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1) Consider the following statements regarding the constitutional functions and powers of the Election Commission of India (ECI):

1. The authority of the ECI to conduct Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls flows from its plenary powers under Article 324 of the Constitution.
2. Article 325 of the Constitution provides for separate electoral rolls for elections to Parliament and State Legislatures.
3. Indian citizenship is a fundamental eligibility condition for voter registration as laid down under Article 326.

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: Article 324 vests the ECI with comprehensive powers over the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of elections. These plenary powers include undertaking exercises such as Special Intensive Revision to ensure electoral roll purity.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Article 325 mandates one general electoral roll for each territorial constituency and explicitly prohibits separate electoral rolls on grounds such as religion, race, caste, or sex.
- Statement 3 is correct: Article 326 enshrines the principle of adult suffrage, making Indian citizenship and a minimum age of 18 years the constitutional basis for voter registration.

2) Consider the following statements:

1. A retired judge of the Supreme Court can be appointed as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes.
2. The conditions of service of the members of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes are determined by the Parliament by law.
3. A person who has served two terms as a member of the National Commission for Backward Classes is eligible for appointment as its Chairperson.

How many of the statements given above are incorrect?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: There is no constitutional or statutory bar on appointing a retired Supreme Court judge as the Chairperson of the NCSC. Such appointments are made by the President based on eminence and integrity.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Article 338A(4) empowers the President, by rules, to determine the conditions of service and tenure of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and other members of the NCST. Parliament does not fix these conditions by law.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: A person who has already served two terms as a member of a commission is not eligible for further appointment, including as Chairperson.

3) With reference to White Dwarfs, consider the following statements:

1. White dwarfs are compact stellar remnants formed from stars that were originally far more massive than the Sun.
2. They remain stable against gravitational collapse due to electron degeneracy pressure.
3. The Chandrasekhar Limit specifies the upper mass limit beyond which a white dwarf cannot remain stable.

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: White dwarfs originate from low- to intermediate-mass stars, comparable to the Sun. Very massive stars instead evolve into neutron stars or black holes following supernova explosions.
 - Statement 2 is correct: In the absence of nuclear fusion, white dwarfs are supported by electron degeneracy pressure, a quantum mechanical effect arising from the Pauli Exclusion Principle.
 - Statement 3 is correct: The Chandrasekhar Limit, approximately 1.4 solar masses, represents the maximum mass a white dwarf can possess before becoming unstable, potentially leading to collapse or a Type Ia supernova.
- 4) **With reference to bioerosion, consider the following statements:**
1. Bioerosion refers to a form of physical erosion caused by the activities of living organisms.
 2. The growth of plant roots can lead to bioerosion by widening cracks and fractures in rocks.
 3. Bioerosion is restricted only to plant activity and does not involve animals or microorganisms.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: Bioerosion is a type of physical weathering and erosion brought about by living organisms.
 - Statement 2 is correct: Plant roots penetrate rock crevices, exert pressure, and gradually cause rock disintegration.
 - Statement 3 is incorrect: Bioerosion is not confined to plants; animals (e.g., burrowing organisms) and marine organisms (e.g., mollusks, sponges) also significantly contribute to this process.
- 5) **Consider the following statements regarding the Kandha tribe and their tradition of facial tattooing:**
1. Statement-I: The practice of facial tattooing among Kandha women originated primarily as an aesthetic tradition to enhance marital eligibility and signify tribal identity.
 2. Statement-II: The decline in the facial tattooing tradition among younger Kandha women is largely attributed to increased education, awareness campaigns, and a shift in cultural perceptions of relevance and protection.

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: d)

Explanation:

- Statement-I: Incorrect – Facial tattooing among Kandha women originated as a protective measure, to make women appear unattractive and prevent sexual exploitation by landlords and colonial authorities. Later, it became associated with tribal identity and marital eligibility, but protection was its primary purpose.
- Statement-II: Correct – The tradition has largely disappeared among women under 40 due to education, awareness campaigns, and changing cultural perceptions, reducing the perceived need for protection or identity marking.

6) What is the primary objective of the “Mission 100% Railway Electrification” undertaken by Indian Railways?

- a) To convert all broad-gauge railway lines into dedicated high-speed rail corridors
- b) To introduce electric double-decker train connectivity to all North-Eastern State capitals
- c) To transfer freight train operations entirely to private operators
- d) To phase out diesel traction in order to reduce carbon emissions and dependence on imported fuels

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Mission 100% Railway Electrification seeks to eliminate diesel-based traction from the Indian Railways network. By shifting to electric traction, the initiative aims to cut carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency, and reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels.
 - Electric trains also lower operating costs and support India’s broader goal of developing a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable railway system.
- 7) Consider the following statements with reference to the Census of India, 2027:**
1. Statement I: The Census 2027 will be India’s first synchronous decennial census conducted after a gap of more than ten years.
 2. Statement II: The 2027 Census proposes to introduce a self-enumeration mechanism, enabling citizens to submit their details digitally.

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 of Statement I
- b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of 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: India last conducted a synchronous census in 2011. The scheduled 2021 Census was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in a prolonged gap. Hence, the 2027 Census marks the resumption of the decennial exercise.
- Statement II is correct: The upcoming census introduces a digital self-enumeration facility for the first time, allowing individuals to provide information through an online platform or mobile application.
- However, the digital self-enumeration feature does not explain the delay in conducting the census; the delay was caused by pandemic-related disruptions.

8) **The Eastern Ice Shelf (TEIS), which has recently drawn attention due to its rapid fracturing and structural weakening, is the floating ice shelf associated with which of the following?**

- a) Greenland Ice Sheet
- b) Lambert Glacier
- c) Thwaites Glacier
- d) Pine Island Glacier

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Eastern Ice Shelf (TEIS) forms the floating extension of the Thwaites Glacier, often referred to as the Doomsday Glacier, located in West Antarctica.
- It functions as a natural braking mechanism for the glacier as it is stabilized by an undersea ridge called a pinning point, which restricts the rapid flow of ice into the Amundsen Sea.
- Recent observations indicate the development of large fractures within TEIS. The potential collapse of this ice shelf would eliminate the pinning effect, enabling the glacier to discharge ice more rapidly into the ocean, thereby significantly accelerating global sea-level rise.

9) **Which one of the following best describes the primary role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)?**

- a) To exclusively design and develop nuclear weapons for its member states.
- b) To promote the safe, secure, and peaceful use of nuclear technology and prevent nuclear proliferation.
- c) To control and regulate international trade in uranium and plutonium.
- d) To own, manage, and operate nuclear power plants across the world.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Option (a) is incorrect. The IAEA's mandate is to prevent nuclear weapon proliferation, not to develop nuclear weapons.
- Option (b) is correct. The IAEA functions as the world's nuclear watchdog, promoting the peaceful, safe, and secure use of nuclear energy while implementing safeguards to ensure nuclear materials are not diverted for military purposes. It is often referred to as the "Atoms for Peace and Development" agency.

- Option (c) is incorrect. The IAEA does not regulate global nuclear trade; its safeguards only verify non-diversion of nuclear materials.
- Option (d) is incorrect. The Agency does not operate nuclear power plants; it only sets safety standards and provides technical assistance and inspections.

10) Consider the following statements regarding United Nations Peacekeeping Operations:

1. UN Peacekeeping missions are invariably authorized to use offensive military force to compel compliance with peace agreements.
2. Impartiality in UN Peacekeeping implies complete neutrality, preventing peacekeepers from acting against any party even when mandated to do so.
3. The UN Security Council both authorizes and directly controls the financial allocation and disbursement for peacekeeping missions.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect. UN Peacekeeping is guided by the principle of non-use of force except in self-defence or defence of the mandate. Although some missions have robust mandates under Chapter VII, peacekeeping is distinct from peace enforcement, and routine offensive operations are not its defining feature.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Peacekeeping is based on impartiality, not neutrality. While peacekeepers do not favor any party, they are required to act firmly against those violating the mandate, including protecting civilians and responding to spoilers of the peace process.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The UN General Assembly approves the peacekeeping budget and member states contribute based on assessed contributions. The Security Council authorizes missions but does not manage or disburse funds directly.

11) Consider the following functionaries in the context of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC):

1. Chief of Defence Staff
2. Secretary, Defence Research and Development
3. Minister of State for Defence (Raksha Rajya Mantri)
4. Union Finance Minister

Which of the above are members of the Defence Acquisition Council?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Defence Acquisition Council is chaired by the Raksha Mantri and includes the Ministers of State for Defence, the Chief of Defence Staff, and the Chiefs of the three Armed Services.
- Its bureaucratic members include the Defence Secretary, Secretary (Defence Production), Secretary (Defence R&D)—who also heads DRDO—and Secretary (Defence Finance).
- The Union Finance Minister is not a member of the DAC; financial inputs are provided through the Secretary (Defence Finance).

12) Consider the following statements regarding the Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) of the Indian Air Force:

1. IACCS was indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
2. The system integrates inputs only from military radar systems and airborne surveillance platforms.
3. A key capability of IACCS is to generate a unified air situation picture enabling centralised control and decentralised execution of air defence operations.
4. IACCS is designed mainly to counter conventional aircraft and cannot effectively handle drone or missile threats.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect. IACCS was developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), not exclusively by DRDO.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. IACCS integrates data from military and civilian radars, AWACS/AEW&C platforms, and networked aircraft, providing a comprehensive air picture.
- Statement 3 is correct. It enables a real-time common air picture, allowing centralised command with decentralised operational response.
- Statement 4 is incorrect. IACCS can detect and respond to aircraft, drones, and missile threats, and is designed to be future-ready for advanced aerial challenges.

13) Consider the following statements regarding the Official Secrets Act, 1923 (OSA):

1. The Act exclusively criminalizes spying activities undertaken by foreign nationals on Indian soil.
2. Wrongful communication of sensitive information under Section 5 of the OSA is punishable only if it is proven to be intentional.

3. Prosecutions under the OSA must always be conducted in open court to ensure transparency.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Incorrect – The OSA applies to any individual, including Indian citizens, government officials, civilians, and foreign nationals. It is not limited to foreigners.
- Statement 2: Incorrect – Section 5 punishes wrongful communication even if unintentional or due to negligence; intent is not required to establish liability.
- Statement 3: Incorrect – Prosecutions can be held in-camera to protect national security; open court is not mandatory.

14) Which of the following best explains why the LICONN (Light-Microscopy-Based Connectomics) technique is considered a major breakthrough in neuroscience?

- a) It enables real-time decoding of human thoughts and emotions.
- b) It allows nanoscale mapping of neuronal connections using conventional light microscopy, earlier possible mainly with electron microscopy.
- c) It employs MRI to construct 3D vascular maps of the brain.
- d) It enables regeneration of damaged neurons in the central nervous system.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- LICONN is significant because it enables synapse-level mapping of neuronal connections at nanoscale resolution using light microscopes, a feat earlier limited to electron microscopy.
- It achieves this by expanding brain tissue using hydrogels, applying fluorescent labeling, and using AI-based image analysis, making connectomics more accessible and scalable.

15) With reference to 2D Metals, consider the following statements:

1. 2D metals are metallic layers about 10–20 atoms thick, in which electrons can move freely in three dimensions.
2. They can be fabricated by melting metal powder between graphene-coated silicon plates under normal atmospheric pressure.

3. Certain 2D metals show topological insulating behavior, making them useful for quantum computing and advanced photodetectors.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect. True 2D metals are atomically thin (around 1–2 atoms thick), where electron motion is confined to two dimensions, unlike thicker metallic films.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The reported fabrication method involves melting metal between MoS₂-coated sapphire plates under very high pressure, not graphene-coated silicon plates under ambient conditions.
- Statement 3 is correct. Some 2D metals (e.g., bismuth, tin) exhibit topological insulating properties, making them promising for quantum computing and high-efficiency optoelectronic devices.

Thank You

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