

1) Consider the following statements regarding the Index of Services Production (ISP):

1. The Index of Services Production (ISP) is a high-frequency macroeconomic indicator used to measure changes in the real output of the services sector.
2. The ISP directly uses nominal GST turnover data without adjusting for price changes while estimating production trends.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Both 1 and 2 are correct, and 2 is the correct explanation of 1
- (b) Both 1 and 2 are correct, but 2 is not the correct explanation of 1
- (c) 1 is correct, but 2 is incorrect
- (d) 1 is incorrect, but 2 is correct

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The ISP measures real changes in services sector output and functions as a short-term economic indicator. However, GST turnover data are first **deflated using appropriate price indices** (such as WPI or CPI) to estimate real production, rather than using nominal values directly.

2) The *Sushruta Samhita* is regarded as a landmark text in ancient Indian surgery primarily because it emphasized:

- (a) Memorization of sacred hymns before medical practice
- (b) Practical surgical training through simulated operations on non-living objects
- (c) Treatment of only internal diseases through herbal medicine
- (d) Surgical training exclusively through animal experimentation

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The Sushruta Samhita prescribed **hands-on surgical practice** on objects such as fruits, clay models, and stuffed materials before operating on patients. This practical approach distinguished it from many other ancient medical traditions.

3) Consider the following statements:

1. An Indian passport is primarily a travel document and is not conclusive proof of Indian citizenship.
2. Passports are issued after verification by the Ministry of External Affairs and security agencies.

3. Indian citizenship is legally determined under the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Statements 2 and 3 are correct, and both explain Statement 1
- (b) Statements 2 and 3 are correct, but only Statement 3 explains Statement 1
- (c) Only one of Statements 2 and 3 is correct, and it explains Statement 1
- (d) Neither Statement 2 nor Statement 3 is correct

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

A passport facilitates international travel but is **not definitive proof of citizenship**. While security verification is carried out before issuing a passport, citizenship is legally governed by the **Citizenship Act, 1955**, making Statement 3 the correct explanation.

4) **Consider the following statements:**

- 1. A passport primarily facilitates international travel and consular assistance.
- 2. E-passports eliminate the need for immigration and border checks.
- 3. Citizenship verification is based on statutory civil registration records.

Which of the following inferences can be drawn?

- 1. Administrative documents are defined by their statutory purpose.
- 2. Digitization removes national border controls.
- 3. Legal identity is fundamentally based on civil registration.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer: (d)

Explanation:

A passport serves a specific legal purpose of international travel. Although e-passports improve processing efficiency, they **do not eliminate border controls**. Civil registration remains the legal basis for citizenship verification.

5) The strategic significance of the **Lipulekh Pass** arises primarily because it:

- (a) Connects peninsular India with Central Asia through a low-altitude corridor
- (b) Lies at a high-altitude trijunction connecting India, Nepal and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China
- (c) Serves as the only glacier-free maritime route between South Asia and the Arctic
- (d) Functions as a navigable river corridor across the Himalayas

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Lipulekh Pass is a **high-altitude Himalayan pass** located near the **India–Nepal–China trijunction**. It is strategically important for border management, trade, and the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage.

6) Consider the following statements regarding the BHARATI programme:

1. It has been launched by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).
2. It seeks to strengthen India's agricultural exports with the objective of achieving USD 50 billion in APEDA exports by 2030.
3. The programme primarily focuses on expanding the public distribution system for food grains.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) All three statements are correct
- (b) None of the statements is correct
- (c) Only Statements 1 and 2 are correct
- (d) Only one statement is correct

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

BHARATI is an **APEDA initiative** aimed at promoting export-oriented startups and innovation. It supports agritech and export readiness rather than public food grain distribution.

7) The composition of the first cohort under the **BHARATI programme** reflects which of the following strategies?

- (a) Integrating agricultural production with export technologies and SPS compliance
- (b) Promoting only traditional agricultural commodity exports
- (c) Replacing exports with domestic market support
- (d) Restricting export promotion to government research institutions

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The programme supports **agri-food startups, export technologies, and SPS compliance**, creating an integrated ecosystem to improve India's competitiveness in international agricultural markets.

8) **Consider the following statements:**

1. Venezuela experiences frequent seismic activity due to its tectonic setting.
2. The northern part of the country lies along the boundary between the Caribbean Plate and the South American Plate.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Both 1 and 2 are correct, and 2 is the correct explanation of 1
- (b) Both 1 and 2 are correct, but 2 is not the correct explanation of 1
- (c) 1 is correct, but 2 is incorrect
- (d) 1 is incorrect, but 2 is correct

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Venezuela lies along the **Caribbean–South American plate boundary**, where tectonic movements generate earthquakes. Thus, the active plate boundary directly explains the country's seismic vulnerability.

9) **Consider the following statements regarding Ammonium Sulphate as a fertilizer:**

1. Continuous application of ammonium sulphate reduces soil acidity over time, thereby lowering the requirement for liming.
2. Under prolonged waterlogged or anaerobic conditions, the sulphate component may be reduced to hydrogen sulphide gas, which is harmful to plant roots.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Ammonium sulphate is a **physiologically acidic fertilizer** that lowers soil pH over time, often

increasing the need for lime. However, under anaerobic conditions, sulphate can be converted into **hydrogen sulphide (H₂S)** by sulphate-reducing bacteria, which is toxic to crop roots.

10) Consider the following statements regarding the Bhumkal Rebellion (1910):

1. The rebellion was primarily a tribal resistance against British forest policies and the exploitation of natural resources in the Bastar region.
2. The rebels used symbolic items such as red chillies, mango branches, and clay bows and arrows as a secret communication network.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Bhumkal Rebellion was led by tribal communities against **colonial forest restrictions and exploitation**. Secret symbols like **red chillies, mango branches, and clay bows and arrows** were used to mobilize people discreetly across villages.

11) The Urtan Coal Project requires an advanced groundwater pumping system primarily because:

- (a) It is located in an arid region prone to sand deposition in mining pits.
- (b) It is an underground mine situated near the drainage basins of the Son and Narmada rivers, resulting in significant groundwater seepage.
- (c) Its coal seams contain liquid bitumen that must be removed through water flushing.
- (d) It is located in a permafrost region requiring continuous thermal water circulation.

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The Urtan Coal Project is an **underground mine** located near the **Son and Narmada drainage systems**, making it vulnerable to groundwater inflow. Continuous pumping is therefore essential to prevent flooding of underground workings.

12) The conferment of the **FAO Agricola Medal** on the Prime Minister of India recognized several initiatives aimed at transforming the agricultural sector. In this context, consider the following statements:

1. Introduction of a universal Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme providing unrestricted cash assistance to all rural households.
2. Development and promotion of climate-resilient and bio-fortified crop varieties by Indian agricultural institutions.
3. Expansion of micro-irrigation under the '**Per Drop More Crop**' initiative.
4. Adoption of technology-driven interventions such as precision drone spraying and weather-based advisory systems.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The FAO recognized India's efforts in promoting **climate-resilient agriculture, efficient water management, and digital technologies** in farming. However, **PM-KISAN** provides income support only to eligible farmers and is **not** a universal cash transfer scheme for all rural households.

13) With reference to the **Asian Productivity Organization (APO)**, the **National Productivity Organizations (NPOs)** primarily perform which of the following functions?

- (a) Adjudicate trade disputes among member economies
- (b) Promote productivity through capacity building, skill development, and institutional strengthening at the national level
- (c) Finance infrastructure and green development projects across the Asia-Pacific region
- (d) Monitor maritime safety regulations in member countries

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

National Productivity Organizations (NPOs) act as the **implementing agencies of the APO** within member countries by promoting productivity through training, institutional development, and capacity-building programmes for industries and public institutions.

14) **Consider the following statements regarding the cultivation of Kiwi fruit:**

1. Kiwi requires a winter chilling period, which is generally measured in chilling hours rather than a fixed temperature.

2. The crop can tolerate severe frost and performs well in regions where summer temperatures regularly exceed 40°C.
3. Kiwi grows best in strongly alkaline soils.

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: (a)

Explanation:

Kiwi requires **adequate chilling hours** during winter to break dormancy. However, it is **sensitive to severe frost** and excessive summer heat, and grows best in **well-drained, slightly acidic soils (pH 5.0–6.5)** rather than alkaline soils.

15) The **Venusian Neutrals Analyser (VNA)** payload onboard India's **Venus Orbiter Mission** has been designed primarily to study:

- (a) Microbial biosignatures in the Venusian atmosphere
- (b) The interaction between solar wind and the Venusian ionosphere to understand atmospheric escape
- (c) Seismic activity beneath the surface of Venus
- (d) Polar atmospheric circulation and thermal wind patterns

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The VNA will observe **energetic neutral atoms (ENAs)** and plasma interactions to understand how **solar wind strips away the Venusian atmosphere**, providing insights into the planet's atmospheric evolution.

16) **Consider the following statements regarding the Sperm Whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*):**

1. It possesses the largest brain of any known animal and is characterized by a massive square-shaped head.
2. Adult males are commonly found in higher latitudes, whereas females and calves inhabit tropical and subtropical waters.
3. It is primarily a shallow-water feeder and rarely undertakes deep dives.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Sperm whales have the **largest brain of any known animal** and exhibit **sexual segregation in habitat**. They are **deep-diving marine mammals**, capable of descending over **2,000 metres** in search of prey such as giant squid, making Statement 3 incorrect.