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1) With reference to the Serengsia Battle of 1837, consider the following statements:

1. It was an armed uprising by the Ho Adivasis against the expansion and administrative intrusion of the East India Company.
2. The battle was fought in the Serengsia valley, which lies in present-day Chhattisgarh.
3. The Ho fighters adopted guerrilla warfare techniques, making use of terrain advantages and burning organic substances to obstruct British troops.

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. The Serengsia Battle was part of the armed resistance by the Ho Adivasis of the Kolhan region against the East India Company's efforts to impose colonial administration, taxation, and non-tribal settlement.
 - Statement 3 is correct. The Ho warriors effectively used guerrilla tactics, exploiting the rugged terrain of the Serengsia valley, blocking narrow passes, and deploying burning mixtures of cow dung, ash, and chilli powder to repel British forces.
 - Statement 2 is incorrect. The Serengsia valley is located in present-day Jharkhand (West Singhbhum district), not Chhattisgarh.
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2) Consider the following statements:

1. Statement I: The Election Commission of India (ECI) performs administrative, quasi-judicial, and advisory functions.
2. Statement II: Enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct and delimitation of constituencies fall under the quasi-judicial powers of the ECI.
3. Statement III: The ECI advises the President on matters relating to the disqualification of Members of Parliament.

Which one of the following is correct?

- a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both explain Statement I
- b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one explains Statement I
- c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

Answer: c)

Explanation

- Statement I is correct. The ECI functions in three broad capacities—administrative (conduct of elections), quasi-judicial (dispute resolution), and advisory (constitutional opinions).
- Statement II is incorrect. Enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct and delimitation of constituencies are administrative functions, concerned with election management and constituency organization. Quasi-judicial powers involve adjudication, such as resolving disputes between rival factions of political parties or deciding cases related to election symbols.
- Statement III is correct. Advising the President (for MPs) or the Governor (for MLAs) on disqualification matters under the Constitution is a key advisory function of the ECI, and such advice is binding.

- 3) Consider the following statements about Bengal Florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*):
1. It is a critically endangered bustard species that is very well known for its mating dance.
 2. It is found only in Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh in India.
 3. Habitat loss because of agriculture practices is the main reason for its population decline.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Bengal Florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*) is a rare bustard species that is very well known for its mating dance. It is under critically endangered species in IUCN red list.
 - **Habitat:** Grasslands occasionally interspersed with scrublands.
 - **Statement 2 is correct:** Distribution: Native to only 3 countries in the world - Cambodia, India and Nepal. In India, it occurs in 3 states, namely Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
 - **Statement 3 is correct:** Threats: Ongoing conversion of the bird's grassland habitat for various purposes including agriculture is mainly responsible for its population decline.
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- 4) Which among the following best describes The Environmental Kuznets Curve?

- a) There is a direct relationship between environmental quality and economic development.
- b) There is an inverted-U-shaped relationship between pollution and per capita income.
- c) The inverse relationship between pollution level and surrounding temperature.
- d) There is a direct relationship between pollution level and the population of a city.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) hypothesis postulates an inverted-U-shaped relationship between different pollutants and per capita income, i.e., environmental pressure increases up to a certain level as income goes up; after that, it decreases.

- As countries become richer, they can afford to clean up pollution from the past and as public demand for cleaner environment increases, governments can enact and enforce stricter pollution control regulations.
 - It explains why environmental quality has improved in richer countries.
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5) Consider the following statements with regard to the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act:

1. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the nodal agency for the implementation of the act.
2. It recognizes rights of the tribals on the entire forests if they have resided for at least three generations.
3. National parks and wildlife sanctuaries are excluded for the recognition of rights under the act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act: The law concerns the rights of forest-dwelling communities to land and other resources, denied to them over decades as a result of the continuance of colonial forest laws in India.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Provisions: Ownership rights - to land that is being used by tribals or forest dwellers as on 13 December 2005, subject to a maximum of 4 hectares; ownership is only for land that is actually being cultivated by the concerned family as on that date, meaning that no new lands are granted Right of ownership access to collect, use and dispose of minor forest produce that has been traditionally collected within or outside the village boundaries.
- Other community rights such as on fish and water bodies. Rights of settlement and conversion of forest villages into revenue villages.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** As per this act, Gram Sabha plays pivotal role in ensuring the rights of the forest dwellers, decision making, planning and management for Joint Forest Management. Nodal agency for implementation is Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The rights are provided irrespective of National parks and sanctuaries.

6) With reference to the Anti-Defection Law under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. Statement I: A nominated member of the Rajya Sabha incurs disqualification if he joins a political party after six months from the date of taking his seat.
2. Statement II: A member is protected from disqualification if he votes against the party whip with prior approval of the political party.
3. Statement III: The Speaker's decision on disqualification under the Tenth Schedule is immune from judicial review.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only Statement I and Statement II
- b) Only Statement II and Statement III
- c) All three statements
- d) Only Statement I

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Statement I: Correct — nominated members may join a party within six months; joining later attracts disqualification.
- Statement II: Correct — prior permission (or post-facto condonation) protects a member from disqualification.
- Statement III: Incorrect — as held in *Kihoto Hollohan (1992)*, the Speaker's decision is subject to judicial review.

7) Consider the following statements with reference to Parliamentary Committees in India:

1. Members of Parliamentary Committees are either elected by the Houses of Parliament or nominated by the Presiding Officers.
2. Parliamentary Committees derive their authority from the provisions of the Constitution of India.
3. Parliament is empowered to frame rules regulating the procedure and functioning of Parliamentary Committees.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Incorrect — not all members are elected; many are nominated by the Speaker/Chairman.
 - Statement 2: Correct — authority flows from Articles 105 and 118 of the Constitution.
 - Statement 3: Correct — Article 118 empowers Parliament to regulate committee procedures.
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8) With reference to a Bomb Cyclone, consider the following statements:

1. A bomb cyclone develops when air near the Earth's surface rises rapidly, leading to a sharp fall in atmospheric pressure.
2. Such cyclones generally occur in the mid-latitudes, where warm and cold air masses interact along frontal boundaries.
3. Every bomb cyclone qualifies as a hurricane in terms of origin and energy source.

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: Bomb cyclones are characterized by explosive intensification, marked by a rapid drop in barometric pressure due to strong upward movement of air.
 - Statement 2 is correct: They typically form in the mid-latitude regions, where contrasting warm and cold air fronts collide, especially during late fall to early spring.
 - Statement 3 is incorrect: Bomb cyclones are not hurricanes. Hurricanes are tropical systems fueled by warm ocean waters, whereas bomb cyclones can form over land or ocean and do not require warm seas, though they may sometimes resemble hurricanes in appearance and intensity.
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9) With reference to the global distribution and causes of earthquakes, consider the following statements:

1. The Circum-Pacific Belt (Pacific Ring of Fire) accounts for more than half of the world's earthquakes.
2. Mid-oceanic ridges are zones of frequent seismic activity due to divergent plate movements.
3. The Alpine–Himalayan seismic belt is characterized by earthquakes resulting from the interaction of the African, Indian, and Eurasian plates.
4. Anthropogenic activities, such as mining and reservoir-induced seismicity, constitute the principal cause of earthquakes globally.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: The Circum-Pacific Belt is the world's most seismically active zone, accounting for roughly two-thirds ($\approx 68\%$) of global earthquakes.
 - Statement 2 is correct: Earthquakes are common along mid-oceanic ridges, where tectonic plates diverge and magma rises to create new crust.
 - Statement 3 is correct: The Alpine–Himalayan Belt experiences intense seismicity due to the collision and convergence of the African, Indian, and Eurasian plates.
 - Statement 4 is incorrect: While human activities can induce localized seismic events, tectonic plate movements remain the dominant cause of most earthquakes worldwide.
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10) Consider the following statements:

1. Statement I: Secondary air pollutants tend to have regional and transboundary effects, influencing air quality in areas far removed from the locations where their precursor gases are emitted.
2. Statement II: Secondary aerosols are capable of remaining suspended in the atmosphere for several days and can be transported over long distances under favourable meteorological conditions.

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: a)

Explanation:

- Secondary pollutants such as ozone and secondary particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) are formed in the atmosphere from precursor gases and are not confined to their emission sources.
- Their ability to persist in the air for extended durations and to be transported over hundreds of kilometres by prevailing winds explains their regional and cross-boundary impacts on air quality. Hence, Statement II correctly explains Statement I.

11) With reference to the Paathara (Khoni) practice, consider the following statements:

1. It is a traditional underground grain storage system practiced mainly in the coastal regions of Andhra Pradesh.
2. The storage pit is lined with a mixture of straw and clay and finally sealed with cow dung to make it airtight and pest-resistant.
3. Rice stored in a Paathara is considered aged rice, with improved taste and a relatively lower glycemic index.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: The Paathara (called Khoni in Odia) system is practiced in inland, hilly areas such as the Uddanam region of Srikakulam district, not in coastal zones where soil moisture is high.
- Statement 2 is correct: The pit is scientifically designed using straw, clay, and cow dung, creating an airtight and pest-proof environment without chemicals.
- Statement 3 is correct: Grain stored using this method becomes naturally aged, improving flavour and lowering the glycemic index, making it nutritionally preferable.

12) With reference to the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026, consider the following statements:

1. The 2026 Rules introduce a technology-driven “Polluter Pays” framework, replacing the 2016 regulations.
2. Waste generators are required to segregate waste into three categories: Wet, Dry, and Hazardous waste.
3. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) can levy environmental compensation for operating without registration.

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. The SWM Rules, 2026, introduce a Polluter Pays framework and supersede the 2016 rules, marking a shift toward circular economy principles.
 - Statement 2: Incorrect. The 2026 rules require four-stream segregation:
 - Wet Waste (kitchen waste)
 - Dry Waste (plastic, metal, etc.)
 - Sanitary Waste (diapers, tampons)
 - Special Care Waste (paint cans, expired medicines)
 - Statement 3: Correct. The CPCB is empowered to levy environmental compensation for violations such as operating without registration, false reporting, or improper disposal.
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13) The Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary, recently declared 'Maoist-free', is located in which state?

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Odisha
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Madhya Pradesh

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary is in Nuapada district, Odisha. Declared Maoist-free in January 2026, this has enabled proper wildlife monitoring. Camera traps show a growing leopard population (70+), and the sanctuary is a proposed Tiger Reserve, marking a key conservation milestone.
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14) Consider the following statements:

1. Statement I: The Mpemba effect refers to a counter-intuitive phenomenon in which hot water freezes faster than cold water when placed under identical conditions.
2. Statement II: Heating water can lead to evaporation-induced mass loss and molecular changes, which may affect the rate at which water cools and eventually freezes.

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 Mpemba effect is a well-documented physical phenomenon where hot water can freeze faster than cold water. This occurs due to factors such as evaporation-driven mass reduction, removal of dissolved gases, enhanced convection currents, and differences in supercooling behavior.
 - These changes arise as a result of heating and directly influence the freezing process. Hence, both statements are correct, and Statement-II provides the correct explanation for Statement-I.
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Consider the following statements about Geotubing as a coastal protection measure:

1. Geotubes are filled with a chemical grout that hardens underwater to create a rigid coastal barrier.
2. The geotextile material used in geotubes, mainly polypropylene, degrades rapidly due to UV exposure and microbial action, resulting in a short service life.
3. Geotubing is a relatively low-cost coastal protection option and is easier to install compared to conventional hard structures such as concrete seawalls.

How many of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Geotubes are filled with sand or sand–water slurry, not chemical grout. Their stability comes from their weight and the geotextile casing.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Polypropylene or polyester geotextiles are selected for high resistance to UV radiation, chemicals, and microbial degradation, ensuring durability in marine environments.

Statement 3 is correct. Geotubing is generally cost-effective and quicker to install than hard engineering solutions like concrete seawalls.

Thank You

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