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**1) Consider the following statements:**

1. Statement-I: Rapid growth in nominal GDP does not automatically lead to a proportional increase in the overall economic well-being of the population.
2. Statement-II: Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a measure excludes factors such as income inequality, environmental costs, and unpaid household activities.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II correctly explains Statement I
- b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not correctly explain Statement I
- c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect
- d) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Statement-I is correct. A high nominal GDP growth rate may reflect inflation rather than real economic expansion. Even strong real GDP growth does not necessarily improve economic welfare, which depends on factors such as equity, health, education, and environmental quality.
- Statement-II is correct. GDP measures output, not welfare. It ignores income distribution, environmental degradation, and the value of unpaid household services.

- Statement-II correctly explains Statement-I, as these limitations of GDP show why higher GDP growth may not translate into better economic well-being.
- 2) With reference to agricultural marketing reforms in India, consider the following statements:**
1. State-level Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Acts have facilitated the creation of a unified national market for agricultural produce.
  2. The electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) seeks to link existing APMC mandis through a single online trading platform.
  3. Integration of mandis with the e-NAM platform requires states to provide for a single trading license applicable across the state.

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

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is incorrect, as APMC Acts have resulted in fragmented markets with multiple mandi jurisdictions and trade restrictions rather than a unified national market.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. e-NAM integrates existing APMC mandis through an online platform, and its implementation requires states to amend APMC laws to allow e-trading, a single state-wide license, and single-point levy of market fees.

**3) With reference to the valuation of goods and services in India's national income accounting, consider the following statements:**

1. Gross Value Added (GVA) at Basic Prices includes taxes on production but excludes taxes on products.
2. GVA at Basic Prices is obtained by deducting production subsidies from GVA at Factor Cost.
3. The Reserve Bank of India relies on GVA at Basic Prices as the principal indicator for inflation targeting under its monetary policy framework.
4. Variations in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate influence GDP at Market Prices but do not directly impact GVA at Basic Prices.

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

- a) One only
- b) Two only
- c) Three only
- d) All four

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- GVA at Basic Prices measures value addition by producers before accounting for product-specific taxes and subsidies.
- Statement 1 is correct, as it includes production-related taxes but excludes product taxes such as GST.
- Statement 2 is incorrect because GVA at Basic Prices is derived from GVA at Factor Cost by adding production taxes and subtracting production subsidies.
- Statement 3 is incorrect since RBI's monetary policy is based on CPI inflation targeting, not GVA.
- Statement 4 is correct because changes in GST affect GDP at Market Prices, while GVA at Basic Prices remains unaffected by product taxes.

**4) With reference to the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, consider the following statements:**

1. Statement I: The INF Treaty was the first arms control agreement to abolish an entire category of weapons.
2. Statement II: It prohibited all land-based ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges from 500 km to 5,500 km.

Which one of the following is correct?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II correctly explains Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The INF Treaty (1987) was historic because it eliminated an entire class of nuclear weapons, not just limited them. This was achieved by banning all ground-launched missiles in the 500–5,500 km range, which explains why it is regarded as a landmark arms control agreement.

**5) Match the following:**

List I (Mineral)

List II (Use)

List III (Importance)

A. Nickel (Ni)

1. Catalytic converters

X. Enables net-zero transition

B. Copper (Cu)

2. Electric vehicle batteries

Y. Vital for renewable energy

C. Platinum Group Elements (PGE)

3. Electrical wiring

Z. Key to green hydrogen

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) A-3-X, B-1-Y, C-2-Z
- b) A-2-X, B-3-Y, C-1-Z
- c) A-1-Z, B-2-Y, C-3-X
- d) A-2-Y, B-3-X, C-1-Z

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Nickel (A–2–X) is a core material in EV battery cathodes, making it critical for achieving net-zero carbon goals.
- Copper (B–3–Y) is extensively used in electrical wiring due to high conductivity, making it indispensable for renewable energy systems and power grids.
- Platinum Group Elements (C–1–Z) function as catalysts in catalytic converters and are crucial for green hydrogen production through electrolysis and fuel cells.

**6) Consider the following statements regarding the features of cyberspace:**

1. Actions in cyberspace are confined within national borders and have limited impact.
2. Cyberspace exhibits a dual-use character, supporting both civilian and military activities.
3. Identifying the origin of cyber actions is easy due to clear digital traces.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: Cyberspace is inherently borderless; activities can have global and transnational impacts.
- Statement 2 is correct: The same cyber infrastructure supports civilian services and military operations, making cyberspace a dual-use domain.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: Attribution in cyberspace is complex, as actors can conceal identity using tools like VPNs, proxies, and malware.

**7) Consider the following statements regarding Nanotechnology:**

1. Nanotechnology is the understanding and control of matter at the nanoscale, at dimensions between approximately 1 and 1000 nanometers.
2. Stained-glass windows are an example of how nanotechnology was used in the pre-modern era.
3. Nanostructured materials can have different magnetic properties compared to other forms or sizes of the same material.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Incorrect. Nanotechnology deals with matter at the nanoscale of 1–100 nanometers, not up to 1000 nm. Unique physical, chemical, and biological phenomena at this scale enable novel applications.
- Statement 2: Correct. Even before modern nanoscience, humans used nanoscale materials, e.g., stained-glass windows, which utilized metallic nanoparticles to produce colors.
- Statement 3: Correct. Nanostructured materials can exhibit different magnetic, optical, or mechanical properties compared to bulk forms of the same material.

**8) Which of the following statements correctly explains the difference between 'Core inflation' and 'Headline inflation'?**

- a) Unlike headline inflation, food and fuel items are included in the calculation of core inflation.
- b) Core inflation is less volatile than headline inflation.
- c) Compared to developed economies, headline inflation is not much relevant for developing economies.
- d) None of the statements given in (a), (b) or (c) is correct.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Core inflation excludes volatile food and fuel prices from headline inflation, which measures changes in the overall consumer price basket.

- Core inflation shows underlying price trends and is less volatile due to excluding fluctuating items like fuel.
- Headline inflation matters more in developing economies where food and fuel form 30-40% of consumption baskets.

**9) The "Goldilocks Scenario" for an economy can be best explained as:**

- a) an economic situation where the economy is experiencing very low employment growth rates.
- b) an economic condition characterized by severe contraction in the economy.
- c) an economy receiving very high investments from the outside world.
- d) an economic condition characterized by moderate economic growth, low inflation rate, and low unemployment rate.

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Goldilocks scenario in an economy is a term stolen from a line from the popular children's story Goldilocks and the Three Bears.
- Consequently, the 'Goldilocks scenario' can be understood to describe an ideal state for an economic system. In this perfect state, there is full employment, economic stability, and stable growth. Hence option d is correct.

**10) The Phillips curve illustrates the relationship between:**

- a) Inflation and employment.
- b) Inflation and unemployment.
- c) GDP growth and unemployment.
- d) GDP growth and interest rates.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Phillips curve represent the relationship between the rate of unemployment and the inflation. The Phillips curve originated out of analysis comparing money wage growth with unemployment.
- The findings of A.W. Phillips in The Relationship between Unemployment and the Rate of Change of Money Wages in the United Kingdom 1861–1957 suggested there was an inverse correlation between the rate of change in money wages and unemployment.
  - For example, a rise in unemployment was associated with declining wage growth and vice versa. (Hence option b is correct).

**11) Consider the following features associated with the numismatics of the Vijayanagara Empire:**

1. The state's royal emblem, the 'Gandaberunda' (a double-headed eagle), was prominently featured on most gold coins.
2. The rulers issued coins predominantly in gold (pagodas), silver (taras), and copper (jitals).
3. The coins often bore images of Hindu deities, such as Siva-Parvati and Balakrishna.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The primary state symbol or emblem (royal authority) of the Vijayanagara Empire used on coins and seals was the boar (Varaha), an avatar of Vishnu. While the

Gandaberunda was also used, the boar was the most common and defining state symbol, as seen on the coins recently discovered.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Vijayanagara monetary system was sophisticated and multi-metallic. The primary gold coin was the 'pagoda' (also called gadyana). They also issued smaller denomination silver 'taras' and copper 'jitals' for everyday transactions.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The coinage was deeply religious, reflecting the rulers' devotion. Images of Hindu deities were common, including Siva-Parvati (Uma-Maheshwara), Vishnu-Lakshmi, and Balakrishna (notably on Krishnadevaraya's coins).

**12) With reference to the "Jeevan Pramaan" initiative, recently in news, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a digital life certificate for pensioners.
2. The initiative is optional for central government pensioners but mandatory for state government pensioners.
3. It utilizes biometric authentication, such as fingerprint or iris scan, to validate the pensioner's identity.

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

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** "Jeevan Pramaan" is the official name for the government's Digital Life Certificate (DLC) program, designed to eliminate the need for pensioners to be physically present to prove their existence.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The initiative is a citizen-centric welfare scheme designed to minimize bureaucratic hurdles. It is an optional facility, not mandatory, for all pensioners (central, state, or from other government organizations). The traditional system of physical submission still co-exists.
- **Statement 3 is correct.** The system works by allowing pensioners to biometrically authenticate themselves (using a fingerprint scanner or iris scanner) at a CSC centre or via a mobile app. This biometric data is then validated against the Aadhaar database to confirm the pensioner is alive.

**13) Consider the following statements regarding the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY):**

1. It aims to double farmer incomes by 2030, aligning with the government's extended goal.
2. It seeks to achieve self-sufficiency in food grains, pulses, and oilseeds to reduce import dependence.
3. The scheme offers a uniform subsidy of 50% on agricultural inputs for all beneficiaries.

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

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct.** One of the key benefits and stated goals of the PMDDKY is to "double farmer incomes by 2030." This aligns with the government's extended timeline for this goal, which was originally set for 2022 but was disrupted.

- **Statement 2 is correct.** A major long-term objective of the scheme, linked to the “Atmanirbhar Bharat” vision, is to achieve self-sufficiency in key agricultural commodities like food grains, pulses, and oilseeds, thereby reducing India’s import bill for these items.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** The scheme does offer subsidies on inputs, but the subsidy is not uniform. The data specifies a range of subsidies, from 50% to 80%, indicating a differentiated approach rather than a flat 50% for all.

**14) Consider the following statements regarding the Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI):**

1. The Initiative was established under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
2. The Snow Leopard is listed in CITES Appendix I and is not covered as a flagship species under CAMI.
3. Pilot Whales are a focus species of conservation under the CAMI framework, given their nomadic behavior.

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

- a) only
- b) only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) None of the statements.

**Answer: d)**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** The Central Asian Mammals Initiative (CAMI) is a collaborative conservation framework under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), not CITES. The CAMI’s focus on migratory connectivity directly aligns with the objectives of CMS.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect.** The Snow Leopard is explicitly listed as one of the 17 flagship species covered under the CAMI framework, underscoring its importance to the ecosystem it aims to protect. Its conservation requires the cross-border cooperation promoted by CAMI.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** Pilot Whales are large oceanic dolphins and are not among the 17 terrestrial migratory or nomadic mammals of Central Asia covered by CAMI. CAMI primarily covers species like the Saiga antelope, Wild camel, and Argali sheep in the vast steppe and mountain ecosystems of Central Asia.

**15) Consider the following statements.**

1. Statement I: Khangchendzonga National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is India’s first “mixed” heritage site, recognized for both its natural biodiversity and cultural significance.
2. Statement II: The recent ‘Good’ rating given to the Khangchendzonga National Park by the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2025 signifies that it is the only site in India to achieve the highest conservation status in the global review.

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation**

- Statement I is correct: Khangchendzonga National Park (KNP) was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2016 and is recognized as India's first and only "mixed" heritage site, combining its natural value (Himalayan biodiversity) with cultural significance (Lepcha spiritual traditions).
- Statement II is correct: The park was rated "Good" by the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2025, which is the highest conservation status awarded. It emerged as "the only Indian site rated 'Good'," confirming this finding.
- Statement II is NOT the correct explanation for Statement I: Statement I refers to the mixed heritage status (Natural + Cultural), which is UNESCO's designation. Statement II refers to the IUCN's conservation effectiveness rating. One does not explain the other; they are two separate facts about the park's status.