

Solution **Weekly Quiz** **(31st Jan- 6th Feb)**

Answer 1 Correct Answer: A

A government's budget balance is the difference between tax revenues and government purchases plus transfer payments in a given year. If the total of government spending and transfer payments is more than tax revenues, then the budget balance is negative, and the government is running a deficit. Statement b points out to government debt and not deficit. A deficit is a one-time shortfall; a debt is accumulated over time. Question asks about budget deficit and also if a government engages in contractionary fiscal policy, it is more likely to run a budget surplus than a deficit.

Answer 2 Correct Answer: C

Following are some immediate advantages from appropriate use of scientific technologies and practices in agriculture- -Reducing input costs per unit of output, thereby reducing initial cost of production. This is important from the perspective of income to farmers, as well as to mitigate inflationary pressures for the end-consumer. -Reducing wasteful production, and reducing losses to production. This too ensures that per unit price to consumers does not increase to cover such wasted output. It also allows a greater quantum of production to get monetised.

Answer 3 Correct Answer: B

Surface waters are also affected by falling water tables. In various wetlands, for instance, the water table is essentially at or slightly above the ground surface. Dropping water tables results in wetlands drying up, with the ecological results described earlier. Further, as water tables drop springs and seeps dry up, diminishing streams and rivers even to the point of dryness. Thus, excessive groundwater removal leads to the same effects as the diversion of surface water. Over the ages, groundwater has leached cavities in the Earth. Where these spaces are filled with water, the water helps support the overlying rock and soil, but as the water table drops, this support is lost. Then there may be a gradual settling of the land, a phenomenon known as land Subsidence. Another problem resulting from dropping water tables is Saltwater intrusion. In coastal regions, springs of outflowing groundwater may lie under the ocean. As long as a high-water table maintains a sufficient head of pressure in the aquifer, there is a flow of freshwater into the ocean. Thus, wells near the ocean yield fresh water. However, a lowering of the water table or a rapid rate of groundwater removal may reduce the pressure in the aquifer permitting saltwater to flow back into the aquifer and hence into wells.

Answer 4 Correct Answer: A

The climate near the equator is warm year-round and supports many species, so the biodiversity is rich. As one moves further from the equator, the presence of seasons causes more temperate

regions to have less biodiversity because organisms must be adapted to multiple conditions. Extreme regions with cold or dry conditions, such as the tundra and deserts, have the least biodiversity. Areas at high elevations tend to have less biodiversity as the conditions are more difficult for many species to survive under. In general, biodiversity increases as temperature increases. However, areas that experience extremes in either temperature, whether too hot or too cold, will have lower biodiversity.

Answer 5 Correct Answer: A

A Preferential trade agreement and not FTA is the first stage of economic integration. A free-trade area is a trade bloc whose member countries have signed a free-trade agreement (FTA), which eliminates tariffs, import quotas, and preferences on most (if not all) goods and services traded between them.

Answer 6 Correct Answer: B

Statement 1 is incorrect: Nal Se Jal Yojana is a component of the government's Jal Jivan Mission. Statement 2 is correct: The scheme is based on a unique model where paani samitis (water committee) comprising villagers will decide what they will pay for the water they consume. The tariff they fix will not be the same for everyone in the village. Those who have large households will pay more, while poor households or households where there is no earning member, will be exempted.

Answer 7 Correct Answer: C

Both statements are correct. Competition Commission of India is responsible for restricting cartelisation. According to the Competition Commission of India, a "Cartel includes an association of producers, sellers, distributors, traders or service providers who, by agreement amongst themselves, limit, control or attempt to control the production, distribution, sale or price of, or, trade in goods or provision of services". The International Competition Network defines a cartel as "an agreement between competitors to restrict competition". Cartel raises the price above the competitive level and reduces output. Further, it undermines the overall economic efficiency and innovations.

Answer 8 Correct Answer: B

When real GDP falls, incomes tend to fall. When incomes fall, taxes on that income will also fall. This means that disposable income that households have may increase which may drive consumption. As a result, the decrease in tax revenue offsets some of the impact of a recession.

Tax revenues automatically decrease when GDP falls, not increase. A decrease in real GDP will lower incomes so that less tax revenue will be collected.

During a recession, there is a decrease in tax revenues. However, this does not necessarily mean that government spending will necessarily decrease. Governments can run deficits during a recession when tax revenue is less than government spending.

Answer 9 Correct Answer: A

Statement 1 is correct: Cage aquaculture involves the growing of fishes in existing water resources while being enclosed in a net cage which allows free flow of water. Statement 2 is incorrect: In cage aquaculture, accumulation of unused feed and excreta will lead to water pollution as well as eutrophication.

Answer 10 Correct Answer: C

The aim of CEA is to provide protection from the outdoor elements and maintain optimal growing conditions throughout the development of the crop. Production takes place within an enclosed growing structure such as a Greenhouse or Plant factory.

Examples include vertical farming, Aquaculture, Hydroponics.

Answer 11 Correct Answer: A

Trawling disrupts an ecosystem through overexploitation of resources and habitat loss. So, this example does not describe the effects of climate change, which disrupts an ecosystem by shifting typical weather patterns.

Climate change involves long-term changes to weather patterns that can disrupt the balance of existing ecosystems. So, statement 1 does illustrate an effect of climate change, describing a consistent change in winter weather that is affecting the survival of populations.

Answer 12 Correct Answer: B

Central Issue price(CIP) is the price at which the government makes available food grains for beneficiaries of the National Food Security Act, 2013 and other welfare schemes to the states from the central pool.

Observing that the food subsidy is becoming “unmanageably large”, the Economic Survey 2020-21 has recommended the revision of Central Issue Prices (CIP) of food grains released from the central pool, which have been unchanged for the last several years.

Food subsidy is ballooning as a result of the high economic cost of rice and wheat to the Food Corporation of India (FCI), reason for which are the low issue prices at which it has to supply grains for the public distribution system (PDS), and the large population (67 per cent) to be covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

Answer 13 Correct Answer: D

NALSA along with other Legal Services Institutions conducts Lok Adalats. Lok Adalat is one of the alternative dispute redressal mechanisms, it is a forum where disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Lok Adalats have been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Under the said Act, the award (decision) made by the Lok Adalats is deemed to be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal against such an award lies before any court of law. There is no court fee payable when a matter is filed in a Lok Adalat. If a matter pending in the court of law is referred to the Lok Adalat and is settled subsequently, the court fee originally paid in the court on the complaints/petition is also refunded back to the parties. If the parties are not satisfied with the award of the Lok Adalat though there is no provision for an appeal against such an award, but they are free to initiate litigation by approaching the court of appropriate jurisdiction by filing a case by following the required procedure, in exercise of their right to litigate.

Answer 14 Correct Answer: C

Article 25 of the Constitution of India declares that everyone is equally entitled to the freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice and propagate any religion. These rights

are available to all, citizens of India as well as, citizens of any foreign nation currently in India. The freedom to manage religious affairs are stated under Article 26 of the Constitution of India which declares every person's rights to religious denominations, in other words, Article 26 protects the collective freedom of religion. The rights stated under Article 25 and 26 are both subject to public order, morality, and health but they are not subject to other provisions which are related to Fundamental rights.

Answer 15 Correct Answer: A

Statement 1 is correct: The Indian government's definition of wetland excludes river channels, paddy fields and other areas where commercial activity takes place. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 notified by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change define wetlands as "area of marsh, fen, peatland or water; whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters, but does not include river channels, paddy fields, human-made water bodies/ tanks specifically constructed for drinking water purposes and structures specifically constructed for aquaculture, salt production, recreation and irrigation purposes."

Statement 2 is incorrect: Not every Ramsar Site is a notified protected area under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.