

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 Government of India Act, 1858:

1. Statement I: The Government of India Act, 1858, significantly altered the administrative structure of governance in India.
2. Statement II: The Act abolished the East India Company and transferred the powers of government, territories, and revenues to the British Crown.
3. Statement III: The Act introduced the portfolio system for more convenient transaction of business in the Viceroy's Council.

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

- a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them 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 II is correct: The Act of 1858, passed after the Revolt of 1857, abolished the East India Company and transferred all governmental powers, territories, and revenues directly to the British Crown. This transfer of power was the primary reason for the significant changes in India's administrative structure mentioned in Statement I.

- Statement III is incorrect: The portfolio system, where specific departments are assigned to members of the Viceroy's Council, was formally introduced only by the Indian Councils Act of 1861. Although Lord Canning started it informally in 1859, it was not part of the 1858 Act.
-

2) Consider the following statements regarding the presiding officers of the Rajya Sabha:

1. When the offices of both the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman are vacant, a member from the 'Panel of Vice-Chairpersons' presides over the sitting of the House.
2. While presiding over the House, the Deputy Chairman possesses the same powers as the Chairman, and his rulings cannot be appealed against to the Chairman.
3. The salary and allowances of the Deputy Chairman are fixed by Parliament and are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c) Explanation:

- Statement 1: Incorrect – In case of vacancy (not absence), the duties of the Chairman are performed by a member of the House appointed by the President. The Panel of Vice-Chairpersons only presides during the absence of the Chairman/Deputy Chairman.
 - Statement 2: Correct – The Deputy Chairman is not subordinate to the Chairman; they are directly responsible to the House and hold full presiding powers when in the Chair.
 - Statement 3: Correct – Their salaries are determined by Parliament and are "charged" (non-votable) on the Consolidated Fund of India.
-

3) Which of the following pollutants are monitored under the National Air Quality Index (AQI) in India?

1. Particulate Matter (PM10)
2. Ammonia (NH3)

3. Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)
4. Lead (Pb)
5. Methane (CH₄)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The AQI monitors 8 pollutants: PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Ozone (O₃), Ammonia (NH₃), and Lead (Pb).
- Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) and Methane (CH₄) are greenhouse gases but are not among the 8 pollutants used to calculate the AQI.

4) Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND):

1. It is the central drug-policymaking body within the United Nations system.
2. It is a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
3. India has never been elected as a member of this commission.

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: b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct – The CND assists the ECOSOC in supervising the application of international drug control treaties.
 - Statement 2: Correct – It is indeed one of the functional commissions of ECOSOC.
 - Statement 3: Incorrect – India has a long history of participation and has been elected as a member of the CND multiple times, including recent terms
-

5) Regarding the 'Special Drawing Rights' (SDR) of the IMF, consider the following statements:

1. It is an international reserve asset created by the IMF to supplement its member countries' official reserves.
2. The value of the SDR is based on a basket of five currencies: US Dollar, Euro, Chinese Renminbi, Japanese Yen, and British Pound Sterling.
3. SDRs can be held and used by private entities and individuals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct – SDRs act as a potential claim on the freely usable currencies of IMF members.
- Statement 2: Correct – The "basket" currently consists of these five major currencies.
- Statement 3: Incorrect – SDRs are held only by central banks and designated international institutions; they are not for private use or individual ownership.

6) Regarding the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by India during its G20 Presidency in 2023.
2. Its primary goal is to facilitate the adoption of biofuels globally.
3. The United States and Brazil are among the founding members.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c) Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct – Launched at the G20 Summit in New Delhi.
- Statement 2: Correct – It serves as a platform for sharing best practices and accelerating the deployment of biofuels.
- Statement 3: Correct – India, the US, and Brazil (the world's leading biofuel producers) are the key founding members.

7) With reference to 'Blue Carbon', consider the following statements:

1. It refers to the carbon captured by the world's ocean and coastal ecosystems.
2. Mangroves, salt marshes, and seagrasses are highly efficient at sequestering blue carbon.
3. Blue carbon ecosystems sequester much less carbon per unit area than terrestrial forests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a) Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct – This is carbon stored in marine and coastal biomass and sediments.
 - Statement 2: Correct – These "blue" ecosystems are among the most carbon-rich on the planet.
 - Statement 3: Incorrect – Per unit area, coastal ecosystems like mangroves can sequester up to ten times more carbon than terrestrial tropical forests.
-

8) Which of the following best describes the 'Blue Line' in the context of West Asian geopolitics?

- (a) A maritime boundary between Israel and Lebanon in the Mediterranean Sea.
- (b) The natural boundary formed by the Litani River separating northern and southern Lebanon.
- (c) A buffer zone created by the 2026 ceasefire deal extending 10 km into Israel.
- (d) A 120 km border demarcation established by the UN between Israel and Lebanon.

Solution: D

- The Blue Line is a critical geopolitical marker in the Levant. It is a 120 km border line published by the United Nations in the year 2000 for the purposes of determining whether Israel had fully withdrawn from Lebanon. It is not a formal international border but acts as a "line of withdrawal."
- Option (a) is incorrect as the Blue Line is a terrestrial demarcation, although maritime disputes do exist between the two nations. Option (c) is incorrect because the 10 km buffer zone mentioned in the April 2026 ceasefire deal is located inside southern Lebanon, not Israel, and is intended to prevent Hezbollah incursions.
- Option (b) is incorrect; while the Litani River is a strategic landmark and the longest river in Lebanon, it is located entirely within Lebanese territory and does not define the international boundary itself.

The 2026 ceasefire is historically significant as it represents the first time these two nations, technically in a state of war, have engaged in direct diplomatic talks, moving beyond the mere observation of the Blue Line toward a potential negotiated settlement.

- 9) The 'Kar Saathi' platform, recently in the news, is primarily associated with:
- a) Providing a unified interface for indirect tax compliance and GST filing.
 - b) A digital portal for the distribution of subsidies to small and marginal farmers.
 - c) Assisting start-ups in navigating corporate tax exemptions under the Startup India scheme.
 - d) Facilitating round-the-clock AI-based assistance for direct tax-related resources.

Answer: d)

- Kar Saathi is a dedicated initiative of the Income Tax Department (Direct Taxes). It acts as a one-stop guidance portal that brings together resources like ITR forms, challans, and e-verification. Its primary feature is the 24x7 AI-based chatbot which handles taxpayer queries instantly. It is not related to GST (Indirect Tax) or general farmer subsidies. The platform is part of a broader technology-driven governance strategy to reduce the compliance burden on citizens and modernize the interaction between the tax department and the taxpayer, specifically looking forward to the implementation of the Income Tax Act, 2025.

10) Which of the following countries share a land border with Zambia?

- 1. Angola
- 2. Tanzania
- 3. South Africa
- 4. Democratic Republic of the Congo
- 5. Botswana

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

- Zambia is a landlocked country in south-central Africa with a distinctive butterfly shape.
- To its west lies Angola.

- To the north, it is bordered by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (separated by the Congo Pedicle).
 - To the northeast is Tanzania. To the east is Malawi, and to the southeast is Mozambique. To the south, it shares borders with Zimbabwe (separated by the Zambezi River), Botswana, and Namibia (the Caprivi Strip).
-

11) With reference to Coal Gasification, which of the following are the primary by-products of the process?

1. Slag
2. Elemental Sulfur
3. Fly Ash
4. Carbon Dioxide

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

In Coal Gasification, the goal is to produce syngas, but the process also yields several valuable or manageable by-products.

Slag (Statement 1) is a glass-like solid residue left after the coal's mineral matter is melted at high temperatures. Unlike the "fly ash" produced in traditional combustion, slag is non-leachable and is widely used in construction and road building.

Elemental Sulfur (Statement 2) is recovered during the syngas cleaning process. Because sulfur is removed before the gas is burned, it can be captured in its pure form and sold for industrial use, such as in fertilizer production.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) (Statement 4) is also a by-product. However, in a gasification plant, the CO₂ is produced at high pressure and in a concentrated stream, making it much easier and cheaper to capture for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) compared to traditional plants.

Fly ash (Statement 3) is typically associated with traditional coal combustion (burning coal in air), where fine particles are carried away by flue gases. While some particulate matter is filtered in

gasification, “slag” is the characteristic solid by-product of the high-temperature gasification process.

12) With reference to the ‘Exercise DUSTLIK’, consider the following statements:

1. It is an annual bilateral exercise conducted between the Indian Army and the Uzbekistan Armed Forces.
2. The exercise focuses primarily on maritime security and counter-piracy operations in the Indian Ocean Region.

Which of the above statements are incorrect?

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

Answer : B

Statement 1 is correct as DUSTLIK is the premier bilateral training event between India and Uzbekistan. It signifies India’s “Connect Central Asia” policy and military cooperation with a key regional player.

Statement 2 is incorrect because the exercise is land-based. Uzbekistan is a doubly landlocked country; thus, the training focuses on land navigation, strike missions, and seizure of bases rather than maritime operations.

The 2026 edition at the Gurumsaray Field Training Area emphasizes “Joint Special Operations” to neutralize “Unlawful Armed Groups.” The semi-mountainous terrain of Uzbekistan provides a realistic environment for both forces to share Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs). The exercise also involves Air Force components, highlighting inter-service synergy in complex tactical environments.

LASMANIA.COM