

www.iasmania.com/ias-mania-daily-mcqs

At IASMANIA, we go beyond conventional MCQ practice.

Every weekday from **Monday to Saturday**, we provide **five carefully designed MCQs** based on:

- Daily News Analysis
- Important current affairs from reliable sources
- Government reports such as PIB, Yojana, and Kurukshetra
- Previous Year UPSC questions and trend analysis

For more updates visit: www.iasmania.com

1) Consider the following statements regarding the Rowlatt Act (1919) and the events leading to the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre:

1. The Act empowered the government to detain individuals suspected of sedition for an indefinite period without any judicial trial.
2. The arrest of Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satyapal in Amritsar was a primary trigger for the public gathering at Jallianwala Bagh.
3. Martial Law was proclaimed by General Dyer through a widespread communication strategy in local vernacular languages to ensure public awareness.

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** because the **Rowlatt Act**, often termed the 'Black Act', allowed for the imprisonment of persons suspected of sedition without trial for a specific period of **up to two years**, not an indefinite period.
- **Statement 2 is correct**; the arrest of popular pro-independence leaders **Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satyapal** created a critical security situation in Punjab, leading to peaceful protests.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect**. While General Dyer did issue a proclamation banning public meetings, it was **not widely disseminated** and was issued **only in English**, meaning the vast majority of the rural population attending Baisakhi celebrations at Jallianwala Bagh were unaware of the legal prohibition on their gathering.
- The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre serves as a definitive turning point in the Indian National Movement. It exposed the **repressive nature** of colonial governance and shifted the political discourse from seeking incremental reforms to a demand for **Purna Swaraj** (Complete Independence). The event bridged social and religious divides, as the brutalized population in Punjab saw a common oppressor. The subsequent **Non-Cooperation Movement** was a direct manifestation of the national outrage catalyzed by this tragedy.

2) Consider the following statements regarding the Ganges River Dolphin:

Match the following Columns

Column I (Attribute)	Column II (Description)	Column III (Geographic/Biological Detail)
A. Navigation	1. Echolocation	i. Uses ultrasonic sounds to create mental images
B. Conservation Status	2. Endangered	ii. Listed under the IUCN Red List
C. Biological Feature	3. Sexual Dimorphism	iii. Females are significantly larger than males

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- **Navigation (A-1-i):** The dolphin is essentially blind and relies on **echolocation**. It emits ultrasonic sound waves that bounce off prey and obstacles, allowing the dolphin to “see” an image in its mind. This is a critical adaptation for life in murky river waters.
- **Conservation Status (B-2-ii):** The species is classified as **Endangered** on the IUCN Red List. It serves as an **indicator species**, meaning its health reflects the overall health of the entire river ecosystem.
- **Biological Feature (C-3-iii):** Unlike many mammals where males are larger, the Ganges River Dolphin exhibits **sexual dimorphism** where the **females (up to 2.7m) are larger than the males (up to 2.12m)**.
- Commonly known as the **Susu**, it is **strictly freshwater** species, meaning it cannot survive in saline ocean water. The current threats to the species include the reduction in river flow, particularly in the **Chambal River**, where water levels are falling below the **3-meter depth** required for their survival. This hydrological shift forces dolphins downstream toward the Yamuna confluence, leading to habitat fragmentation and a narrowed gene pool due to the presence of dams and barrages.

3) Consider the following statements regarding the Lanjia Saora community:

1. They are recognized as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) and are primarily located in the Western Ghats.
2. The community follows a highly hierarchical social structure with centralized authority under a hereditary monarch.
3. They are known for their high literacy levels and rapid transition towards modern urban industrial labour.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect because, while they are a **PVTG**, they inhabit the hilly terrains of the **Rayagada and Gajapati districts in southern Odisha (Eastern Ghats)**, not the Western Ghats.
 - Statement 2 is incorrect. The Lanjia Saora society is described as **highly egalitarian** with a strong sense of **communal resource sharing and collective decision-making**, rather than a hierarchical or monarchical structure.
 - Statement 3 is incorrect because one of the criteria for their PVTG status is **low literacy levels** and the continued use of **traditional agricultural practices** (like shifting cultivation) rather than a transition to urban industrial labor.
 - The Lanjia Saoras represent a vital link to India's **pre-Vedic indigenous history**. They are mentioned in ancient Hindu epics like the **Ramayana** (associated with Shabari) and the **Mahabharata**. Their visual identity is marked by unique physical features such as **large, thick circular metal earrings** and traditional tattoos. Despite modern influences, they continue to preserve their unique heritage while adapting to contemporary life, such as the youth transitioning to hooked earrings for comfort.
- 4) With reference to Biologics, consider the following statements:
1. Unlike small-molecule drugs, biologics are produced using living systems such as bacteria, yeast, or mammalian cells.
 2. Biologics are less sensitive to environmental factors like temperature compared to conventional chemical drugs.
 3. Biosimilars are the generic equivalents of biologics and are generally less expensive than the original products.

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**; biologics are large, complex proteins derived from living organisms through **genetic engineering**. Traditional drugs (like aspirin) are made through chemical synthesis.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect**; biologics are **extremely sensitive**. Because they are made of proteins, they can “denature” or break down if exposed to light or heat. Therefore, they require a strict **cold chain** for storage and transport.
- **Statement 3 is correct**; **Biosimilars** are highly similar versions of an approved biological product. Since they are “grown” rather than “synthesized,” they cannot be exact “carbon copies” like chemical generics, but they serve the same therapeutic purpose.
- India's **Biopharma SHAKTI strategy** aims to boost the production of these biosimilars to make treatments for cancer and autoimmune diseases more affordable. Biologics offer **high specificity**, meaning they target specific receptors in the body with fewer side effects than broad-spectrum chemicals. However, they also carry a risk of **immunogenicity**, where the body's immune system might react against the drug, requiring rigorous batch testing.

5) With reference to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, consider the following statements:

1. The authority to include or exclude a community from the Scheduled Castes list lies solely with the State Governors.
2. The Order recognizes Scheduled Castes in relation to specific States or Union Territories.

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: b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect**; while the President consults State Governors, the final authority to issue the Order rests with the **President (Article 341)**, and any subsequent changes (additions/deletions) can only be made by an **Act of Parliament**.
- **Statement 2 is correct**; SC status is **geographically specific**. A community might be an SC in one state but not in another, depending on their historical social status in that particular region.

6) Consider the following statements regarding Ecological Communities:

1. High species diversity is an important factor in enhancing the stability and resilience of a climax ecosystem.
2. An "Indicator Species" is one that dominates the community by its size and abundance and modifies the habitat for others.
3. "Edge species" are species that thrive in the transition zone between two ecological communities or biomes.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct**- Higher species diversity improves ecosystem stability and resilience through functional redundancy.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect**- This describes dominant/foundation species. Indicator species reflect environmental conditions.
- **Statement 3: Correct**- Edge species live in ecotones (transition zones) between two ecosystems due to the edge effect.

7) Regarding 'Invasive Species' and ecosystem dynamics, consider the following statements:

1. Invasive species often succeed in new environments because they lack natural predators or parasites.
2. Invasive species can alter abiotic components of ecosystems, such as soil chemistry or nutrient cycles.

3. Invasive species always increase the total species richness of a community in the long term.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct- Many invasive species thrive due to the “Enemy Release Hypothesis”, meaning they face fewer predators or parasites in the new habitat.
- Statement 2: Correct- Invasive species can modify ecosystem processes, such as soil nutrients or fire regimes (e.g., *Lantana camara*).
- Statement 3: Incorrect- In the long term, invasive species usually reduce species richness by outcompeting native species.

8) With reference to the process of “Hibernation” in mammals, which of the following mechanisms primarily generates heat during occasional arousals?

- a) Rapid muscle shivering
- b) Metabolism of brown fat reserves
- c) Increased consumption of stored external food
- d) Absorption of solar radiation through the fur

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- During hibernation, mammals reduce their metabolic rate and body temperature to conserve energy.
- Option (b) is correct. Heat during periodic arousals is mainly produced by the metabolism of brown adipose tissue (brown fat), which generates heat efficiently without shivering.
- Option (a) is incorrect. Shivering is not the primary mechanism during arousal because it requires more energy.
- Option (c) is incorrect. Hibernating mammals generally rely on stored body fat, not external food.
- Option (d) is incorrect. Solar radiation does not play a major role in heat production during hibernation.

9) Which of the following are the sources/factors for exposure to benzene pollution?

1. Automobile exhaust
2. Tobacco smoke
3. Using varnished wooden furniture
4. Using products made of polyurethane
5. Petrol filling stations

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 2 and 5 only
- b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- c) 2, 4 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Benzene is a natural part of crude oil and a known human carcinogen. Benzene exposure arises from both outdoor and indoor sources.
- Automobile exhaust and petrol filling stations are major ambient contributors due to fuel combustion and vapour release.
- Tobacco smoke is one of the largest indoor sources of benzene exposure.
- In addition, benzene is widely used as a solvent or chemical intermediate in producing varnishes, resins, plastics, and polyurethane foams.
- Off-gassing from varnished furniture, cushions, mattresses, insulation foams, and other polyurethane-based consumer products can release benzene or benzene-related volatile organic compounds into indoor air, particularly under heat, aging, or poor ventilation.

10) The “e-CHARAK” portal, often mentioned in the context of medicinal plants, primarily serves as:

- a) A digital library for ancient Ayurvedic manuscripts.
- b) An online platform for the auction of timber from protected forests.
- c) A virtual market for information exchange between farmers and herbal traders.
- d) A mobile app for identifying endangered wildlife species in the field.

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The e-CHARAK (e-Channel for Heritage, Aromatic, Raw-materials and Knowledge) portal is a digital initiative by the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB). Its main goal is to create a transparent supply chain for the medicinal plant sector.
- By providing a platform for farmers, collectors, and herbal traders, it facilitates the trade of raw materials like Nagauri Ashwagandha. This is crucial for India, which is the second-largest exporter of medicinal plants.
- The portal helps farmers get better prices and ensures that the multi-billion dollar traditional medicine (AYUSH) market has a sustainable supply of authentic ingredients.

11) Which of the following statements about ‘Vayu Baan’ and ‘Reform Express’ is correct?

- a) Both are initiatives launched by the Ministry of Railways to modernize logistics.
- b) Vayu Baan is a security project for air-launched drones, while Reform Express is a railway policy framework.
- c) Both projects rely on nuclear electric propulsion for long-duration operations.

- d) Reform Express is an indigenous drone program, while Vayu Baan is a specialized cargo container project.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- **Vayu Baan** is an **Indian Air Force (IAF)** project aimed at developing **Air-Launched Effects (ALE)**, which are drones dropped from helicopters to provide stand-off strike and surveillance capabilities.
- On the other hand, **Reform Express** is a 2026 initiative by the **Ministry of Railways** designed to improve cargo (like salt and autos) and passenger services through technological and policy overhauls.

12) Consider the following statements regarding the Tunguska (2K22M) Air Defence System:

1. It is primarily designed to intercept high-altitude Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs).
2. The system was developed by the Indian Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the 'Make in India' initiative.
3. It relies exclusively on active radar for target tracking, making it highly vulnerable to electronic jamming.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect** because the Tunguska is designed for **low-altitude air defense** (up to 3,500 meters for missiles), specifically to protect ground troops from low-flying targets like attack helicopters, drones, and cruise missiles; it is not an ICBM interceptor.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** as the system is of **Soviet-origin**, developed by the **KBP Instrument Design Bureau**, and the recent contract was signed with **Russia's JSC Rosoboronexport**; it is not a DRDO-developed 'Make in India' product (though it is used by the Indian Army).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** because the system features an **optical backup** for tracking. This allows it to engage targets even in environments where its **360-degree radar** is being jammed by enemy electronic warfare, meaning it does not rely "exclusively" on radar.
- The Tunguska's **dual-armament hybrid system**—combining **9M311 missiles** and **30 mm autocannons**—makes it a unique and versatile platform for mobile army columns. It provides a cost-effective solution to **swarm threats** by using rapid-fire guns for close-in defense.

13) The historic 'Operation Bison' of 1948 is associated with which of the following mountain passes?

- a) Zojila Pass
- b) Rohtang Pass
- c) Nathu La
- d) Shipki La

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- **Operation Bison (1948)**, conducted during the **First Indo-Pak War**, enabled Indian forces to recapture the **Zojila Pass** using tanks at an altitude above 3,500 metres—one of the highest such deployments in combat history. The pass is strategically vital as it connects the Kashmir Valley with

Ladakh and serves as a key supply route for forces in **Siachen Glacier** and near the **Line of Actual Control**.

- Located between Ganderbal and Kargil, it is prone to heavy snowfall and avalanches, earning the name “mountain pass of blizzards.” To ensure all-weather connectivity, the government is constructing the Zoji-la Tunnel, set to be Asia’s longest bidirectional tunnel.

14) What is the primary aim of the ‘Trade Receivables Discounting System’ (TReDS) mentioned in the RBI Payments Vision 2028?

- a) To regulate the international stock market
- b) To provide insurance for agricultural crops
- c) To streamline financing and liquidity for MSMEs
- d) To manage the government's gold reserves

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The **Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)** is an institutional mechanism set up to facilitate the discounting of invoices or bills of exchange for **MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises)**. The primary goal is to address the **liquidity crunch** that small businesses often face due to delayed payments from large corporate buyers or government entities.
- By using TReDS, MSMEs can receive immediate payment for their goods and services by selling their receivables at a discount to financiers. The **RBI Payments Vision 2028** aims to enhance this system by proposing a **unified framework for interoperability** within TReDS. This would allow for a more streamlined financing process and even extend these services to **export-oriented MSMEs**. By unlocking much-needed cash flow for small businesses, the initiative directly supports the **‘Make in India’** mission and helps strengthen the overall economy.
- This focus on MSME liquidity is part of the RBI’s broader strategy to ensure that the digital payment ecosystem is inclusive and supports all sectors of Indian industry.

15) With reference to the Satyashodhak Samaj, consider the following statements:

1. It was established with the primary objective of advocating for a social order free from Brahminical dominance.
2. The society’s membership was restricted to the Shudra and Dalit communities to ensure focused upliftment.
3. It rejected the use of rationalist ideology, preferring to base its social reforms on traditional mystical teachings.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- **Mahatma Jyotiba Phule** founded the **Satyashodhak Samaj (Society of Truth Seekers)** in 1873. The organization’s primary mission was to **unite and uplift the Shudras and Dalits**, challenging the prevailing caste hierarchies.
- Statement 1 is correct as the Samaj aimed for a social order **free from Brahminical dominance**, advocating for human rights and social justice.

- However, Statement 2 is incorrect because, while it focused on the marginalized, the Samaj's ideology was rooted in **universal equality**, and Phule's own life reflected an openness to all who sought social reform.
- Statement 3 is incorrect because Phule was a **rationalist**. He used books, essays, and plays to publicize a **rationalist ideology** and social justice. While he was influenced by the egalitarian teachings of the **Buddha and Kabir**, his approach was fundamentally built on reasoning and a critique of orthodox religious structures. His work **Gulamagiri** is a testament to this rationalist critique, where he compared the Indian caste system to American slavery.
- The movement emphasized **education and social empowerment** as the tools for liberation, rather than relying on mystical traditions to maintain the status quo. Phule's legacy laid the groundwork for future movements led by figures like Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.