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1) Consider the following statements regarding the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women:

1. It is a Joint Parliamentary Committee comprising members from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
2. The tenure of the committee does not exceed one year and it is reconstituted annually.
3. The Chairperson of the committee is a Member of Parliament rather than a Union Minister.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c) All three

Explanation:

The Committee on Empowerment of Women is structured as a **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** with representation from both Houses of Parliament. It consists of **18 members from Lok Sabha and 10 members from Rajya Sabha**, making Statement 1 correct.

Statement 2 is correct because the committee is **reconstituted every year**, and its tenure does not exceed one year.

Statement 3 is also correct because the **Chairperson is a Member of Parliament**, while ministers are generally excluded from parliamentary oversight committees to maintain accountability.

2) **Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF):**

1. It was established by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as a permanent subsidiary functional commission.
2. It has universal membership comprising all UN Member States.
3. It serves as a global platform dealing with all types of forests.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c) All three

Explanation:

The UNFF was established in **2000 by ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35** as a permanent subsidiary functional commission, making Statement 1 correct.

Statement 2 is correct because the UNFF follows **universal membership**, involving all UN Member States.

Statement 3 is also correct as it is the only global forum addressing **all categories of forests**, ensuring integrated forest governance.

3) **The prominent coffee economy of Uganda and its agricultural productivity around Lake Victoria are mainly supported by which of the following natural factors?**

- (a) Fertile deep red lateritic soils with interior plateau topography
- (b) Thick alluvial deposits of the Albert Nile
- (c) Sandy soils supported through artesian irrigation
- (d) Podzolic soils associated with alpine glaciation

Correct Answer: (a) Fertile deep red lateritic soils with interior plateau topography

Explanation:

Uganda's agriculture is closely linked to its **interior plateau topography** and **fertile deep red lateritic soils**.

The areas around **Lake Victoria** receive reliable rainfall and possess highly productive soils, supporting the country's coffee economy.

Thus, agricultural productivity is mainly linked to lateritic soils rather than Nile alluvium or glacial soils.

4) **With reference to medieval history, the Bhojshala complex at Dhar is associated with which of the following dynasties?**

- (a) Chandela dynasty
- (b) Paramara dynasty
- (c) Solanki dynasty
- (d) Kalachuri dynasty

Correct Answer: (b) Paramara dynasty

Explanation:

The Bhojshala complex at Dhar was established under **Raja Bhoja**, the most celebrated ruler of the **Paramara dynasty**.

Dhar served as the capital of the Paramaras and emerged as an important centre of Sanskrit learning and culture during medieval India.

Hence, the monument is closely associated with the Paramara dynasty.

5) **With reference to the Ganges Soft-Shell Turtle (*Nilssonina gangetica*), consider the following statements:**

1. It occurs across the Indus, Ganga, Mahanadi and Brahmaputra river systems.
2. It prefers rapid mountain streams with rocky substrates.
3. It is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
4. It is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c) Only three

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct because the turtle is distributed across major river systems including the **Indus, Ganga, Mahanadi and Brahmaputra basins**.

Statement 2 is incorrect as it prefers **deep rivers, wetlands and muddy-bottom habitats**, rather than rocky mountain streams.

Statements 3 and 4 are correct because it is classified as **Endangered** and protected under **Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.

6) Which atmospheric condition mainly triggers pre-monsoon 'Andhi' storms?

- (a) Collision of stable continental air masses
- (b) Sudden land-surface cooling caused by easterly jet streams
- (c) Intense surface heating combined with moisture influx and upper-air instability
- (d) Maritime thermal inversion and horizontal pressure gradient

Correct Answer: (c) Intense surface heating combined with moisture influx and upper-air instability

Explanation:

'Andhi' is a pre-monsoon convective storm caused by **intense summer heating**, creating low pressure over northern India.

Moisture inflow from the **Bay of Bengal** and upper-level instability further strengthen convection, producing violent dust storms and thunderstorms.

7) Which of the following can be symptoms of Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) in wildlife?

1. Thickening of paw pads (Hard pad disease)

2. Watery discharge from eyes and nose
3. Muscle twitches and jaw seizures
4. Sudden increase in appetite and weight gain

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Correct Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct because **hard pad disease** is a classic symptom of CDV.

Statement 2 is correct as infected animals often show **watery discharge from eyes and nose**.

Statement 3 is also correct because neurological symptoms include **myoclonus and jaw seizures**.

Statement 4 is incorrect as infected animals usually suffer **loss of appetite and weakness**, not weight gain.

8) **Consider the following statements regarding the Komagata Maru incident:**

Statement-I: The Komagata Maru incident intensified the Ghadar movement in India and abroad.

Statement-II: The incident reflected equal treatment of British subjects throughout the Empire.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and II explains I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct but II is not the explanation
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Correct Answer: (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect

Explanation:

Statement-I is correct because the Komagata Maru incident strengthened the **Ghadar movement** and intensified anti-colonial sentiments.

Statement-II is incorrect as the incident exposed **racial discrimination within the British Empire**, rather than equal treatment of subjects.

9) **With reference to India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a wholly Government-owned entity under the Department of Posts.
2. It uses India Stack architecture for digital banking services.
3. It can provide loans and issue credit cards.
4. It uses Postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks for doorstep banking.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c) Only three

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct because IPPB is a **100% Government-owned entity** under the Department of Posts.

Statement 2 is correct as it uses **India Stack** for paperless and presence-less banking.

Statement 3 is incorrect because payments banks **cannot provide loans or issue credit cards** under RBI norms.

Statement 4 is correct as IPPB uses **Postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks** for doorstep banking services.

10) **Which of the following constitute the mandate and functions of the Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women?**

1. Reviewing reports of the National Commission for Women (NCW)
2. Examining implementation of women welfare and safety schemes
3. Assisting in direct execution of gender budgeting allocations
4. Evaluating measures ensuring equality and dignity for women

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Correct Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct because the committee reviews reports submitted by the **National Commission for Women (NCW)**.

Statement 2 is correct as it examines implementation of welfare and safety schemes for women.

Statement 4 is correct because it reviews measures related to **equality, dignity and status of women**.

Statement 3 is incorrect as the committee performs an **oversight role** and does not directly execute budgets or programmes.

11) **With reference to the 2026 Ebola outbreak declared as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), consider the following statements:**

1. Ebola outbreaks generally originate through zoonotic transmission involving contact with infected wild animals and their bodily fluids.
2. Individuals infected with the Bundibugyo strain can transmit the virus during the incubation period before symptoms appear.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct because Ebola outbreaks usually begin through **zoonotic spillover events**, involving contact with infected wild animals such as **fruit bats, primates, and other forest animals**. Human infection occurs through exposure to blood, secretions, or other bodily fluids.

Statement 2 is incorrect because Ebola, including the **Bundibugyo strain**, is **not transmitted during the incubation period**. Transmission begins only after symptoms such as fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, or bleeding appear.

12) Which of the following best reflects the constitutional position regarding the ordinance-making power of the Executive in India?

- (a) It is an independent legislative power allowing the Executive to bypass parliamentary deadlock.
- (b) It is a co-extensive legislative power meant for urgent situations during legislative recess and subject to the same constitutional limitations as parliamentary laws.
- (c) It gives the President absolute authority to override statutes with Cabinet approval.
- (d) It permits temporary suspension of constitutional provisions during administrative emergencies.

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The ordinance-making power under **Articles 123 and 213** is intended to meet **urgent legislative needs when Parliament or State Legislature is not in session**.

Option (b) is correct because an ordinance has the **same force as an Act**, but remains subject to the **same constitutional limitations** and legislative competence.

The power is not independent, immune from judicial review, or capable of suspending constitutional provisions.

13) An administrative region in India possesses the following characteristics:

1. It is located in a plateau region with rain-shadow conditions and extreme summer temperatures reaching nearly 50°C.
2. Its river system is mainly sustained by the North Koel and Burha rivers.
3. It was among the original reserves established under Project Tiger in 1974.

Identify the conservation area referred to above:

- (a) Betla National Park / Palamu Tiger Reserve
- (b) Similipal Biosphere Reserve
- (c) Indravati Tiger Reserve
- (d) Valmiki National Park

Correct Answer: (a) Betla National Park / Palamu Tiger Reserve

Explanation:

The features correspond to the **Palamu Tiger Reserve** in Jharkhand. It lies in the **Chhotanagpur Plateau**, experiences severe climatic variability with temperatures touching **50°C**, and remains drought-prone due to rain-shadow conditions.

Its hydrology is supported mainly by the **North Koel and Burha rivers**. The reserve also holds historical importance as one of the **first nine tiger reserves created under Project Tiger in 1974**, with **Betla National Park** forming its core area.