

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 Appemidi Mango:

1. It is found exclusively in the Uttara Kannada and Shivamogga districts of Karnataka.
2. It is a famous table variety mango mainly consumed as a ripe fruit.
3. It has recently received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
4. It is widely used in the pickle industry due to its aroma and long shelf life.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is Correct: Found mainly in Uttara Kannada and Shivamogga (Karnataka).
- Statement 2 is Incorrect: It is not a table variety; it is mainly used for pickling.
- Statement 3 is Incorrect: GI tag received in 2009.
- Statement 4 is Correct: Known for distinct aroma, pulpiness, and long shelf life, ideal for pickles.

2) **With reference to Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), consider the following statements:**

1. It is the world's largest publicly funded health assurance scheme.
2. All senior citizens aged 70 and above are eligible for the insurance coverage under the scheme regardless of their income level.
3. Senior citizens aged 70 and above who have private health insurance are also eligible for benefits under the AB PM-JAY.
4. The scheme limits benefits to a maximum of four family members per household.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- AB PM-JAY is the world's largest publicly funded health assurance scheme, providing health coverage of ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.
- The Union Cabinet has approved health coverage for all senior citizens aged 70 and above, irrespective of their income, under the AB PM-JAY. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.
- Senior citizens aged 70 and above who have private health insurance are eligible to avail benefits under the AB PM-JAY. Hence, Statement 3 is correct.
- The AB PM-JAY does not impose a cap on family size or age of members, meaning all members of an eligible family can avail the benefits without any such limitation. Hence, Statement 4 is incorrect.

3) **With reference to the ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram (New India Literacy Programme), consider the following statements:**

1. The scheme is implemented exclusively through offline classroom teaching in government schools.

2. The scheme targets the adults aged 15 years and above from all backgrounds who missed formal schooling.
3. One of the scheme's components is to provide equivalency for basic education up to the secondary stage, including classes 9 to 12.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The scheme is implemented in both online and offline modes, using digital platforms like the ULLAS Mobile App and DIKSHA Portal for learning and registration. Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.
- The scheme covers adults 15 years and above from all backgrounds, and both learners and volunteers can register via the mobile app. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.
- The scheme provides equivalency for basic education, including up to the secondary stage (classes 9–12). Hence, Statement 3 is correct.

4) With reference to the Amended BharatNet Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to deliver optical fiber connectivity using MPLS technology to Gram Panchayats.
2. The BSNL has been appointed as the Project Management Agency (PMA) of the programme.
3. The programme is funded through the Digital Bharat Nidhi.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- This enhanced initiative aims to deliver optical fiber (OF) connectivity using MPLS technology to 2.64 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs) in ring topology, and also extend connectivity to approximately 3.8 lakh non-GP villages on a demand-driven basis. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.
- To ensure smooth implementation, BSNL has been appointed as the Project Management Agency (PMA). BSNL will engage professional Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) to execute the project under a Design, Build, Operate & Maintain (DBOM) model. Hence,

Statement 2 is correct.

- The Union Cabinet approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) on 4th August 2023, to be funded through the Digital Bharat Nidhi. Hence, Statement 3 is correct.

5) **With reference to the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP), consider the following statements:**

1. While the VVP-1, launched in 2023, was a centrally sponsored scheme to develop remote border villages, VVP-II, now a fully Centre-funded scheme.
2. The programme aims to improve living and livelihood conditions in border areas, enhance security by curbing cross-border crime, and integrate locals as key allies of border forces for national security.

Which of the Statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) phase 1 was a centrally sponsored scheme launched by the Government of India in 2023 to develop border villages with sparse population, limited connectivity, and infrastructure. Vibrant Villages Programme -II (VVP-II) is a **Central Sector Scheme** (100% Centre funding), furthering its commitment for the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 for 'Safe, Secured & Vibrant land borders'. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.
- The objective of the programme is to create better living conditions and adequate livelihood opportunities to ensure prosperous and safe borders, control trans-border crime and assimilate the border population with the nation and inculcate them 'as eyes and ears of the border guarding forces', crucial for internal security. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.

6) **With reference to the Padma Awards in India, consider the following statements:**

1. The Padma Awards Committee, responsible for screening nominations, is headed by the President of India.
2. Active government servants, including doctors and scientists working in government institutions, are strictly ineligible for Padma Awards.
3. There is no cap on the total number of Padma Awards conferred in a year, including posthumous awards and awards to NRIs/foreigners/OCIs.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Padma Awards Committee is constituted by the Prime Minister annually and is headed by the Cabinet Secretary, not the President of India. The President formally presents the awards based on the recommendations approved by the Prime Minister and the President. Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.
- While active government servants, including those in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), are generally not eligible for Padma Awards, there is a specific exception for doctors and scientists. This exception acknowledges the significant societal contributions made by these professionals even while in government service. Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.
- There is a rule that the total number of Padma Awards to be given in a year should generally not exceed 120. This limit specifically excludes posthumous awards and awards conferred on NRIs (Non-Resident Indians), PIOs (Persons of Indian Origin), OCIs (Overseas Citizens of India), and foreign nationals. This cap helps maintain the prestige and selectivity of the awards. Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.

7) Consider the following pairs of military exercises and participating countries:

Exercise	Countries Involved
1. KHANJAR-XII	India – Kyrgyzstan
2. AL NAJAH	India – UAE
3. DESERT CYCLONE	India – Oman
4. CINBAX	India – Cambodia

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **KHANJAR-XII (India – Kyrgyzstan): Correct: KHANJAR-XII (India – Kyrgyzstan):** A Special Forces exercise between India and Kyrgyzstan, focusing on counter-terrorism, high-altitude warfare, and special operations.
- **AL NAJAH (India – UAE): Incorrect: AL NAJAH (India – Oman):** A bilateral military exercise between the Indian Army and Royal Army of Oman, emphasizing interoperability and counter-insurgency in semi-urban environments.
- **DESERT CYCLONE (India – Oman): Incorrect: DESERT CYCLONE (India – UAE):** A joint military exercise between the Indian and UAE armies, aimed at enhancing defense ties, desert warfare tactics, and counter-terrorism operations.
- **CINBAX (India – Cambodia): Correct: CINBAX (India – Cambodia):** A table-top exercise between the Indian Army and Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, focused on strategic cooperation, military planning, and defense collaboration.

8) **With reference to the rights guaranteed under the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:**

1. Stand-up comedy, poetry, and satire are protected under the freedom of speech granted by the Indian Constitution.
2. In India, only the judiciary has the authority to impose reasonable restrictions on this right.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Stand-up comedy, poetry, satire, and other forms of artistic expression are protected under the freedom of speech guaranteed by Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.
- The Supreme Court has repeatedly emphasized that these forms of expression enrich human life and are integral to a healthy democracy. Reasonable restrictions on freedom of speech in India can be imposed by the State under Article 19(2) of the Constitution, not solely by the judiciary. These restrictions must be enacted through duly authorized laws and must meet standards of reasonableness. Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.

9) **With reference to the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) immunity provisions, consider the following statements:**

1. Personnel of the armed forces cannot be prosecuted for actions under AFSPA without Union Government approval.
2. The immunity extends to all acts committed by armed forces personnel, whether or not they are related to AFSPA.
3. Judicial review of AFSPA-related actions is prohibited by law.
4. Civilian complaints against actions under AFSPA can only proceed after the Union Government's sanction.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) provides immunity to armed forces personnel for actions taken in "good faith" under its provisions.
- Any prosecution, suit, or legal proceeding against armed forces personnel for actions under AFSPA requires prior approval from the Union Government, ensuring that they are not subjected to unwarranted legal action. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.
- The immunity under AFSPA is confined to acts directly connected to the duties and powers granted under the Act. It does not extend to unrelated acts that fall outside its ambit. Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.
- The judicial review of actions taken under AFSPA is not entirely barred. Courts can examine the legality of actions in specific cases, especially when fundamental rights are in question. Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.
- Since civilian complaints against actions under AFSPA necessitate sanction from the Union Government before any legal proceedings can commence. Hence, Statement 4 is correct.

10) With reference to the Nagshankar Temple, consider the following Statements:

1. It is believed to be built in the 4th century AD by King Nagashankar of Nagakha dynasty.
2. It is Dedicated to Lord Shiva, but also honours turtles as incarnations of Lord Vishnu.
3. The temple serves both religious and ecological purposes.
- 4.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Nagshankar Temple situated in Biswanath district, near Sootea town, approximately 70 km from Tezpur, Assam.
- Historical Background: Believed to be built in the 4th century AD by King Nagashankar of Nagakha dynasty. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.
- Dedicated to Lord Shiva, but also honours turtles as incarnations of Lord Vishnu. Hence, Statement 2 is correct:
- **Key Features:**
 - Houses a large pond home to 250–300 turtles, including critically endangered black softshell turtles.
 - Also, home to peacocks, pythons, deer, making it a micro-wildlife sanctuary.
 - The temple serves both religious and ecological purposes. Hence, Statement 3 is correct.

11) With reference to the long-term ripple effects of space junk, consider the following statements:

1. Space debris can indirectly harm Earth's ecosystems by altering the upper atmosphere.
2. Changes in the stratosphere caused by space junk can interfere with weather patterns.
3. The burning of space junk leads to an increase in ozone concentration in the upper atmosphere.
4. Metals released from space debris can trigger chemical reactions that influence the climate system.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Alterations in the upper atmosphere from pollutants and particles released by space debris can indirectly impact terrestrial ecosystems by changing atmospheric dynamics and composition. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.
- Pollutants from space junk (like metal oxides) can change the chemistry of the stratosphere, which in turn may disrupt global weather patterns. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.
- Rather than increasing ozone, space junk (specifically aluminum oxide) contributes to ozone depletion, threatening the protective ozone layer. Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.

- Metals such as aluminum and copper from re-entering debris can catalyze reactions in the atmosphere, influencing climate processes like cloud formation and energy absorption. Hence, Statement 4 is correct.

12) With reference to the Rare Earth Elements (REEs), consider the following statements:

1. REEs are a group of 17 chemically similar elements including Cerium, Yttrium, and Europium, known for their lustrous, silvery-white appearance.
2. Although REEs are abundantly found in the Earth's crust, they are difficult to extract due to their dispersed occurrence and the complexity of separating them.
3. REEs are mainly used in decorative jewelry and food preservation technologies.
4. China not only holds the largest reserves of REEs but also dominates over 85% of the global supply chain due to its advanced processing capabilities.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Rare Earth Elements include 17 elements like Cerium (Ce), Yttrium (Y), and Europium (Eu), which are known for their metallic luster and soft texture. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.
- Though these elements are not rare in terms of abundance, they are rarely found in concentrated and easily mineable forms, making extraction complex and expensive. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.
- REEs are not primarily used in jewelry or food preservation. Their major applications are in defense (e.g., radars), electronics (e.g., smartphones, computers), industrial catalysts, alloys, and clean energy tech like solar panels and wind turbines. Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.
- China has a dominant role in the REE market, not just in reserves, but particularly due to its technical edge in processing and refining, controlling over 85% of the supply chain. Hence, Statement 4 is correct.

13) Consider the following pairs:

Area of conflict mentioned in the news Country where it is located

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1. Donbas | Syria |
| 2. Kachin | Ethiopia |
| 3. Tigray | North Yemen |

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Donetsk and Luhansk are eastern Ukrainian states bordering Russia. Within them are the Russian-backed separatist territories—Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) and Luhansk People’s Republic (LPR). Together, they form the Donbas region. Hence, Pair 1 is incorrectly matched.
- Kachin State is in northern Myanmar, bordering China, Shan State, and Sagaing Region—not the location given in the match. Hence, Pair 2 is incorrectly matched.
- Tigray is a northern Ethiopian region. It’s part of Ethiopia’s federal system. Peace talks between Tigray forces and the Ethiopian government are taking place in South Africa. Hence, Pair 3 is incorrectly matched.

14) With reference to the India’s rights and obligations on the western rivers under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), consider the following statements:

1. India can use the waters of the western rivers only for irrigation purposes.
2. India is allowed to develop hydroelectric projects on the western rivers.
3. India is obliged to conduct Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for all hydroelectric projects on the western rivers.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) between India and Pakistan, India has specific rights and obligations concerning the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab).
- The Treaty does not restrict India’s use of the western rivers solely to irrigation. India can also utilize these waters for hydroelectric generation and domestic use. Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.
- India is permitted to develop hydroelectric projects on the western rivers, provided these projects meet certain design and operational restrictions to ensure they do not adversely impact the flow of water into Pakistan. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.

- While conducting Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) is a recommended global practice, the Treaty does not explicitly mandate them for hydroelectric projects on these rivers. Hence, Statement 3 is also incorrect.

15) With reference to the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950, consider the following statements:

1. Statement-I: The Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950, prohibits the use of the name 'Mahatma Gandhi' for any trade, business, or profession without the permission of the Central Government.
2. Statement-II: The Act's Schedule can be amended by the Central Government through a gazette notification to include or modify the list of protected names and emblems.

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:

- The Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950, under its Section 3, explicitly prohibits the use of any name or emblem specified in its Schedule for commercial purposes without prior permission from the Central Government. The name of 'Mahatma Gandhi' is included in this Schedule, thus protecting it from improper commercial exploitation. Hence, Statement-I is correct.
- The Act is dynamic, and the Central Government is empowered to make changes to the Schedule. This power allows the government to add, remove, or alter the list of protected names and emblems as and when required, simply by issuing a gazette notification. Hence, Statement-II is also correct.

Thank You

IAS Mania

www.iasmania.com