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1) With reference to the Santhal Hul of 1855, consider the following statements:

1. The revolt was led by Sidho, Kanho, Chand, and Bhairav Murmu along with women leaders Phulo and Jhano.
2. The Santhals revolted against British imperialists only, and not against Indian feudal structures.
3. The uprising contributed to later enactments like the Santhal Parganas Tenancy Act, 1876 and the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act, 1908 to protect tribal rights.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 ✓: Leaders included Sidho Murmu, Kanho Murmu along with Phulo and Jhano.
- Statement 2 ✗: Revolt was against **British + zamindars + moneylenders**, not only British.
- Statement 3 ✓: Led to protective tenancy laws for tribals.

2) With reference to the song “Vande Mataram”, consider the following statements:

1. It was originally published in the journal Bangadarshan in 1875, of which Bankim Chandra Chatterjee was the founder editor.

2. It was later included in the novel Anandamath, which is set against the backdrop of the Sanyasi Rebellion and the Bengal famine of 1770.
3. It was set to music by Rabindranath Tagore, who also sang it at the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress.
4. The Constitution of India explicitly accords Vande Mataram the same constitutional status as the National Anthem under Article 51A(a).

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) One only
- (b) Two only
- (c) Three only
- (d) All four

**Answer: (c) Three only**

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 ✓: Published in *Bangadarshan*.
- Statement 2 ✓: Included in Anandamath.
- Statement 3 ✓: Sung by Rabindranath Tagore in 1896 INC session.
- Statement 4 ✗: No equal constitutional status; it is **National Song**, not under Article 51A.

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**3) With reference to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, consider the following statements:**

1. The CAG is appointed by the President of India and holds office for a fixed term of 5 years or until the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
2. The powers and duties of the CAG are prescribed under the Constitution of India as well as the CAG (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971.
3. After retirement, the CAG is eligible for reappointment in any Central or State government office.
4. The procedure for removal of the CAG is the same as that of a Supreme Court judge.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: (b) 2 and 4 only**

**Explanation:**

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is a key authority for **financial accountability**.

- **Statement 1 ❌**:  
The CAG holds office for **6 years or until the age of 65 years**, whichever is earlier (not 5 years).
- **Statement 2 ✔**:  
Powers and duties are defined under:
  - Articles 148–151 of Constitution
  - **CAG Act, 1971**
- **Statement 3 ❌**:  
CAG is **not eligible for further office** after retirement → ensures independence.
- **Statement 4 ✔**:  
Removal process is same as a **Supreme Court judge** → by Parliament through special majority.

👉 Correct: **2 and 4 only**

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4) **With reference to Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. It is a treaty-based organization with enforcement powers like the International Criminal Court (ICC).
2. Its recommendations are legally binding on all members.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: (d) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Explanation:**

The Financial Action Task Force combats **money laundering & terror financing**.

- **Statement 1 ❌**:  
FATF is **not treaty-based** and has **no enforcement powers**.
- **Statement 2 ❌**:  
Its recommendations are **not legally binding**, but countries comply due to pressure (grey/black list).

👉 Both incorrect.

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5) With reference to the 'Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India', consider the following statements:

1. It was introduced through the 91st Amendment Act of 2003.
2. An independent legislator can be disqualified if he joins any political party after being elected.
3. The decisions made by the Speaker are subject to judicial review.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) All of the above

**Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

The Tenth Schedule deals with defection.

- **Statement 1 ❌:**  
Introduced by **52nd Amendment Act, 1985**, not 91st.
- **Statement 2 ✔:**  
Independent MLA/MP joining party → disqualification.
- **Statement 3 ✔:**  
Supreme Court in **Kihoto Hollohan case** allowed judicial review.

👉 Correct: 2 and 3

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6) An increase in the Repo Rate by the Reserve Bank of India is likely to have the following impacts on the economy?

1. Increase in the cost of borrowing for commercial banks.
2. Decrease in the lending rates offered by commercial banks
3. Potential decrease in aggregate demand.
4. Increased incentive for commercial banks to borrow from the RBI.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

**Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

The Repo Rate is the rate at which RBI lends to banks.

- **Statement 1 ✓ :**  
Higher repo → borrowing cost increases.
- **Statement 2 ✗ :**  
Lending rates **increase**, not decrease.
- **Statement 3 ✓ :**  
Higher rates → less borrowing → lower demand.
- **Statement 4 ✗ :**  
Banks avoid borrowing when cost rises.

👉 Correct: 1 and 3

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**7) With reference to India's Coal Sector, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. India has the third-largest coal reserves in the world.
2. Coal contributes around 55% to the energy mix and powers over 74% of electricity generation in India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 ✓ :**  
India has **3rd largest coal reserves globally**.
- **Statement 2 ✓ :**  
Coal dominates:
  - ~55% energy mix
  - ~70–75% electricity generation

👉 Both correct.

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**8) With reference to the India's Space Sector, consider the following statements:**

1. India's space economy contributes 2-3% of the global space economy, and this is expected to rise to 8% by 2030.
2. IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center) is an autonomous single-window agency responsible for facilitating technology transfer from ISRO to private players.

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) Both 1 and 2**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 ✓ :**  
India's share ~2–3%, target ~8% by 2030.
- **Statement 2 ✓ :**  
IN-SPACe:
  - Promotes private participation
  - Enables tech transfer from ISRO

👉 Both correct.

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**9) Match the following vultures found in India with their IUCN Red List status:**

List I (Species) List II (IUCN Status)

- a. Oriental White-backed Vulture 1. Critically Endangered
- b. Egyptian Vulture 2. Endangered
- c. Indian Griffon Vulture 3. Least Concern
- d. Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier) 4. Near Threatened

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

**Answer: (a) a–1, b–2, c–3, d–4**

**Explanation:**

- Oriental white-backed → Critically Endangered ✓
- Egyptian vulture → Endangered ✓
- Indian griffon → Least Concern ✓
- Bearded vulture → Near Threatened ✓

👉 Correct matching: option (a)

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**10) With reference to Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), consider the following statements:**

1. CCS involves capturing carbon dioxide emissions from industrial processes and power plants and storing them underground in geological formations.
2. The Earth's underground formations can safely store an unlimited amount of CO<sub>2</sub>.
3. The high cost of infrastructure, including pipelines for transporting CO<sub>2</sub>, is a major barrier to large-scale deployment of CCS.
4. Leakage, corrosion, and degradation risks are associated with CCS storage sites.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: (b) 1, 3 and 4 only**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1** ✓ :  
Carbon Capture and Storage captures and stores CO<sub>2</sub> underground.
- **Statement 2** ✗ :  
Storage capacity is **limited**, not unlimited.
- **Statement 3** ✓ :  
High infrastructure cost is major barrier.
- **Statement 4** ✓ :  
Risks include leakage and corrosion.

👉 Correct: 1, 3, 4

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**11) Consider the following statements with reference to manure and organic farming:**

1. Vermicompost is rich in organic matter and nutrients.
2. Biofertilizers and bio-pesticides are not used in organic farming.
3. Crop rotation is beneficial in controlling insects, pests and weeds.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is correct: Vermicompost enhances soil fertility.
  - Statement 2 is incorrect: Organic farming **relies heavily** on biofertilizers and biopesticides.
  - Statement 3 is correct: Crop rotation reduces pest cycles and improves soil nutrients.
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**12) Which of the following countries were the founding members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), established in 1985?**

1. India
2. Nepal
3. Maldives
4. Afghanistan

Select the answer using the codes given below:

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

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

**Explanation:**

- Founding members (1985): India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan
- Afghanistan joined later in **2007**  
Hence only 1, 2, 3 correct.

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**13) Match List-I with List-II and select the answer using the codes given below the Lists:**

List-I (Forest type):

- A. Tropical Moist Forest
- B. Littoral and Swamp Forest
- C. Tropical Thorn Forest
- D. Alpine Forest

List-II (Species):

- 1. Kail
- 2. Khair
- 3. Sonneratia
- 4. Rosewood

Codes:

A B C D

- (a) 4 3 2 1
- (b) 4 2 3 1
- (c) 1 2 3 4
- (d) 1 3 2 4

**Answer: (a) 4 3 2 1**

**Explanation:**

- Tropical Moist → Rosewood
  - Littoral → Sonneratia (mangrove species)
  - Thorn → Khair
  - Alpine → Kail
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