  
   (iii) Both APL and BCPL are under Oil India Limited.  
   (iv) These industries emphasize downstream utilization of Assam’s crude oil.  
   (A) (i) and (ii) only  
   (B) (i), (ii), and (iv) only  
   (C) (iii) only  
   (D) All are correct

Answer 25. (B) (i), (ii), and (iv) only

Explanation:

* APL Namrup is among India’s oldest gas-based chemical industries.
* BCPL Lepetkata operates the Assam Gas Cracker Project aiming for petrochemical production from natural gas.
* The industries focus on adding value through downstream processing of Assam’s hydrocarbons.
* However, BCPL and APL are distinct entities and not both subsidiaries of Oil India Limited.

1. With respect to Census 2011, arrange the tribal population share among Assam districts (highest to lowest):  
   (i) Dima Hasao  
   (ii) Karbi Anglong  
   (iii) Kokrajhar  
   (iv) Udalguri  
   (A) Karbi Anglong, Dima Hasao, Kokrajhar, Udalguri  
   (B) Dima Hasao, Karbi Anglong, Udalguri, Kokrajhar  
   (C) Dima Hasao, Karbi Anglong, Kokrajhar, Udalguri  
   (D) Karbi Anglong, Dima Hasao, Udalguri, Kokrajhar

Answer 26. (C) Dima Hasao, Karbi Anglong, Kokrajhar, Udalguri

Explanation:

* Dima Hasao has the highest proportion of tribal population, followed by Karbi Anglong.
* Kokrajhar and Udalguri have comparatively lower shares.
* This ordering reflects ethnic distribution and demographic patterns in Assam.

1. Match the following volcanoes with the countries where they are located:  
   List-I — List-II  
   a. Krakatoa — 1. Indonesia  
   b. Mauna Loa — 2. USA (Hawaii)  
   c. Mount Etna — 3. Italy  
   d. Cotopaxi — 4. Ecuador  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) abcd → 1234  
   (B) abcd → 1243  
   (C) abcd → 1342  
   (D) abcd → 1324

Answer 27. (A) abcd → 1234

Explanation:

* Krakatoa is an island volcano in Indonesia known for its massive eruption.
* Mauna Loa is a shield volcano on the Big Island of Hawaii, USA.
* Mount Etna is an active volcano located in Italy.
* Cotopaxi is a stratovolcano in Ecuador.

1. Match the following important passes with their mountains:  
   List-I — List-II  
   a. Khyber Pass — 1. Hindukush  
   b. Nathula Pass — 2. Himalayas (Sikkim)  
   c. Donner Pass — 3. Sierra Nevada (USA)  
   d. Khardung La — 4. Ladakh Range  
   Select the correct answer using the codes given below.  
   (A) abcd → 1234  
   (B) abcd → 1243  
   (C) abcd → 1342  
   (D) abcd → 1432

Answer 28. (A) abcd → 1234

Explanation:

* Khyber Pass lies in the Hindukush mountain range connecting Pakistan and Afghanistan.
* Nathula Pass is located in the Sikkim Himalayas in India.
* Donner Pass is a mountain pass in the Sierra Nevada, USA.
* Khardung La is in the Ladakh mountain region of India.

1. Which of the following statements about Cricket in Olympics is not correct?  
   (A) Cricket made its only Olympic appearance in Paris 1900.  
   (B) It is included in the Los Angeles Olympics 2028 under a T20 format.  
   (C) The first gold medal in Olympic cricket was won by England.  
   (D) Cricket in Olympics is played in Test match format.

Answer 29. (D) Cricket in Olympics is played in Test match format.

Explanation:

* Cricket was played only once in the Olympics, in Paris 1900.
* It is set to debut again in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, featuring the shorter T20 format.
* England won the only Olympic cricket gold medal in 1900.
* Test match format is far too long for the Olympics and is not the format used or planned for Olympic cricket.

1. The Artemis Accords, to which India became a signatory, are related to:  
   (A) Military cooperation in the Indo-Pacific  
   (B) Rules and principles for peaceful space exploration, including the Moon and beyond  
   (C) Global accords for cyber security and digital trade  
   (D) A WTO-led mineral supply chain agreement

Answer 30. (B) Rules and principles for peaceful space exploration, including the Moon and beyond

Explanation:

* The Artemis Accords establish norms and guidelines for responsible behavior in space exploration, particularly for lunar missions and the Artemis program.
* It promotes peaceful uses of outer space and cooperation among participating nations.
* The accords are unrelated to military, cyber security, or trade agreements.