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**1) Consider the following statements regarding Stagflation:**

1. It is a situation where the usual inverse relationship between inflation and unemployment breaks down.
2. A leftward shift of the aggregate supply curve causes higher prices and lower output simultaneously.
3. Monetary expansion is the most effective way to tackle stagflation as it boosts demand.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Stagflation is a unique economic condition where low economic growth (stagnation) coexists with high inflation and high unemployment.

- Statement 1 is correct because, in a typical economy (as described by the Phillips Curve), inflation and unemployment have an inverse relationship; however, during stagflation, both rise together.
- Statement 2 is correct as stagflation is primarily driven by negative supply shocks (like the 2026 energy crisis). When the aggregate supply curve shifts to the left, it results in a higher price equilibrium and a lower quantity of output, effectively causing “cost-push” inflation while the economy shrinks.
- Statement 3 is incorrect because traditional tools are ineffective. If a central bank uses monetary expansion to fight stagnation, it risks further fuelling inflation. Conversely, if it raises interest rates to curb inflation, it may worsen the recession. Therefore, supply-side reforms and energy diversification are preferred over simple demand-side stimulus.

**2) Consider the following Statements regarding the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA):**

1. The Act is not applicable to the states where Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) is in force.
2. The counterfeiting of Indian currency is a terrorist act under UAPA.
3. The provisions of this Act do not apply to the citizens of India outside India.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

- a) Only One
- b) Only Two
- c) All Three
- d) None of the Above

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** UAPA applies nationwide, focusing on preventing unlawful activities, while AFSPA grants broad powers to armed forces in declared "disturbed" areas.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** UAPA's definition of "terrorist act" includes offenses threatening economic security, counterfeiting, and weapon procurement.
- UAPA applies to Indian citizens abroad, government officials globally, and individuals on Indian registered ships/aircraft.

**3) Which of the following is/are the possible disadvantages of HCNG?**

1. Determining the most optimized H<sub>2</sub>/ NG (Natural Gas) ratio.
2. Requires new infrastructures for preparing HCNG.
3. HCNG's cost is more than CNG.

**Select the correct answer using the following codes:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 2 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- Disadvantages of using HCNG:
  - **Statement 1 is correct:** Determining the most optimized H<sub>2</sub>/ NG (Natural Gas) ratio.
  - **Statement 2 is correct:** It requires new infrastructures for preparing HCNG.
  - Many steps need to be taken for commercializing it at a large scale.
  - **Statement 3 is correct:** Current cost of H<sub>2</sub> is more than the cost of Natural Gas. So, HCNG's cost is more than CNG.

**4) Which of the following can be used to neutralize the effect of an ant bite?**

1. Vinegar
2. Orange pulp
3. Baking soda

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

- a) One only
- b) Two only
- c) All three
- d) None

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- The sting of an ant contains formic acid. When an ant bites, it injects the acidic liquid into the skin.
- The effect of the sting can be neutralised by rubbing moist baking soda (sodium hydrogen carbonate) or calamine solution, which contains zinc carbonate they are basic in nature.

**5) With reference to the constitutional requirements for conducting simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, consider the following provisions:**

1. Articles governing the tenure of legislative bodies at the Union level
2. Constitutional provisions relating to the dissolution of the Lok Sabha by the President
3. Provisions dealing with the imposition of President's Rule in States

**Which of the above would require amendment to enable the conduct of simultaneous elections?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- To operationalise simultaneous elections, multiple constitutional provisions must be amended. This includes Article 83 (duration of the Houses of Parliament), Article 85 (powers of the President relating to dissolution of the Lok Sabha), Articles 172 and 174 (tenure and dissolution of State Legislatures), and Article 356 (President's Rule), since premature dissolution or central intervention can disrupt electoral synchronisation.

**6) Consider the following statements regarding Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs):**

1. RCTs are prospective studies designed to measure the effectiveness of a new intervention or treatment.
2. RCTs can be used to assess whether a free grains distribution scheme improves nutrition levels among people in a district.
3. Clinical trials comparing drugs, surgical techniques, or medical devices are examples of RCTs.

**Select the correct answer:**

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs) are prospective studies that rigorously test cause-effect relationships between an intervention and its outcomes. They involve randomly dividing a population into groups to compare results, ensuring that observed differences are due to the intervention itself.
- Examples include clinical trials testing drugs, surgical techniques, medical devices, or diagnostic procedures. RCTs can also be applied in social or public policy settings—for instance, evaluating whether a free grain distribution program improves nutrition in a district.
- Limitations: RCTs must be planned in advance and their results may not generalize to other populations or settings, especially if the sample size is small or the study targets a very specific subgroup.

**7) Consider the following statements regarding Quantum Supremacy:**

1. Quantum supremacy is achieved when a quantum computer can solve a problem that a classical computer cannot.
2. It refers to the global dominance of countries that have successfully developed quantum computers.

**Select the correct answer:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- Quantum supremacy is the milestone at which a quantum computer performs a computation beyond the practical capabilities of classical computers. It does not refer to national dominance or geopolitical power.
- In 2019, Google claimed to have achieved quantum supremacy with its Sycamore processor, demonstrating a task infeasible for classical machines.

**8) Consider the following statements regarding the 'Responsible Nations Index (RNI) 2026':**

1. It was launched by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to complement the Human Development Index.
2. India is the top-ranked Asian nation in the index.
3. The index uses a power-centric metric to evaluate the global dominance of nations.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is incorrect: The RNI was launched by the World Intellectual Foundation (WIF), not the UNDP.
- Statement 2 is correct: India ranks 16th globally with a score of 0.5515, making it the highest-ranked Asian nation, ahead of South Korea, Thailand, and Kyrgyzstan.

- Statement 3 is incorrect: The index is responsibility-centric, not power-centric. It evaluates nations on ethical governance, social well-being, environmental stewardship, and global responsibility rather than GDP or military power.
- The RNI encourages nations to measure success by moral, humanitarian, and ethical contributions to global well-being, complementing global frameworks like the SDGs.

**9) Consider the following statements regarding the Atal Pension Yojana (APY):**

1. The scheme is open to all Indian citizens in the age group of 18–50 years.
2. The scheme is administered by the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India.
3. The Central Government guarantees a fixed monthly pension of ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 after the subscriber attains 60 years of age.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is incorrect: Eligibility is limited to individuals aged 18–40 years, not up to 50 years.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: APY is administered by PFRDA, not LIC.
- Statement 3 is correct: APY assures a guaranteed minimum pension of ₹1,000–₹5,000 per month on attaining 60 years.

**10) Which one of the following best describes the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)?**

- a) A military alliance led by India to counter naval expansion in the South China Sea
- b) A legally binding treaty requiring joint naval patrols among participating countries
- c) A voluntary, non-treaty framework for practical cooperation in the maritime domain
- d) A closed trade grouping limited to members of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- The Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), launched by India in 2019, is a non-military, voluntary and non-treaty based framework for maritime cooperation. It is aligned with India's SAGAR vision and focuses on practical collaboration rather than alliance politics or legal obligations.

- IPOI operates through seven thematic pillars such as maritime security, ecology, disaster risk reduction, and trade & connectivity. Participation is open and flexible, allowing countries to engage in pillars of their choice, reinforcing a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific without bloc-based alignment.

**11) Which of the following UN bodies is not supervised or coordinated by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)?**

- a) UNICEF
- b) Functional Commissions (e.g., Commission on the Status of Women)
- c) Regional Commissions (e.g., ESCAP)
- d) International Court of Justice (ICJ)

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- ECOSOC plays a coordinating role in the UN system for economic, social, and developmental matters.
- It oversees UNICEF and other programmes through their executive boards.
- It supervises Functional Commissions such as the Commission on the Status of Women.
- It also coordinates the work of Regional Commissions like ESCAP.
- The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is a separate principal organ of the UN and functions independently as the judicial body; it is not under ECOSOC's oversight.

**12) Consider the following statements:**

1. India, while possessing nuclear weapons and following a doctrine of credible minimum deterrence, is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).
2. One of the major reasons for India's refusal to accede to the NPT is the absence of legally binding security assurances for non-nuclear weapon states against the use or threat of nuclear weapons by the five recognized nuclear-weapon states.

**Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation**

- Statement 1 is correct: India is a nuclear-armed state with a declared policy of credible minimum deterrence, yet it has consistently stayed outside the NPT framework.

- Statement 2 is also correct: India has criticized the NPT for being discriminatory and for failing to provide binding negative security assurances to non-nuclear weapon states, which it considers a structural weakness of the treaty.

**13) Match the following pillars of the Digital India Programme with their corresponding objectives:**

<b>Column I (Pillar)</b>	<b>Column II (Objective)</b>
A. Broadband Highways	1. Deliver government services electronically
B. Public Internet Access	2. Expand network connectivity in underserved regions
C. e-Kranti	3. Ensure high-speed internet access for all, including rural areas
D. Universal Mobile Access	4. Provide digital access points through Common Service Centres

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- a) A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2
- b) A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3
- c) A-2, B-4, C-1, D-3
- d) A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- Broadband Highways aim to ensure universal high-speed internet connectivity, including rural areas (A-3).
- Public Internet Access focuses on providing digital access points through Common Service Centres (CSCs) (B-4).
- e-Kranti is concerned with electronic delivery of government services across sectors (C-1).
- Universal Mobile Access targets expansion of mobile network coverage in uncovered and remote regions (D-2).

**14) Regarding the 'Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity (GEI) Target (Amendment) Rules, 2025', consider the following statements:**

1. These rules are India's first legally binding industrial emission intensity regulations.

2. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is responsible for enforcing compliance and imposing penalties.
3. The second round of targets includes sectors such as petroleum refineries and secondary aluminium.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is correct: The 2025 amendment marks India's shift from voluntary measures like PAT to legally binding emission intensity regulations, operationalizing the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS).
- Statement 2 is incorrect: While BEE handles carbon credit issuance and calculation, enforcement and penalty imposition fall under the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- Statement 3 is correct: The second round of sectors notified includes petroleum refineries, petrochemicals, textiles, and secondary aluminium, covering 208 industrial units.
- These rules set a baseline year of 2023–24 and target a 3–7% reduction in emission intensity by 2026–27, with non-compliance resulting in “environmental compensation” penalties equal to twice the average carbon credit price.

**15) Consider the following statements regarding the legislative powers of the Governor:**

1. The Governor is constitutionally bound to reserve for the President's consideration any State bill that adversely affects the position of the State High Court.
2. When a bill returned by the Governor for reconsideration is passed again by the State Legislature without any changes, the Governor may still refuse to give assent.

**Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is correct: Reservation of a bill affecting the powers or position of the High Court is mandatory for the Governor.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: If a non-money bill is reconsidered and passed again by the State Legislature, the Governor is constitutionally required to give assent and cannot withhold it.

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