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PREVIOUS YEAR SOLVED QUESTIONS

2025 UPSC APFC EXAM

DETAILED SOLVED PAPER

Combined Computer Based Recruitment Test

Enforcement Officer / Accounts Officer & Assistant Provident Fund Commissioner

Held on 30 November 2025 · General Ability Test · 120 questions

Editorial note: Answers in this edition are reproduced from the answer key used for this solved paper. They should be read subject to the official UPSC answer key, wherever applicable.

[redacted]

Directions (Q. 1–5): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow, keeping in mind the contents of the passage alone.

PASSAGE

Africa is on the move. At least 20 million (i) _________ live outside the continent, a three-fold increase since 1990. Europe accounts for about half of African (ii) _________ outside Africa, but its share has steadily declined since 1990. America, China, Saudi Arabia and Turkey have all seen surges in their African-born populations. It may seem otherworldly to predict that this will continue, given the fierce backlash against (iii) _________ across the West. Notwithstanding pushback, African (iv) _________ is an unstoppable force that will long outlast today's populists and help define the 21st century. Demography is one cause. It is well-known that in the developed world the number of people of working age will decline, exacerbating labour shortages. What is less widely appreciated is that emerging countries that are associated with exporting people, such as Mexico and the Philippines, are also getting older and richer — meaning smaller shares of their populations will, in future, wish to emigrate in search of work. In Africa, by contrast, the working-age population is forecast to increase by around 700 million people by 2050. Another cause is economics. Many African countries are entering a phase in their development in which people are still poor enough to wish to leave but, for the first time, rich enough to be able to travel long distances. African countries create only around a fifth of the number of formal jobs required to absorb their expanding workforce.

Question 1

In the above passage there are four blanks numbered (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv). Select the option in which the most appropriate term has been used for each of the blanks respectively.

Options

(a)	(i) immigrants; (ii) migration; (iii) emigrants; (iv) immigration
(b)	**(i) emigrants; (ii) migrants; (iii) immigration; (iv) migration**
(c)	(i) immigrants; (ii) emigrants; (iii) immigration; (iv) migrants
(d)	(i) emigrants; (ii) migrants; (iii) migration; (iv) emigration

Answer: B

Explanation

The four words are not synonyms; they encode direction of movement relative to a reference territory. An emigrant is a person viewed from the country of origin as leaving it. An immigrant is a person viewed from the country of destination as entering it. A migrant is the neutral designation of a person who has moved, without privileging origin or destination. Migration is the process or flow; immigration is that process named from the receiving country's standpoint; emigration is the same process named from the sending country's standpoint. Blank (i) sits after "live outside the continent": the 20 million are Africans who have left Africa, therefore emigrants from the continental frame the passage has chosen. Blank (ii) is "African ____ outside Africa": the people themselves, neutrally described — migrants. Blank (iii) is "backlash against ____ across the West": Western politics names the inflow as immigration. Blank (iv) is "African ____ is an unstoppable force": the historical process, hence migration. Any option that puts immigrant in (i) has already reversed the camera. Any option that puts emigration in (iv) names a one-way outflow when the sentence is describing a civilisational current. This is the standard UPSC test of register, not of current-affairs opinion.

Question 2

Which of the following sentences with respect to the passage is/are correct?

1. All rich western nations have been seeing an increase in emigration from Africa over the past few decades.

2. Over the past thirty-five odd years, the number of African origin people living outside Africa has gone up by a factor of three.

3. The fierce resistance to labour incursion into the West will temper emigration from Africa in the 21st century.

Options

(a)	1 and 2
(b)	1 and 3
(c)	2 and 3
(d)	**2 only**

Answer: D

Explanation

UPSC passage-items are decided by what the author has actually written, not by what a general reader believes about migration politics. Statement 2 is a straight numerical paraphrase: "at least 20 million live outside the continent, a three-fold increase since 1990." From 1990 to the 2025 paper is thirty-five odd years; "gone up by a factor of three" is exactly "three-fold." Statement 1 over-generalises. The passage says Europe still holds about half of Africans abroad but that its share has declined since 1990, while America, China, Saudi Arabia and Turkey have seen surges. That is a redistribution of destinations, not a claim that every rich Western state has recorded an increase. Statement 3 contradicts the author's thesis in terms: "Notwithstanding pushback, African migration is an unstoppable force that will long outlast today's populists." Resistance is acknowledged and then expressly denied the power to temper the flow. Hence only 2 stands.

Question 3

With reference to the passage, which of the following are factors that can be seen to be determining the movement of Africans to other countries to seek work?

1. Younger populations in developing countries like the Philippines and Mexico

2. Only about 20 per cent of the required jobs being available within African nations

3. Fierce backlash from Western countries given the increasing immigration load

Options

(a)	1 and 2
(b)	**2 and 3**
(c)	1 and 3
(d)	2 only

Answer: B

Explanation

The passage names two structural drivers: demography (Africa's working-age population to rise by about 700 million by 2050, while Mexico and the Philippines grow older and richer and therefore export fewer workers) and economics (Africans are for the first time poor enough to want to leave and rich enough to travel; African economies create "only around a fifth" of the formal jobs required). Statement 2 is that second driver in numerals: one-fifth = 20 per cent. The honest editor must add that if "determining … to seek work" is read as "push factors that send Africans out," statement 3 is a pull-side political constraint and the tighter letter is (d).

Question 4

Which one of the following options most appropriately describes the phrase "exacerbating labour shortages"?

Options

(a)	Increasing labour shortages
(b)	**Worsening the problem of labour shortages**
(c)	Mitigating the issue of labour shortages

(d)	Intractably unburdening labour shortages

Answer: B

Explanation

Exacerbate is a precision verb: it means to make a condition already bad more severe. It does not mean merely to increase a countable stock, and it is the antonym of mitigate. In the passage the working-age population of the developed world "will decline, exacerbating labour shortages": the shortage already exists; the decline of the workforce intensifies that existing problem. Option (b) preserves both halves of the meaning — the thing being acted on is a problem, and the action is to worsen it. Option (a) is the common near-miss: "increasing labour shortages" can be heard as "making more shortages" or as "making shortages larger," but it drops the evaluative sense that the verb carries in serious prose. Option (c) is the antonym. Option (d) is ornamental nonsense: "unburdening" would relieve the shortage, and "intractably" is a decorative adverb with no purchase on the verb. Vocabulary items of this type are decided by the best paraphrase, not by a word that is merely not-wrong.

Question 5

Which one of the following is the figure of speech in the expression "Africa is on the move"?

Options

(a)	**Personification**
(b)	Irony
(c)	Anthropomorphism
(d)	Antithesis

Answer: A

Explanation

Personification attributes a human action, posture or intention to a non-human entity — a continent, a season, a nation, death — without asking the reader to picture that entity with a human body. "Africa is on the move" gives the continent the human predicate of locomotion; the reader understands a demographic and migratory current, not a walking landmass. Anthropomorphism is the stronger and more pictorial device: it confers human form, face, speech or motives, typically on an animal, a god or a machine (Aesop's fox; a smiling sun with arms). Irony requires a split between utterance and intended meaning; the author means exactly that Africa's people are moving. Antithesis is the balanced opposition of ideas ("poor enough to wish to leave but rich enough to travel" later in the same passage is closer to antithesis than the title-sentence is). Do not over-refine into anthropomorphism unless the text gives the continent a body or a voice.

Directions (Q. 6–10): Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate option.

Question 6

The evening looked __________ against the stretched out sky.

Options

(a)	red, beautiful and soul-quenching

(b)	beautiful, red and soul-quenching
(c)	soul-quenching, beautiful and red
(d)	**beautiful, soul-quenching and red**

Answer: D

Explanation

English stacked adjectives are not free. The conventional order, sometimes remembered as OSASCOMP, places opinion before physical fact and colour near the end, immediately before origin, material and purpose. “Beautiful” is a general opinion. “Soul-quenching” is a more particular evaluative or participial quality — still opinion, but narrower. “Red” is colour. The only sequence that respects that hierarchy is opinion (general) → opinion (particular) → colour: beautiful, soul-quenching and red. Putting colour in the middle, as (b) does, breaks the chain. Leading with colour, as (a) does, is the order of a telegram, not of description. Leading with the most particular participle and then stepping back to the general opinion, as (c) does, is the wrong slope. Native-like collocation, not poetic licence, is the standard.

Question 7

Summers __________ be really hot at times, so make sure you stay hydrated.

Options

(a)	**can**
(b)	could
(c)	might
(d)	may

Answer: A

Explanation

The four modals are not interchangeable. Can, in this frame, states a characteristic possibility: summers are known to have the capacity to be very hot. That is the voice of a general warning, which is what the imperative “make sure you stay hydrated” requires. Could is the past of can or a remoter, more hypothetical possibility; it would fit “summers could be hot if the monsoon failed,” not a standing seasonal fact. Might marks a low-probability conjecture. May marks permission or a polite, slightly formal possibility; “summers may be hot” is grammatical but weaker and less idiomatic as a public-health warning. Choose the modal that names a known propensity, not a speculation.

Question 8

I was wondering which festival __________ we celebrate together this year?

Options

(a)	will
(b)	might
(c)	**shall**

(d)	do

Answer: C

Explanation

The stem is not a prediction and not a yes-no question about habit. "I was wondering which ..." is the polite preface to a suggestion or a joint decision. In first-person plural questions of that kind, shall is the established modal: "Which festival shall we celebrate?" means "Which one do you propose that we celebrate?" Will in the same slot sounds like a request for a forecast ("which one is going to happen"). Might makes the celebration optional to the point of tentativeness. Do would require a different syntax ("which festival do we celebrate" = what is our custom) and does not sit after "I was wondering which festival." The past continuous preface "I was wondering" is itself a politeness marker; it pairs naturally with shall, the modal of proposal.

Question 9

I was ________ exhausted by the end of the week spent in the library doing research work.

Options

(a)	exceedingly
(b)	inordinately
(c)	very
(d)	**completely**

Answer: D

Explanation

Intensifiers are collocational. Exhausted is a limit adjective: it already means "drained to the end." The adverb that honestly modifies a limit adjective is one of completeness — completely, utterly, totally — not one of degree. Very exhausted is widely heard and widely marked down in formal papers because very grades a quality that is not supposed to have residual degrees. Exceedingly exhausted is possible in Victorian prose but sounds overworked next to a plain research-week narrative. Inordinately means "beyond proper measure" and implies a norm that has been breached; exhaustion after a week in a library is not a breach of propriety. Completely exhausted is the dead-centre collocation: the speaker was exhausted to the limit of the adjective. When two adverbs are "not wrong," UPSC takes the one a careful editor would leave on the page.

Question 10

They __________ be very far away. I saw them a little while ago.

Options

(a)	shall not
(b)	**cannot**
(c)	should not
(d)	ought not

Answer: B

Explanation

The second sentence is evidence. The first sentence is a deduction from that evidence. The modal of logical impossibility in present time is cannot (or can't): "They cannot be very far away" = "it is not possible, given what I have just seen, that they are far." Shall not is volition or a future prohibition and is almost never used of third-person location. Should not and ought not are the modals of duty or of expectable behaviour: "they should not be far" can be heard as "I would not expect them to be far," which is weaker than a deduction from an observation made "a little while ago." The pair of sentences is the textbook frame for cannot of negative deduction, the same frame as "He cannot be the thief; he was with me all evening." Choose the modal that states impossibility, not unwisdom.

Directions (Q. 11–15): A phrase has been given with a word that is underlined. Select the option closest in meaning to the underlined word.

Question 11

The fact that the deliberations were carried out in a cordial manner pleased the old guard very much. [underlined: cordial]

Options

(a)	joust
(b)	**convivial**
(c)	jocular
(d)	zestful

Answer: B

Explanation

Cordial, from cor, the heart, means warm, courteous and sincerely friendly — the temperature of a meeting that stays civil without becoming facetious. Convivial is the nearest of the four: it names good-humoured sociability, the atmosphere in which people can sit together without frost. It is slightly more festive than cordial, but in a four-option race it is the only word that stays inside warmth-and-good-fellowship. Joust is a noun (and only strainedly a verb) for combat; it is not an adjective of manner at all, and is therefore not even the same part of speech. Jocular means joking, given to jests; a cordial deliberation need not be funny. Zestful means keen, vigorous, full of relish; a meeting can be cordial and dull, or zestful and rude.

Question 12

His views on the matter have been impugned by those evaluating his role in the community as its erstwhile ruler. [underlined: impugned]

Options

(a)	**challenged**

(b)	belittled
(c)	enhanced
(d)	endured

Answer: A

Explanation

To impugn, in legal and formal English, is to call into question the validity, honesty or soundness of a statement, a motive or a title. It is an attack on credibility, not merely a reduction of status. Challenged is the clean equivalent: his views have been called into question. Belittled is a different speech-act — to make something seem small — and does not require an argument against its truth. Enhanced is the antonymal direction. Endured would require a different syntax ("his views have been endured") and would mean suffered, not attacked. Erstwhile in the stem is a distractor-word meaning former; it does no work on the underlined item and should be left alone. UPSC vocabulary on this paper is drawn from the same formal register as the rest of the English component: impugn, egregious, apostate, corporeity. Answer from the legal-Latin core of the verb, not from a vague sense that "something bad was done to his views."

Question 13

His ad hominem comments on his colleague were considered egregious by those present. [underlined: egregious]

Options

(a)	extensively elaborate
(b)	**flagrant and shocking**
(c)	out of context
(d)	impromptu and unintended

Answer: B

Explanation

Egregious, from ex grege "out of the flock," has completed its historical journey from "remarkably good" to "remarkably bad." In contemporary formal English it means outstandingly and conspicuously wrong — so wrong that it stands out. Flagrant and shocking is the only option that carries both conspicuousness and moral offence. The stem helps: ad hominem comments are a recognised foul in argument; calling them egregious says the foul was blatant. Extensively elaborate describes length and ornament, not vice. Out of context describes relevance, not gravity. Impromptu and unintended describes manner of production; an egregious remark can be carefully prepared.

Question 14

Once he began to savour the taste of true wealth, he abandoned all his erstwhile ideas regarding social welfare and was subsequently labelled an apostate. [underlined: apostate]

Options

(a)	an arrogant and haughty person

(b)	a self-important person
(c)	**a renouncer of held beliefs**
(d)	an affluent person

Answer: C

Explanation

An apostate is one who abandons a profession of faith, a party or a previously avowed doctrine. The word is religious in origin (apostasia, a standing-away) but is fully naturalised in political and intellectual English: a man who deserts the creed he used to preach. The stem itself writes the definition before it asks for it — “abandoned all his erstwhile ideas regarding social welfare” — and then applies the label. A renouncer of held beliefs is therefore not a clever synonym; it is the definition. Arrogant, haughty and self-important are character-judgements that may or may not accompany apostasy; they are not it. Affluent names the wealth that caused the turn, not the turn. Three options describe the man after the conversion; only (c) names the conversion.

Question 15

The debate around the corporeity of the soul presents a compelling paradox. [underlined: corporeity]

Options

(a)	**the quality of physical existence**
(b)	collective consciousness
(c)	embodied in divinity
(d)	corpuscular existence

Answer: A

Explanation

Corporeity is the abstract noun from corporeal: the condition of having a body, of existing as matter that occupies space. The paradox advertised in the stem is the old metaphysical one — how, if at all, a soul can have bodily existence. Option (a) is that abstract noun unpacked. Collective consciousness is a sociological idea with no etymological or philosophical claim on the word. Embodied in divinity points the wrong way, toward God rather than toward body. When an abstract -ity noun is tested, prefer the gloss that keeps the same level of abstraction. “Quality of physical existence” does that; “corpuscular existence” drops a level into a different science.

Directions (Q. 16–20): Prepositions or phrasal verbs have been underlined. Select the sentence(s) in which the use is correct.

Question 16

1. The delivery reached its destination just about time.

2. The evidence presented by Shyam states something different than what is being presented by Ram.

3. That is the difference of somebody doing his duty and not doing his duty.

Options

(a)	1 and 2
(b)	1 and 3
(c)	1 only
(d)	**None of the above**

Answer: D

Explanation

Three separate faults, none of them saved by idiom. "Just about time" is not English for punctuality. The locked phrases are on time (punctual) and in time (early enough). About time is a different idiom ("it is about time you arrived") and cannot take just as a punctuality marker in this frame. "Different than" is an American colloquialism that formal Indian examination English still rejects; the standard preposition after different is from (and, in some careful British usage, to). "Difference of A and B" is the wrong preposition for a contrast between two conducts; the locked frame is difference between A and B. Because every underlined use fails, the set of correct sentences is empty. These items are won by knowing the locked preposition, not by a general feeling that the sentence is understandable. Understandable is not the standard.

Question 17

1. Amidst the scuffle and the resultant confusion, the thief managed to slip away.

2. There was not a single person amongst those assembled who was willing to become the leader.

3. Among the members of the community the local doctor was the one who was most respected.

Options

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

Answer: D

Explanation

Among, amongst and amidst are not errors of each other; they are members of one family with slightly different distributions. Among is the default preposition for a relation inside a group of more than two ("among the members"). Amongst is the same word with an older or more literary -st; it remains correct in formal Indian English before a pronoun or a relative clause ("amongst those assembled"). Amidst (and amid) means "in the middle of," typically of a mass, a scene or an event rather than of countable members; "amidst the scuffle and the resultant confusion" is exactly that use. None of the three sentences violates its own preposition. When every sentence is independently correct, the answer is the full set.

Question 18

1. Raj's apartment was three floors underneath the Subramanian residence.

2. There was little space below the tin roof and the scaffolding for the squirrel to hide in.

3. Inside the box was the secret he had been searching for all his life.

Options

(a)	**3 only**
(b)	1 and 2
(c)	2 and 3
(d)	None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

Underneath names a relation of direct covering: the cat is underneath the blanket; the wiring runs underneath the floorboard. Storeys of a building are not in that relation. The locked words for vertical address in a block are below, beneath, or "three floors under." Sentence 1 is therefore wrong. Sentence 2 is wrong for a different reason. "Below the tin roof and the scaffolding" treats roof and scaffolding as a single lower bound, which is not what the scene requires; the squirrel would hide in the space between the tin roof and the scaffolding. Below X and Y cannot do the work of between X and Y. Sentence 3 is ordinary and correct: the secret is inside the box. Only 3 survives.

Question 19

1. The ship put in at the first available port to repair its damaged hull.

2. The advertisement was put out for wide circulation.

3. The matter had become so urgent that it could not be put off for another day.

Options

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

Answer: D

Explanation

Three standard phrasal verbs, each in its textbook frame. To put in (of a ship) is to enter harbour; "put in at the first available port" is nautical English of long standing. To put out an advertisement is to issue it for circulation. To put off a matter is to postpone it; "could not be put off for another day" is the ordinary urgency frame. None of the three is a calque or a near-miss. 16: after a question in which every sentence failed, a question in which every sentence passes. Learn the locked particles: put in (harbour), put out (issue / extinguish, by context), put off (postpone).

Question 20

1. It is widely acknowledged that he takes after his aunt.

2. He was reluctant to take in any more responsibility.

3. He assured the client that he would take out the matter at the first given opportunity.

Options

(a)	1 and 2
(b)	1 and 3
(c)	**1 only**
(d)	None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

Take after is the locked verb for resemblance in feature or character: a nephew takes after an aunt. Sentence 1 is correct. Take in does not mean “accept further responsibility.” The locked particle for assuming duty is take on (“take on more responsibility”). Take in means to accommodate a lodger, to deceive, to absorb information, or to reduce a garment; none of those senses fits. Take out does not mean “raise a matter for discussion.” The locked verbs there are take up (“take up the matter”) or take forward. Take out means to extract, to obtain (a loan, insurance), to escort, or to destroy. Sentence 3 is therefore a particle error. Only sentence 1 survives. The particle is the meaning.

[redacted]

Question 21

Which one among the following correctly stands for the acronym AWACS?

Options

(a)	Advanced Warning and Critical Scanning
(b)	Arial Warfare and Case Study
(c)	Airborne Warfare and Critical Solutions
(d)	**Airborne Warning and Control System**

Answer: D

Explanation

AWACS is a fixed military acronym: Airborne Warning and Control System. An AWACS platform is a large aircraft carrying a rotodome radar that looks down over the horizon, detects hostile and friendly tracks at long range, and then directs interceptors and strike packages. The “warning” half is surveillance; the “control” half is battle management. India operates the DRDO Netra AEW&CS and has flown the Beriev A-50EI with the Israeli EL/W-2090. The distractors are invented phrases that recycle “air,” “warning” and “warfare.” “Arial” in (b) is not even a word in this register (the English word is aerial). When an acronym has a single globally locked expansion, do not improve it.

Question 22

As a countermeasure to drone swarm attack, an effective way is to use electromagnetic (EM) drone jamming to disrupt the GPS and communication system of the drones. Which one among the following is the correct frequency range used for EM drone jamming?

Options

(a)	Far-infrared frequency
(b)	**Microwave frequency**
(c)	Visible frequency
(d)	Infrared frequency

Answer: B

Explanation

Civilian and most military small drones navigate on GNSS (GPS L1 at 1.575 GHz, also L2/L5) and take command-and-control on ISM bands around 2.4 GHz and 5.8 GHz. All of those carriers sit in the microwave window of the spectrum, conventionally 300 MHz to 300 GHz. A jammer that is to deny GPS lock or break the uplink must radiate in that same window at sufficient power and with a matching modulation. Far-infrared, infrared and visible light are optical bands. They are used in laser dazzlers and directed-energy burners, which are a different counter-UAS family, not EM jamming of GPS and radio links. The stem itself names GPS and communication: that pins the answer to microwave.

Question 23

Which one among the following is the correct method employed by GPS to find the location of a target?

Options

(a)	**Trilateration method, which measures lengths of sides of triangle with target location as one of the heads of the triangle**
(b)	Dilation method, which measures distance of target location from two already known landmarks
(c)	Measurement of the distance of target from the designated geostationary satellite
(d)	Measurement of the distance of target from the designated polar satellite

Answer: A

Explanation

A GPS receiver solves for its position by measuring the time of flight of signals from several Medium Earth Orbit satellites (about 20,200 km, 12-hour period) and converting each time into a range. The locus of a single range is a sphere; two ranges give a circle; three ranges give two points; a fourth satellite resolves the receiver-clock error. GPS satellites are not geostationary: a GEO bird sits over one longitude and cannot give global 3-D fixes. They are also not a single designated polar satellite. The remaining fight is trilateration versus a coined “dilation method.” Trilateration wins.

Question 24

Which one among the following is the correct nature of the substance filling up the pleural cavity, the space between the lungs and the chest?

Options

(a)	**Liquid**
(b)	Dry air
(c)	Humid air
(d)	Fatty muscle

Answer: A

Explanation

The pleural cavity is a potential space between the visceral pleura on the lung and the parietal pleura on the chest wall. It is occupied by a thin film of serous pleural fluid — a liquid — which lubricates the sliding of the two membranes and, by surface tension, couples the lung to the chest wall so that the lung inflates when the thorax expands. The space is not filled with air. Air in the pleural cavity is pneumothorax, a pathology. Dry or humid air would uncouple the lung and collapse it. Fatty muscle is not an occupant of the cavity; intercostal muscle and adipose tissue lie outside the parietal pleura. NCERT-level respiratory physiology is enough: intrapleural fluid, negative intrapleural pressure, lubrication.

Question 25

Which one among the following statements with regard to fatty acids is correct?

Options

(a)	**Most fatty acids have carboxyl group at one end and methyl group at the other end.**
(b)	Saturated fatty acids carry even number of double bonds between carbon atoms.
(c)	Saturated fatty acids carry odd number of double bonds between carbon atoms.
(d)	Monounsaturated fatty acids carry as many hydrogen atoms as they can.

Answer: A

Explanation

A fatty acid is a carboxylic acid with a long aliphatic tail. By definition the functional end is —COOH and the distal end of a common unbranched chain is a methyl group —CH_3. That is statement (a), and it is true of most naturally occurring fatty acids (even-numbered chains from 12 to 24 carbons). Saturation is about double bonds, not their parity: a saturated fatty acid has zero C=C double bonds and is therefore "saturated" with hydrogen. Statements (b) and (c) are both false because they assign double bonds to the saturated class. A monounsaturated fatty acid has exactly one C=C; the two carbons of that double bond carry fewer hydrogens than they would in the saturated analogue, so (d) — "as many hydrogen atoms as they can" — is the definition of saturated, not monounsaturated. Kill (b), (c) and (d) on the definition of saturation and (a) remains.

Question 26

Which one among the following are the primary reactants of photochemical smog?

Options

(a)	Sulphur Hexafluoride and Soot
(b)	Carbon Monoxide and Ozone
(c)	**Nitric Oxide and Unburnt Hydrocarbons**
(d)	Peroxy Radicals and Sub-oxides

Answer: C

Explanation

Photochemical (Los Angeles-type) smog is initiated when nitric oxide from hot combustion and volatile unburnt hydrocarbons sit in sunlight. NO is oxidised to NO2; NO2 photolyses to NO + O; atomic oxygen makes ozone; the hydrocarbons feed peroxy radicals that push the NO–NO2–O3 cycle out of its night-time balance and produce PAN, aldehydes and the brown haze. The primary reactants — the species that must be emitted for the chemistry to start — are NOx (here written as nitric oxide) and unburnt hydrocarbons. Ozone is a product, not a primary reactant. Carbon monoxide is a co-pollutant but not the driver of the photochemical cycle. SF6 is an inert greenhouse gas; soot is a particle of classical (London-type) smog. Peroxy radicals are intermediates, not primary emissions. The pair to remember from Class XII environmental chemistry is NOx + VOCs + sunlight.

Question 27

Which one among the following is known as Carbolic acid?

Options

(a)	**Phenol**
(b)	Alcohol
(c)	Ether
(d)	Acetone

Answer: A

Explanation

Carbolic acid is the nineteenth-century name for phenol, C6H5OH. Lister used dilute carbolic acid as an antiseptic; the name stuck in pharmacopoeias and in industrial chemistry. Phenol is a weak acid (the —OH on the aromatic ring can lose H+), which is why the “acid” label is not a howler, but it is not a carboxylic acid. Ether is R—O—R. Acetone is CH3COCH3. If you know one historical synonym from the phenol chapter you are done.

Question 28

Which one among the following is the primary commercial use of Amines?

Options

(a)	Development of explosives

(b)	**Synthesis of medicines and fibres**
(c)	Development of batteries
(d)	Stem cell therapy

Answer: B

Explanation

Amines are the nitrogen workhorses of the chemical industry. Aromatic and aliphatic amines are intermediates for sulpha drugs, antihistamines, local anaesthetics and a long list of APIs; hexamethylenediamine is half of nylon-6,6; aniline is the parent of azo dyes and of polyurethane building-blocks. That pair — medicines and fibres — is the primary commercial use in any balanced account. Some amines appear in explosive chemistry (for example as fuel components or as precursors), but that is not the dominant tonnage use and is not how NCERT frames the chapter. Batteries are a lithium-ion and lead-acid story, not an amine story. Stem-cell therapy does not rest on bulk amine manufacture. When a question says "primary commercial use," pick the industry that actually consumes the compound at scale and that the Class XII text names.

Question 29

Which one among the following with regard to ChatGPT is correct?

Options

(a)	**It is based on large language model (LLM)**
(b)	It is a predictive Artificial Intelligence
(c)	It is a high level scientific computer language
(d)	It is a chatting software

Answer: A

Explanation

ChatGPT is a conversational interface over a Generative Pre-trained Transformer, which is a large language model: a neural network trained on a very large text corpus to predict the next token and, by iteration, to generate fluent language. That is the precise description. "Predictive Artificial Intelligence" is a loose marketing label that could describe a credit-scoring model or a weather model; it does not identify ChatGPT. ChatGPT is not a programming language. "Chatting software" is a category that includes ordinary chat clients with no model behind them.

Question 30

For training and deploying complex models in Artificial Intelligence, which one among the following is preferred?

Options

(a)	Central Processing Units
(b)	**Graphics Processing Units**
(c)	Read Only Memory

(d)	Solid State Drives

Answer: B

Explanation

Training a modern neural network is a vast number of dense matrix multiplications. A GPU has thousands of relatively simple cores and very high memory bandwidth, which is exactly the hardware those multiplications want. That is why NVIDIA data-centre GPUs, and their competitors, are the default training and inference substrate for large models. A CPU has a few powerful cores and is used for control, data loading and smaller models, but it is not preferred for "complex" training. ROM is non-volatile firmware storage; it does not compute. An SSD is fast storage; it holds the dataset and the checkpoints, it does not train the model. The preference asked for is the compute engine, and that engine is the GPU. This is now general-knowledge inside the computer-applications syllabus of this paper.

Question 31

Which one among the following correctly stands for SSL encryption with regard to banking websites?

Options

(a)	**Secure Socket Layer encryption**
(b)	Superior Safety Level encryption
(c)	Server-to-Server Linked encryption
(d)	Safety Server Level encryption

Answer: A

Explanation

SSL is Secure Sockets Layer, the 1990s protocol that puts a lock on an HTTP session and turns it into HTTPS. Banking sites still advertise "SSL," even though the living protocol is TLS (Transport Layer Security), the successor that retired SSL 3.0 after POODLE. The examination expansion has not moved: Secure Socket(s) Layer. The other three options are invented comfort-phrases. The candidate should also know what SSL/TLS actually does — certificate-based authentication of the server, negotiation of a symmetric session key, confidentiality and integrity of the bytes on the wire — but this particular stem only asks for the expansion.

Question 32

Which of the following statements with regard to the solid state drive (SSD) is/are correct?

1. Spinning speed of SSD is zero.

2. SSD consumes more energy compared to hard disk drive (HDD).

3. SSD could be used as virtual memory when RAM is insufficient.

4. SSD can replace the processor.

Select the answer using the codes given below:

Options

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

Answer: B

Explanation

An SSD is an array of NAND flash with a controller. There is no platter and no spindle, so its spinning speed is identically zero. That is statement 1. Because there is no motor, an SSD draws less power than a spinning HDD, not more; statement 2 is false. Virtual memory (the page file on Windows, swap on Unix) is a region of secondary storage that the OS uses when RAM is full. That region can live on an HDD or on an SSD; placing it on an SSD is common and correct. Statement 3 is therefore true. An SSD cannot replace a processor: one stores bits, the other executes instructions. Statement 4 is false. The live pair is 1 and 3.

Question 33

Which one among the following could be a permanent memory of a computer?

Options

(a)	**Hard Disk**
(b)	CPU
(c)	RAM
(d)	Motherboard

Answer: A

Explanation

Permanent, in this syllabus, means non-volatile secondary storage that keeps its contents when the power is removed. A hard disk (and, equally, an SSD) is that store. RAM is volatile primary memory: its contents die with the power. The CPU is the execute engine; it contains only small registers and caches, which are also volatile. The motherboard is the interconnect; it is not a memory device. The four options leave only one storage device that survives shutdown.

Question 34

Which one among the following is the primary environmental concern associated with permafrost thawing in the Arctic?

Options

(a)	Displacement of the indigenous communities
(b)	**Release of Methane and Carbon dioxide**
(c)	Spread of invasive species

(d)	Increase of UV radiation

Answer: B

Explanation

Permafrost is ground that has remained at or below 0 °C for at least two consecutive years. It holds a very large stock of frozen organic carbon. When it thaws, microbes metabolise that carbon and release CO2 in aerobic pockets and CH4 in waterlogged anaerobic pockets. Both gases are greenhouse gases; methane is a much stronger short-lived forcer. That release is the primary global environmental concern because it is a positive climate feedback: warming thaws permafrost, thaw adds greenhouse gases, gases add warming. Displacement of Arctic communities is a real human and rights concern, but it is not the primary environmental mechanism named in climate science. Invasive species and UV are different files (UV is an ozone-column story). When a question says “primary environmental concern” of a named cryosphere process, answer with the greenhouse-gas feedback.

Question 35

Which one among the following determines the Hardness Index of fresh water?

Options

(a)	**Total concentration of the Ca2+ and Mg2+ ions in the fresh water**
(b)	Difference of the pH value of the fresh water with respect to sulphuric acid
(c)	The pH value of fresh water measured at room temperature and at one atmospheric pressure
(d)	The molar ratio of D2O to H2O in fresh water

Answer: A

Explanation

Hardness of water is the soap-destroying, scale-forming capacity caused principally by dissolved calcium and magnesium salts. The hardness index (often reported as mg/L as CaCO3) is computed from the total concentration of Ca2+ and Mg2+. Temporary hardness is the bicarbonate fraction, removable by boiling; permanent hardness is the sulphate and chloride fraction. pH measures hydrogen-ion activity, not hardness: a water can be hard and near-neutral. A pH difference versus sulphuric acid is not a defined index. The D2O/H2O ratio is an isotopic curiosity of no relevance to hardness. This is Class XI environmental chemistry and the same definition used in public-health engineering. When the options offer the ion pair and three decorative measurements, take the ion pair.

Question 36

Which one of the following is not a currently existing Scheme under the Employees’ Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952?

Options

(a)	Employees’ Provident Fund Scheme, 1952
(b)	Employees’ Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976
(c)	Employees’ Pension Scheme, 1995

(d)	**Employees' Family Pension Scheme, 1971**

Answer: D

Explanation

The EPF & MP Act, 1952 presently carries three schemes framed under it: the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 (s.5), the Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976 (s.6C), and the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 (s.6A). The Employees' Family Pension Scheme, 1971 was the earlier pension vehicle. It was superseded when the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 came into force on 16 November 1995. Family-pension rights that had accrued under the 1971 scheme were migrated; the 1971 scheme is not a living scheme. This is a staple EPFO item: name the three living schemes and the one historical name that must not be ticked as current.

Question 37

The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, does not apply to which one of the following establishments registered under the Cooperative Societies Act, 1912?

Options

(a)	**Establishments employing fewer than 50 persons and operating without the aid of power.**
(b)	Establishments employing fewer than 70 persons and operating with the aid of power.
(c)	Establishments employing more than 50 persons or operating without the aid of power.
(d)	Establishments employing fewer than 20 persons or operating without the aid of power.

Answer: A

Explanation

Section 16(1)(a) of the EPF & MP Act is a specific carve-out. The Act shall not apply to any establishment registered under the Cooperative Societies Act, 1912, or under any other law relating to cooperative societies, employing less than fifty persons and working without the aid of power. Both conditions must be satisfied: co-operative registration, headcount below fifty, and no power. The general coverage threshold of twenty persons in s.1(3) is a different rule and must not be folded into this carve-out. Option (a) restates s.16(1)(a) almost verbatim. Option (b) invents a seventy-person line and adds power, which is the opposite of the "without power" condition. Option (c) describes establishments that would ordinarily be in. Option (d) mixes the twenty-person general threshold with an "or," which wrecks the statutory "and." Read section 16 as a closed pair of conditions, not as a paraphrase of section 1.

Question 38

Mr. X earns wages of ₹ 20,000 per month. What will be the contributions to the ESI Scheme under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948?

Options

(a)	Employer's contribution ₹ 350; Employees' contribution ₹ 950
(b)	**Employer's contribution ₹ 650; Employees' contribution ₹ 150**
(c)	Employer's contribution ₹ 950; Employees' contribution ₹ 350

(d)	Employer's contribution ₹ 150; Employees' contribution ₹ 650

Answer: B

Explanation

ESI is a 4 per cent levy on gross wages, split since 1 July 2019 into employer 3.25 per cent and employee 0.75 per cent. The wage ceiling for coverage is ₹21,000 a month, so a wage of ₹20,000 is inside the scheme. Apply the rates to 20,000 without inventing a cap inside the contribution itself. Employer: 20,000 × 3.25/100 = 650. Employee: 20,000 × 0.75/100 = 150. That is option (b). The older 4.75 / 1.75 split (total 6.5 per cent) was retired in 2019 and must not be used. Options (a) and (c) look like someone has swapped the percentages or applied 1.75/4.75 to 20,000. Option (d) simply swaps the two living figures.

Question 39

Which one of the following is not a benefit provided to an employee under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948?

Options

(a)	Sickness benefit
(b)	Maternity benefit
(c)	Disablement benefit
(d)	**Health benefit**

Answer: D

Explanation

Chapter V of the ESI Act names the benefits in s.46: periodical payments in case of sickness (sickness benefit), of confinement and miscarriage (maternity benefit), of disablement (disablement benefit), of death of the insured person to dependants (dependants' benefit), plus medical benefit for the insured person and his family, and funeral expenses. There is no statutory head called "health benefit." Medical benefit is the closest living cousin, and it is a separate named benefit; the paper did not offer "medical benefit" as an option. Sickness, maternity and disablement are therefore in. "Health benefit" is the invented label. If the Act does not use the words, the option is the odd one out.

Question 40

Consider the following statements in reference to the Payment of Wages Act, 1936:

1. Wages may be paid in current coins.

2. Wage period can be fixed for weekly payment.

3. Wages are to be paid before the expiry of the seventh day after the last day of the wage period in establishments employing more than 1000 persons.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Options

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

Answer: A

Explanation

Section 6 permits payment in current coin or currency notes or both (and, after later amendments, by cheque or electronic credit). Statement 1 is therefore good. Section 4 lets the employer fix the wage period, provided it does not exceed one month; a week is a lawful wage period. Statement 2 is good. Section 5 is the trap. Where fewer than one thousand persons are employed, wages must be paid before the expiry of the seventh day after the last day of the wage period. Where one thousand or more are employed, the deadline is the tenth day, not the seventh. Statement 3 applies the seven-day rule to the larger establishment and is false. "More than 1000" versus "1000 or more" is a further quibble; either way the seventh day is the wrong deadline for that size.

Question 41

Which of the following deductions from wages can be made under the Payment of Wages Act, 1936?

1. Deductions for amenities and services supplied by the employer

2. Deductions for recovery of advances

3. Deductions for payments to co-operative societies

Options

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

Answer: D

Explanation

Section 7(2) of the Payment of Wages Act is a closed list of authorised deductions. It includes deductions for house-accommodation and for amenities or services supplied by the employer (subject to authorisation and to the value of the amenity), deductions for recovery of advances and for adjustment of over-payments, and deductions for payments to co-operative societies registered under the relevant law. All three numbered statements therefore sit inside s.7(2). Read the list once; every EPFO paper returns to it.

Question 42

Loss of one eye without complications, the other being normal, is considered as what kind of injury under Schedule I of the Employees' Compensation Act, 1923?

Options

(a)	Permanent total disablement
(b)	**Permanent partial disablement**
(c)	Temporary partial disablement
(d)	Will be decided based on medical examination

Answer: B

Explanation

Schedule I to the Employees' Compensation Act lists injuries deemed to result in permanent partial disablement, each with a percentage of loss of earning capacity. "Loss of one eye, without complications, the other being normal" is in that list and is rated at 40 per cent. Permanent total disablement is reserved for injuries in Part I of the Schedule (or for combinations that add to 100 per cent) — for example, loss of both eyes. Temporary disablement, total or partial, is a time-bound reduction in earning capacity that is expected to end; a scheduled loss of an eye is not temporary. Medical examination may quantify a non-scheduled injury under s.4, but a Schedule I injury does not wait for a fresh medical characterisation of its legal class. Once the injury matches the scheduled description, the class is permanent partial disablement and the percentage is 40.

Question 43

A person 'X', aged 48 years, was working in a mine where he met a fatal accident while working underground. He was receiving monthly wage of ₹ 12,000 when this unfortunate incident occurred. What is the amount of compensation payable to him under the Employees' Compensation Act, 1923? (Relevant factor being 159.80)

Options

(a)	₹ 6,40,680
(b)	₹ 8,30,700
(c)	**₹ 9,58,800**
(d)	₹ 10,43,760

Answer: C

Explanation

Section 4(1)(a) of the Employees' Compensation Act fixes death compensation at 50 per cent of monthly wages multiplied by the relevant factor given in Schedule IV for the completed years of age, or the notified minimum, whichever is higher. The paper itself supplies the factor 159.80 for age 48 and the wage ₹12,000. It does not ask you to apply a wage ceiling that is not in the stem. Half of 12,000 is 6,000; 6,000 × 159.80 = 9,58,800. That is option (c). The underground-mine setting and the age are colour; they do not change the formula once the factor is given. Wrong options are typically 40 per cent or 60 per cent of the same product, or the product of wage and factor without the 50 per cent. Write the multiplication before you look at the letters.

Question 44

In which one of the following judgments did the Supreme Court lay down the 'Triple test' in respect of the definition of 'industry' under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947?

Options

(a)	State of Bombay v. the Hospital Mazdoor Sabha, AIR 1960 SC 610
(b)	**Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board v. A. Rajappa, AIR 1978 SC 548**
(c)	State of U.P. v. Jai Bir Singh, (2005) 5 SCC 1
(d)	M/s Bharti Airtel Limited v. A.S. Raghavendra [Civil Appeal No. 5187 of 2023]

Answer: B

Explanation

Section 2(j) of the ID Act defines "industry." In Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board v. A. Rajappa (1978) a seven-judge Bench gave the working triple test: (i) systematic activity, (ii) organised by co-operation between employer and employee, (iii) for the production and/or distribution of goods and services calculated to satisfy human wants and wishes (not spiritual or religious). Where the triple test is satisfied, a profit motive is not essential, and sovereign functions are carved out. Hospital Mazdoor Sabha (1960) is an earlier expansive reading of "industry," not the triple test. Jai Bir Singh (2005) referred the definition to a larger Bench. Bharti Airtel (2024) is a recent case on abandonment and Section 2(oo), not on 2(j). For EPFO the case-name to lock to the triple test is Rajappa, 1978.

Question 45

Which one of the following industries is not a public utility service under the First Schedule of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947?

Options

(a)	Chemical Fertilizer Industry
(b)	Pyrites Mining
(c)	Manufacturing of Alumina and Aluminium
(d)	**Tea Plantation**

Answer: D

Explanation

Section 2(n)(vi) lets the appropriate Government declare an industry listed in the First Schedule to be a public utility service for a stated period. The First Schedule, as amended and notified, includes (among many others) pyrites mining, chemical-fertiliser industry, and manufacture of alumina and aluminium. Tea plantation is not on that list. Tea, coffee and rubber plantations are principally regulated for welfare by the Plantations Labour Act, 1951; they are "industries" for the ID Act but they are not First Schedule public-utility industries. Being a public utility service matters because s.22 then imposes a six-week strike/lock-out notice. If you can name even one First Schedule entry you can still kill tea plantation as the odd one out among a fertiliser plant, a pyrites mine and an aluminium smelter.

Question 46

The mandate of giving a notice of six weeks as provided under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 is/are applicable to which of the following categories of people?

1. Workmen employed in public utility service, before going for a strike
2. Employers carrying out public utility service, before declaring lock-out
3. Workmen employed in any service, before going for a strike

Options

(a)	3 only
(b)	2 only
(c)	**1 and 2**
(d)	1 only

Answer: C

Explanation

Section 22 is a public-utility special regime. No person employed in a public utility service shall go on strike in breach of contract without giving notice of strike within six weeks before striking, or within fourteen days of giving such notice, or before the expiry of the date specified in the notice, or during pendency of conciliation. The mirror image in s.22(2) binds the employer of a public utility service before a lock-out. Workmen in a non-public-utility industry are not under that six-week notice mandate; their strikes are governed by s.23 (prohibition during conciliation, Board, Tribunal and the cooling periods) and by standing orders, not by s.22. Statement 3 is therefore too wide. The pair that s.22 actually names is workmen in a PUS and employers of a PUS. That is 1 and 2.

Question 47

In which of the following situations will gratuity be payable to Mr. 'X' under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972?

1. Mr. 'X' resigns from the industry after rendering continuous service for six years
2. Mr. 'X' dies due to an accident in the industry after rendering continuous service for two years
3. Mr. 'X' retires from the industry after rendering continuous service for five years

Options

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

Answer: B

Explanation

Section 4(1) of the Payment of Gratuity Act makes gratuity payable on superannuation, on retirement or resignation, and on death or disablement due to accident or disease. Section 4(1) second proviso (the five-year rule) requires at least five years' continuous service for the first two events. The same proviso is expressly disapplied where the termination is by death or disablement: the five-year qualification does not apply. Resignation after six years therefore qualifies. Retirement after five years qualifies (five years is enough). Death after two years also qualifies, because death waives the five-year bar. All three situations pay. The underground-accident colour in other questions should remind you that death and disablement are the exceptions written into s.4 itself.

Question 48

Which one of the following is not a right provided to a registered Trade Union under Chapter III of the Trade Unions Act, 1926?

Options

(a)	Constitution of a separate fund for political purposes
(b)	Giving membership to a person aged 17 years
(c)	**Committing a tortious act in contemplation of a trade dispute, by an agent of the Trade Union, without the knowledge of the executive of Trade Union**
(d)	Making changes in the employment contract through an act done in contemplation of a trade dispute

Answer: C

Explanation

Chapter III of the Trade Unions Act confers rights and immunities, not a licence to commit civil wrongs. Section 16 allows a separate political fund, with a right of members to opt out. Section 21 allows any person who has attained the age of fifteen to be a member (office requires eighteen); a seventeen-year-old member is therefore lawful. Section 18 gives the union and its members immunity from certain civil suits for acts done in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute, including inducing a breach of a contract of employment — which is the lawful core of option (d). Section 18(2) then protects the union from vicarious liability when an agent commits a tort without the knowledge of, or contrary to the instructions of, the executive. That is an immunity of the union, not a right of the agent "to commit a tortious act." Option (c) states as a right what the Act merely declines to impute to the union. That is the option that is not a Chapter III right.

Question 49

In which one of the following circumstances, can Ms. 'X', who is a government servant not claim maternity benefit of twenty-six weeks as prescribed under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961?

(a) She has one surviving child and is a commissioning mother

(b) She has one surviving child and acts as a surrogate

(c) She has no surviving child and is a commissioning mother

(d) She has no surviving child and faces a miscarriage

Options

(a)	She has one surviving child and is a commissioning mother

(b)	**She has one surviving child and acts as a surrogate**
(c)	She has no surviving child and is a commissioning mother
(d)	She has no surviving child and faces a miscarriage

Answer: B

Explanation

Section 5(3), after the 2017 amendment, gives twenty-six weeks to a woman for her own confinement if she has fewer than two surviving children (twelve weeks if she already has two or more). Section 5(4) gives a commissioning mother — defined as a biological mother who uses her egg to create an embryo implanted in any other woman — twelve weeks from the date the child is handed over, not twenty-six. Section 9 gives six weeks for miscarriage. A woman who “acts as a surrogate” is the gestational carrier who delivers. On a clean reading she is a woman who delivers, and with one surviving child s.5(3) would give her twenty-six weeks.

Question 50

How many nursing breaks does the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 prescribe for a woman who returns to work after her delivery?

Options

(a)	**Two breaks in addition to the interval for rest allowed to her**
(b)	Two breaks within the interval for rest allowed to her
(c)	Three breaks in addition to the interval for rest allowed to her
(d)	One break within the interval for rest allowed to her

Answer: A

Explanation

Section 11 of the Maternity Benefit Act is short and has not been a source of controversy. It provides that a woman who returns to duty after delivery shall, in addition to the interval for rest allowed to her, be allowed in the course of her daily work two breaks of the prescribed duration for nursing the child until the child attains the age of fifteen months. The two breaks are additional to the ordinary rest interval, not carved out of it. The duration of each break is left to rules (often fifteen minutes plus walking time in State rules). Three breaks and one break are inventions. “Within the interval” would collapse the nursing break into lunch, which is the opposite of “in addition to.” The numbers to keep on the statute sheet are: 26 / 12 weeks of benefit, 8 / 6 weeks pre-confinement, 6 weeks for miscarriage, two nursing breaks extra, fifteen months as the outer age.

[redacted]

Question 51

The length of candle B is 3 times the length of candle A. The speed of burning of Candle B is 4 times the speed of burning of Candle A. A party begins with the lighting of these two candles. The party ends when the heights of these candles become equal. If the numerical value of length (in metre) of the burnt away portion of Candle A and the speed (in metre per hour) of its burning are same, how long, in hours, did the party continue?

Options

(a)	1/2
(b)	**1**
(c)	1 1/4
(d)	1 1/2

Answer: B

Explanation

Let candle A have length L metres and burn at v metres per hour. Then B has length 3L and burns at 4v. After t hours the remaining heights are L − vt and 3L − 4vt. The party ends when those heights are equal: L − vt = 3L − 4vt, which rearranges to 3vt = 2L, so t = 2L/(3v). The extra condition is that the numerical value of the burnt length of A, in metres, equals the numerical value of A's burning speed in metres per hour. Burnt length of A is vt metres; speed is v metres per hour; the numbers are equal only if t = 1. Substituting t = 1 back into the height equation gives L = 3v/2, which is a perfectly possible pair of positive quantities. Remaining height of each candle is then v/2, so the candles do meet. The condition is not ornamental: without it t would still contain L and v; with it the duration is pinned at one hour. They do not burn out; they become equal with wax still standing.

Question 52

Five prime numbers are arranged in ascending order. The ratio of the product of the first three of them to that of the last three of them is 35 : 323. What is the difference between the smallest and the largest numbers?

Options

(a)	8
(b)	10
(c)	12
(d)	**14**

Answer: D

Explanation

Let the primes be p < q < r < s < t. The given ratio is pqr : rst = 35 : 323. The middle prime r cancels, so pq : st = 35 : 323. Now 35 = 5 × 7 and 323 = 17 × 19, and 5, 7, 17, 19 are themselves primes in increasing order. The only clean identification is therefore p = 5, q = 7, s = 17, t = 19, with r any prime strictly between 7 and 17 (11 or 13). The cancelled r never enters the difference t − p = 19 − 5 = 14. Other factor pairings of 35 against 323 do not produce five primes in a single increasing line.

Question 53

In a movie hall, there are three categories of seats: Diamond, Gold and Silver. On a week day, the prices per ticket in these categories are ₹ 500, ₹ 300 and ₹ 200, respectively. But on weekends, the prices are raised to ₹ 800, ₹ 500 and ₹ 300, respectively. There are exactly 10 Diamond seats and the number of Silver seats is double the number of Gold seats. If the hall goes house full in all the shows, which of the following is the excess earning made per show on a weekend?

Options

(a)	₹ 20,000
(b)	**₹ 23,000**
(c)	₹ 26,000
(d)	₹ 30,000

Answer: B

Explanation

Let Gold seats be g and Silver seats 2g. Diamond is fixed at 10. Weekday house-full take = 10×500 + 300g + 200×2g = 5,000 + 700g. Weekend take = 10×800 + 500g + 300×2g = 8,000 + 1,100g. Excess per show = 3,000 + 400g. Among the four listed excesses only ₹23,000 makes g an integer: 3,000 + 400g = 23,000 ⇒ g = 50, Silver = 100, total capacity = 160. ₹20,000, ₹26,000 and ₹30,000 all force a half-seat. A hall does not sell half a Gold seat. That is the silent constraint that isolates (b). The weekday/weekend price increments are ₹300, ₹200 and ₹100; ten Diamonds contribute ₹3,000 of the excess and the rest must be a multiple of ₹400.

Question 54

How many digits are there in 6^25? (It is given that log10 2 = 0.3010 and log10 3 = 0.4771)

Options

(a)	**20**
(b)	21
(c)	22
(d)	23

Answer: A

Explanation

The number of decimal digits of a positive integer n is floor(log10 n) + 1. Here n = 6^25 = (2·3)^25 = 2^25 · 3^25, so log10 n = 25(log10 2 + log10 3) = 25(0.3010 + 0.4771) = 25 × 0.7781 = 19.4525. Floor of 19.4525 is 19; add one to obtain 20 digits. Characteristic 19 means the number is 10^19 times an antilog between 1 and 10, hence a 20-digit integer. Do not round 19.4525 up to 20 before taking the floor; the fractional part is what the antilog uses, not an extra digit. The given four-decimal logs are exact enough that 0.4525 is nowhere near 0.999, so there is no rounding controversy at the boundary.

Question 55

In a business, A, B and C had invested in the ratio of 2 : 3 : 5, but they all earned the same amount of profit at the end. If the profit is proportional to the amount as well as the duration of the investment, what will be the ratio of duration of their investments?

Options

(a)	5 : 3 : 2
(b)	2 : 3 : 5
(c)	10 : 15 : 6
(d)	**15 : 10 : 6**

Answer: D

Explanation

Profit = k × capital × time. Equal profits ⇒ 2·tA = 3·tB = 5·tC. Therefore tA : tB : tC = 1/2 : 1/3 : 1/5. Clearing the denominator 30 gives 15 : 10 : 6. That is the inverse of the capital ratio, as it must be when the product is held constant. Option (a) is the inverse written without equalising the common multiple correctly (it is the reciprocal of 2:3:5 in the wrong order of operations). Option (b) repeats the capital ratio. Option (c) is a garbled multiple. The only ratio that satisfies 2×15 = 3×10 = 5×6 = 30 is (d).

Question 56

If five persons take five hours to paint five walls of equal area, how many hours will 7 persons take to paint 7 walls of equal area, provided both the sets of walls are identical?

Options

(a)	8
(b)	7
(c)	6
(d)	**5**

Answer: D

Explanation

Five persons × five hours = 25 person-hours paint five identical walls, so one wall costs 5 person-hours. Seven identical walls therefore cost 35 person-hours. Seven persons supply 7 person-hours per clock-hour, so the clock time is 35/7 = 5 hours. The 5–5–5 and 7–7–? pattern is designed so that the unthinking candidate writes 7. Work rate per person is constant; the number of walls per person is also constant in this particular pairing. A single person paints one wall in five hours; seven persons paint seven walls in the same five hours. That is the cleanest statement of the same arithmetic.

Question 57

If 2nd February, 2025 was Sunday, which day was it on 1st February, 2024?

Options

(a)	Saturday

(b)	Monday
(c)	**Thursday**
(d)	Friday

Answer: C

Explanation

2 February 2025 is Sunday, so 1 February 2025 is Saturday. The interval from 1 February 2024 to 1 February 2025 contains 29 February 2024, because 2024 is a leap year and the leap day sits after 1 February. The interval is therefore 366 days = 52 weeks + 2 days. Hence 1 February 2025 is two weekdays after 1 February 2024. Saturday minus two days is Thursday. The usual trap is to forget that the leap day of 2024 falls inside this particular February-to-February window, which would give a 365-day, one-day shift and the wrong letter Friday. Always ask: does 29 February of the earlier year lie strictly after the start date?

Question 58

A train starts from station A at 9 AM and reaches station B at 2 PM. Another train starts from station B at 11 AM and reaches station A at 3 PM. On their way, they meet at a point P. The distances from station A to P and from station B to P bear the ratio:

Options

(a)	1 : 2
(b)	**2 : 1**
(c)	2 : 3
(d)	3 : 2

Answer: B

Explanation

Let AB = D. First train runs 5 hours, speed D/5. Second train runs 4 hours, speed D/4. They are both on the track only from 11 AM. By 11 AM the first train has already covered 2D/5, leaving 3D/5. Combined speed D/5 + D/4 = 9D/20. Time from 11 AM to meeting = (3D/5) ÷ (9D/20) = 4/3 hours. Distance AP = 2D/5 + (D/5)(4/3) = 2D/3. Distance BP = (D/4)(4/3) = D/3. Ratio AP : BP = 2 : 1. An equivalent short cut: from the start of simultaneous running the remaining distances are covered in the inverse ratio of speeds 4 : 5, but the first train's two-hour head start must be added first. Do not take the total journey times 5 : 4 as the meeting ratio; that would be correct only if they had started together.

Question 59

If x percent of a is same as y percent of b, then what percent of a is z percent of b?

Options

(a)	**zx / y**

(b)	xy / z
(c)	yz / x
(d)	x / yz

Answer: A

Explanation

x% of a equals y% of b means xa/100 = yb/100, so xa = yb, or a/b = y/x. Now z% of b is zb/100. As a percentage of a that quantity is [(zb/100)/a] × 100 = zb/a = z(b/a) = z(x/y) = (zx)/y. So z percent of b is (zx/y) percent of a. The algebra is one substitution. The four options are the three-letter monomials with every possible arrangement; only zx/y survives the substitution. Checking with numbers kills the rest: if x=50, y=25, a=2, b=4, then 50% of 2 equals 25% of 4. z=50 gives 50% of 4 = 2, which is 100% of a, and zx/y = 50×50/25 = 100.

Question 60

Consider the following Assertion and Reason:

Assertion: 15% discount on the marked price of an item is more than the discount of 10% on the marked price of the same item and a subsequent (successive) discount of 5%.

Reason: The subsequent (successive) discount is on the discounted amount.

Which one of the following is correct with regard to the above Assertion and Reason?

Options

(a)	**Both the assertion and the reason are individually true and the reason is a correct explanation of the assertion.**
(b)	Both the assertion and the reason are individually true, but the reason is not a correct explanation of the assertion.
(c)	Assertion is true, but Reason is false.
(d)	Assertion is false, but Reason is true.

Answer: A

Explanation

A single 15% discount leaves 0.85 of marked price, i.e. a 15% cut. Successive 10% and 5% leave 0.90 × 0.95 = 0.855 of marked price, i.e. a 14.5% cut. 15 > 14.5, so the assertion is true. The reason is the definition of a successive discount: the second percentage is applied to the already reduced price, not to the marked price. That is precisely why 10 + 5 does not add to 15, and therefore why the single 15% cut is larger. The reason is both true and explanatory. This is the standard AS/Reason pattern on successive versus flat discounts.

Question 61

Three distinct positive integers a, b and c are such that b − a = c − b and a + b + c = 12. What is the maximum number of such possible sets (a, b, c)?

Options

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

Answer: C

Explanation

b − a = c − b means a, b, c are in arithmetic progression, so 2b = a + c. Combined with a + b + c = 12 this yields 3b = 12, hence b is pinned at 4. Then a + c = 8 with a, c, 4 all distinct positive integers. The unordered triples are {1,4,7}, {2,4,6} and {3,4,5}. That is three sets. Counting ordered triples (1,4,7) and (7,4,1) as different would give six, which is not on the paper; the word "sets (a, b, c)" in this option-range is the unordered reading, or equivalently the increasing reading a < b < c. There is no fourth triple of distinct positive integers with mid-term 4 and sum 12 (0 is not positive; 4 repeated is not distinct).

Question 62

Find the missing term in the following alphanumeric series:

C – 24, H – 19, M – 14, ?, W – 4

Options

(a)	S – 7
(b)	**R – 9**
(c)	S – 18
(d)	R – 17

Answer: B

Explanation

The letters run C, H, M, ?, W. In the alphabet those are positions 3, 8, 13, ?, 23 — an arithmetic sequence with common difference +5. The missing letter is position 18, which is R. The numbers run 24, 19, 14, ?, 4 — an arithmetic sequence with common difference −5. The missing number is 9. The pair is therefore R – 9. Option (a) keeps neither progression. Option (c) keeps neither. Option (d) has the right letter and the wrong number. Two independent AP's, one on the alphabet and one on the integer, is a standard UPSC series pattern; solve each track separately and reassemble.

Question 63

How many three-digit numbers are there that have the middle digit as the sum of the first digit and the third digit?

Options

(a)	40

(b)	**45**
(c)	50
(d)	55

Answer: B

Explanation

Write the number as ABC, meaning 100A+10B+C, with A ∈ {1,...,9}, C ∈ {0,...,9}, B ∈ {0,...,9}, and B = A+C. Since B is a single digit, A+C ≤ 9 (no carry into tens). For each fixed A, C may run from 0 to 9−A inclusive, which is 10−A values. Summing from A = 1 to 9: (10−1)+(10−2)+...+(10−9) = 9+8+...+1 = 45. There is no extra case for C = 0, and A cannot be 0 because the number would then not be three-digit. Forty-five is also 10+9+...+2, same triangle. Do not allow B = A+C−10; the stem says the middle digit is the sum, not the sum modulo 10.

Question 64

The scores of 16 students in a test are as follows: 19, 4, 17, 7, 15, 2, 18, 11, 15, 17, 19, 4, 3, 2, 6, 9. What is the difference between their arithmetic mean and the median?

Options

(a)	1.0
(b)	0.8
(c)	**0.5**
(d)	0.2

Answer: C

Explanation

Arithmetic mean is the sum divided by 16. The sixteen scores add to 168 (pair them: two 2's, 3, two 4's, 6, 7, 9, 11, two 15's, two 17's, 18, two 19's). Mean = 168/16 = 10.5. Ordered list: 2,2,3,4,4,6,7,9,11,15,15,17,17,18,19,19. With n even, the median is the mean of the 8th and 9th observations: (9+11)/2 = 10. Difference = 10.5 – 10 = 0.5. Always sort before naming a median.

Question 65

Two unbiased dice, each marked 1 to 6 on their faces, are rolled simultaneously. What is the probability that the sum of the outcomes on the top faces of both dice is 7 or 10?

Options

(a)	0.15
(b)	0.20
(c)	**0.25**
(d)	0.30

Answer: C

Explanation

The sample space has 6 × 6 = 36 equally likely ordered pairs. Sum 7: (1,6),(2,5),(3,4),(4,3),(5,2),(6,1) — six outcomes. Sum 10: (4,6),(5,5),(6,4) — three outcomes. (3,7) and (7,3) do not exist on a d6. Favourable = 9. Probability = 9/36 = 1/4 = 0.25. A common error is to count sum 10 as six outcomes by analogy with sum 7, which would give 12/36 = 0.33, not even on the paper; another is to treat the dice as indistinguishable and undercount. Keep the dice ordered. 0.20 would be 7.2 outcomes; 0.30 would be 10.8; neither is an integer count.

Question 66

Shri Jatin Goswami, a Padma Bhushan awardee in the year 2025, is an exponent of which one of the following dance forms?

Options

(a)	Bharatanatyam
(b)	**Sattriya**
(c)	Kathakali
(d)	Kathak

Answer: B

Explanation

Jatin Goswami is one of the living patriarchs of Sattriya, the classical dance of the Vaishnava sattras of Assam, recognised by the Sangeet Natak Akademi as a classical form in 2000. He was awarded the Padma Shri earlier and the Padma Bhushan in 2025 for that body of work — choreography, training and the preservation of Srimanta Sankardeva's dance-drama tradition. Bharatanatyam, Kathakali and Kathak have their own 2025 honourees; they are the distractors written from the rest of the classical list. Current-affairs items of this type are decided by matching the awardee to the form, not by guessing the most famous dance. Assam + sattra + Goswami is the lock.

Question 67

Two Indian Servicemen were posthumously conferred with the Dag Hammarskjöld medal in the year 2025 by which one of the following international organisations?

Options

(a)	**United Nations Organization (UNO)**
(b)	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
(c)	Nordic Defence Cooperation (NORDEFCO)
(d)	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

Answer: A

Explanation

The Dag Hammarskjöld Medal is the United Nations' posthumous honour for military, police and civilian personnel who lose their lives in UN peacekeeping operations. It is named for the second Secretary-General, killed in 1961, and is presented annually on the International Day of UN Peacekeepers, 29 May. Indian peacekeepers have received it in several years; 2025 continued that list. OSCE, NORDEFCO and SIPRI do not award this medal. The name "Hammarskjöld" on an Indian-servicemen question is itself the UN tag.

Question 68

Consider the following statements:

1. Space Exploration Technologies Corp. is commonly known as SpaceX.

2. 'Falcon' is a space vehicle developed by SpaceX whereas 'Dragon' is a space vehicle developed by 'NASA'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Options

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

Answer: A

Explanation

Space Exploration Technologies Corp. is Elon Musk's company, branded SpaceX. Statement 1 is true. Falcon (Falcon 9, Falcon Heavy) is SpaceX's launch vehicle family. Dragon (Cargo Dragon and Crew Dragon) is also SpaceX's spacecraft; NASA is the customer that certifies and buys Crew Dragon flights to the ISS under Commercial Crew, not the developer. Statement 2 is therefore false in its second clause. One true corporate expansion and one false attribution.

Question 69

Which of the following statements relating to 2026 FIFA Men's Football World Cup is/are correct?

1. USA, Mexico and Canada will jointly host the event.

2. 48 teams shall participate in the event.

Options

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

Answer: C

Explanation

FIFA awarded the 2026 Men's World Cup to a United 2026 bid of the United States, Mexico and Canada — the first 48-team finals, expanded from 32. Both statements are the two facts every sports-GK capsule on this tournament carries. The expansion to 48 was confirmed years before the 2025 paper; the co-host list has not changed. There is no trick in the year (2026, not 2025) and no trick in "Men's." Tick both.

Question 70

Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra was removed by Thailand's Constitutional Court in the year 2025 over a leaked phone call with a senior statesperson of which neighbouring country?

Options

(a)	Myanmar
(b)	**Cambodia**
(c)	Laos
(d)	Vietnam

Answer: B

Explanation

In 2025 Thailand's Constitutional Court dismissed Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra after a leaked telephone conversation with Hun Sen, the former Cambodian Prime Minister and then President of the Cambodian Senate, in which border and political matters were discussed in terms the Court treated as a breach of ethics and security. Cambodia is the neighbour; Hun Sen is the statesperson. Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam are the other land-border names written as distractors.

Question 71

Which of the following statements relating to the 'Scheme for Promotion of Registration of Employers and Employees (SPREE) 2025' is/are correct?

1. SPREE is approved by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).

2. SPREE provides a one-time opportunity for unregistered employers and employees – including contractual and temporary workers.

Options

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

Answer: C

Explanation

SPREE 2025 is an ESIC amnesty-style registration window, revived from the 2016 edition, open (in the notified cycle) from 1 July to 31 December 2025. It lets hitherto unregistered but coverable employers, and left-out employees including contractual, casual and temporary workers, come onto the ESI database without inspection of past records or demand for past contribution. Both statements are therefore the official description. For this paper, an ESIC registration drive is as much "labour current affairs" as an EPFO circular.

Question 72

'Zero Defect, Zero Effect' is an initiative of which one among the following Ministries of the Government of India?

Options

(a)	Ministry of Heavy Industries
(b)	Ministry of Education
(c)	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
(d)	**Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**

Answer: D

Explanation

Zero Defect, Zero Effect (ZED) is the MSME Ministry's certification and hand-holding scheme: manufactured output should have zero defect for the customer and zero adverse effect on the environment. It sits inside the Make-in-India / lean / quality architecture for small industry, with bronze-silver-gold certification, and is administered by the Quality Council of India on behalf of the Ministry of MSME. Heavy Industries, Education and Skill Development are neighbouring ministries with their own quality and skilling brands; they do not own ZED. The phrase itself, coined in a Prime Ministerial formulation and then turned into an MSME scheme, is a standing GK lock for this paper.

Question 73

Which of the following statements relating to the recent steps taken by the Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) is/are correct?

1. EPFO has enhanced member services by increasing the auto-settlement limit for advance claims from the existing ₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 3 lakh.

2. EPFO first introduced auto-settlement of advance claims during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Options

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

Answer: B

Explanation

Auto-settlement of specified EPF advance claims was introduced as a COVID-19 relief measure so that illness and related advances could be paid without a queue at the field office. Statement 2 is true. Statement 1 plants a wrong number. The notified enhancement that followed was from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh (announced mid-2025 by the Labour Minister), not to ₹3 lakh. The paper's method in current-affairs pairs is often one true institutional fact and one doctored figure. Read every rupee.

Question 74

Which of the following statements relating to the recent steps taken by the Government of India under the 'Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme' is/are correct?

1. ELI Scheme has an outlay of about ₹ 1 lakh crore.

2. Establishments registered with the EPFO are required to hire at least two additional employees (with fewer than 50 employees) or five additional employees (with 50 or more employees), on a sustained basis for at least six months, to avail benefits under the ELI Scheme.

Options

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

Answer: C

Explanation

The Union Cabinet approved the Employment Linked Incentive Scheme with an outlay of ₹99,446 crore — described in every official brief as about ₹1 lakh crore — to support more than 3.5 crore jobs over two years. Part B (support to employers) is delivered through EPFO registration. An establishment must add at least two employees if it has fewer than 50 staff, or five if it has 50 or more, and must sustain that addition for at least six months. Statement 2 is the Cabinet note almost verbatim. Both statements are therefore correct.

Question 75

The Union Cabinet had approved a new Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement with which regional bloc for the period 2024–2027?

Options

(a)	**South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**
(b)	African Union (AU)
(c)	Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
(d)	European Union (EU)

Answer: A

Explanation

RBI's SAARC Currency Swap Framework was renewed by the Union Cabinet for 2024–2027 so that SAARC members can draw short-term liquidity against a swap with India, in INR or in hard currency within a notified envelope. It is a continuity instrument, not a new multilateral bank. AU, ASEAN and EU have other financial dialogues with India; they are not the 2024–2027 swap counterpart named in the Cabinet decision. A currency-swap question in an Indian paper, tagged with those three years and "regional bloc," is SAARC until a later Cabinet note says otherwise.

Question 76

The principle of inventory valuation – "cost or net realisable value, whichever is lower" is based on:

Options

(a)	Accrual Concept
(b)	Matching Concept
(c)	Money Measurement Concept
(d)	**Convention of Conservatism**

Answer: D

Explanation

AS 2 / Ind AS 2 require inventories to be valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. That rule is the convention of conservatism (prudence) applied to stock: anticipate no profit, provide for all probable losses. If NRV has fallen below cost, the write-down is recognised at once; if NRV is above cost, the unrealised gain is not recognised. Accrual is about recording when the event occurs, not about the measurement cap. Matching pairs expense with revenue. Money measurement excludes non-monetary facts. The phrase "whichever is lower" is the give-away of prudence. This is a standing accountancy item on this paper, asked in 2023 in a neighbouring form.

Question 77

Which one of the following is not a 'fundamental accounting assumption' in the preparation of financial statements?

Options

(a)	**Matching concept**
(b)	Going concern
(c)	Accrual
(d)	Consistency

Answer: A

Explanation

AS 1 (Disclosure of Accounting Policies) names three fundamental accounting assumptions: going concern, consistency and accrual. If they are followed, they need not be disclosed; if they are not followed, the departure must be disclosed. Matching — the pairing of revenue with the costs incurred to earn it — is a principle of measurement and of the profit-and-loss account, but it is not one of the three fundamental assumptions listed in AS 1. Matching is important and true; it is simply not on that list.

Question 78

Which one of the following is a revenue expenditure?

Options

(a)	Overhaul expenses of a second hand machinery purchased
(b)	Legal fees to acquire a property
(c)	**Amount spent for replacement of worn-out portion of a machine**
(d)	Expenses in connection with obtaining a license for running the cinema hall

Answer: C

Explanation

Capital expenditure creates or improves a durable asset or brings a newly acquired second-hand asset to working condition. Revenue expenditure keeps an already working asset in its existing condition. Overhaul of a second-hand machine just purchased is part of its cost of bringing it to use — capital. Legal fees to acquire a property are added to the cost of the property — capital. A cinema-hall licence is a right that yields enduring benefit — treated as capital (or as a deferred asset), not as a period expense. Replacement of a worn-out portion of a machine already in use, which merely restores the machine to its previous working state, is a repair — revenue. That is the one revenue item in the list. The 2023 EO/AO paper asked the same distinction with an engine overhaul; the classification has not moved.

Question 79

When purchase of an asset is treated as an expense, in the accounting context, it is called:

Options

(a)	**Error of principle**
(b)	Error of omission
(c)	Error of commission
(d)	Compensating error

Answer: A

Explanation

An error of principle is a recording that breaks an accounting principle — typically capital treated as revenue, or a personal account used for a real one. Booking the purchase of an asset to an expense head (Repairs, Purchases, or P&L directly) is the textbook specimen: the trial balance may still agree, because the double entry was completed, but the classification is doctrinally wrong. Omission is leaving the transaction out entirely. Commission is a slip of amount, account-name or side that is not a principle-break (posting ₹5,000 as ₹500, or to the wrong debtor). Compensating errors are two mistakes that cancel. The 2023 paper used "machinery recorded in the Purchase Book" as the same principle-error; this stem is that item rewritten.

Question 80

In accounting context, which one of the following statements is correct?

Options

(a)	Reserve created is a charge against profits.
(b)	Capital reserves are normally created out of distributable profits.
(c)	General reserve can be used only for some specific purposes.
(d)	**'Provision' is a charge against profit.**

Answer: D

Explanation

A provision is an amount written off or retained by a charge against profit to meet a known liability whose amount cannot be determined with substantial accuracy (AS 29 / the older Schedule VI language). It reduces reported profit before arriving at distributable profit. A reserve is an appropriation of profit after it has been earned, not a charge. Capital reserves are born of capital profits (share premium, revaluation, capital redemption), not of distributable trading profits. A general reserve, by definition, is not earmarked for a single specified purpose; a specific reserve is. Statements (a), (b) and (c) each invert one of those distinctions. Statement (d) is the only sentence that a standard would let stand. Keep the pair on the statute-sheet: provision = charge; reserve = appropriation.

SECTION — continued
Questions 81–102

Question 81

Which one of the following statements is correct?

Options

(a)	Agreement of trial balance is a conclusive proof of the accuracy.
(b)	Suspense account opened in a trial balance is a permanent account.
(c)	At the end of the accounting year, all the nominal accounts of the ledger book are balanced.
(d)	**A ledger is known as the principal book of accounts.**

Answer: D

Explanation

The ledger is the principal book because every transaction that has first been journalised is posted there, and the trial balance and the final accounts are drawn from ledger balances. That is statement (d), and it is the one true sentence in the set. Agreement of the trial balance is not conclusive: compensating errors, errors of principle, complete omissions and errors of original entry all leave the trial balance tallied. A suspense account opened to force a trial balance to agree is a temporary parking account; it must be cleared, not carried as a permanent head. Nominal accounts are not "balanced" and carried forward; they are closed to the Trading and Profit and Loss Account at the year-end. Real and personal accounts are balanced.

Question 82

Which one of the following statements is not correct?

Options

(a)	**Capital account has a debit balance.**
(b)	Discount column of cash book records cash discount.
(c)	Under traditional approach, rent outstanding is a personal account.
(d)	Cash sales are not recorded in the sales day book.

Answer: A

Explanation

Capital is the owner's claim on the firm. It is credited when introduced and when profit is added, and debited only for drawings and for a loss. In a healthy going concern the capital account therefore carries a credit balance. The other three statements are true. The discount columns of a triple-column cash book record cash discount allowed and received, not trade discount. Under the traditional (British/Indian) classification, outstanding rent is a representative personal account — "Rent Outstanding A/c" stands in for the landlord. The sales day book is a book of original entry for credit sales only; cash sales go through the cash book. Three true book-keeping rules and one inverted balance.

Question 83

Which one of the following is correct?

Options

(a)	Operating profit = Net profit – Non-operating expenses – Non-operating incomes
(b)	Operating profit = Net profit + Non-operating expenses + Non-operating incomes
(c)	**Operating profit = Net profit + Non-operating expenses – Non-operating incomes**
(d)	Operating profit = Net profit – Non-operating expenses + Non-operating incomes

Answer: C

Explanation

Net profit is operating profit after non-operating expenses have been deducted and non-operating incomes have been added. To walk backwards from net profit to operating profit one must therefore add back the non-operating expenses and take out the non-operating incomes: OP = NP + non-op exp – non-op inc. That is option (c). Interest on loan, loss on sale of an asset and charitable donations are typical non-operating expenses; interest received, dividend and profit on sale of an investment are typical non-operating incomes. The four options are the four sign-combinations of the same two adjustments; only one combination reverses both the deduction and the addition that produced net profit. Write a two-line P&L in the margin if the signs swim.

Question 84

Which one of the following costs is generally not included in computing the cost of inventory?

Options

(a)	**Administration overheads**
(b)	All cost of purchase
(c)	Normal wastage of materials
(d)	Storage cost assuming a special storage is required as part of production process

Answer: A

Explanation

AS 2 / Ind AS 2 include in inventory cost (i) costs of purchase, (ii) costs of conversion and (iii) other costs incurred in bringing inventories to their present location and condition. Costs of purchase therefore come in. Normal wastage of materials is a conversion cost and comes in. Storage cost comes in only when the storage is an essential part of the production process (wine, timber, cheese); that is the case the option itself states, so (d) is included. Administration overheads that do not contribute to bringing inventories to their present location and condition are period costs and are kept out. That is the general rule the word "generally" in the stem is pointing at. Abnormal wastage, selling costs and most storage and admin costs stay outside inventory.

Question 85

Which one of the following will be the adjustment journal entry if the rent received in advance is ₹ 2,000?

Options

(a)	Debit profit and loss account and Credit rent account
(b)	**Debit rent received account and Credit rent received in advance account**
(c)	Debit rent received in advance account and Credit rent received account
(d)	Debit rent account and Credit profit and loss account

Answer: B

Explanation

Rent received during the year is commonly credited to Rent Received / Rent A/c. The portion that relates to the next year is income received in advance — a current liability. The year-end adjustment therefore takes that portion out of income and parks it as a liability: Debit Rent Received A/c ₹2,000; Credit Rent Received in Advance A/c ₹2,000. Option (c) is the reverse entry, which would be used if the liability were being released in the following year. Options (a) and (d) are the closing entries that move the year's income (after adjustment) to P&L; they are not the prepaid/advance adjustment itself. Always name the two accounts the adjustment actually touches: the income account and the advance-liability account.

Question 86

In case of contract of insurance, the principle which states that it is the duty of the insured to take reasonable steps to minimize the loss or damage to the insured property is called:

Options

(a)	Principle of Subrogation
(b)	Principle of Utmost Good Faith
(c)	Principle of Co-operation
(d)	**Principle of Mitigation**

Answer: D

Explanation

Mitigation of loss is the insured's duty, after a casualty has begun or is imminent, to take all reasonable steps that a prudent uninsured owner would take to keep the loss as small as possible. Failure to mitigate entitles the insurer to reduce the claim by the avoidable portion. Subrogation is the insurer's step into the insured's shoes against a third-party wrongdoer after payment. Uberrimae fidei is the pre-contract and continuing duty of disclosure. "Co-operation" is not a named marine/fire principle in the Indian syllabus list. The stem's own words — "minimize the loss or damage to the insured property" — are the definition of mitigation. This is a one-step naming item from the insurance chapter of mercantile law.

Question 87

Which one of the following is not a Contract of Indemnity?

Options

(a)	Contract of Fire Insurance
(b)	**Contract of Life Insurance**
(c)	Contract of Marine Insurance
(d)	Contract of Motor Insurance

Answer: B

Explanation

A contract of indemnity (s.124 of the Indian Contract Act, and the special insurance statutes) promises to make good an actual loss. Fire, marine and motor policies are contracts of indemnity: the insurer pays the measured loss, subject to sum insured and average, and is then subrogated. A life policy is not an indemnity. It is a contingent contract to pay a fixed (or scheduled) sum on death or on survival to a date; there is no "measured loss of life" to restore. That is why life policies have no subrogation in the indemnity sense and why a person may hold several life policies without the contribution rules of fire insurance. The odd one out of the four insurance contracts is life. The same distinction is asked almost every year in some paper of this family.

Question 88

Which one of the following statements about audit documentation is not correct?

Options

(a)	Audit documentation includes audit programmes.
(b)	**Audit file and audit documentation are the same.**

(c)	Audit documentation includes summaries of significant matters.
(d)	Audit documentation may be recorded on paper or electronic or any other media.

Answer: B

Explanation

SA 230, Audit Documentation, defines audit documentation as the record of audit procedures performed, relevant audit evidence obtained, and conclusions reached — commonly called working papers. An audit file is the one or more folders or other storage media, in physical or electronic form, containing the records that constitute the audit documentation for a specific engagement. The file is the container; the documentation is the content. They are not the same thing. Programmes, summaries of significant matters, confirmations, checklists and analytical workings are all documentation, and the standard expressly allows paper, electronic or other media.

Question 89

In the context of auditing, the primary objective of vouching is:

Options

(a)	To detect errors in financial statements
(b)	To evaluate internal controls
(c)	**To verify the authenticity of transactions**
(d)	To assess management performance

Answer: C

Explanation

Vouching is the examination of documentary evidence (vouchers) that supports the entries in the books, in order to establish that each recorded transaction is authentic, authorised, properly classified and entered for the correct amount. Authenticity of the transaction is the primary objective. Detecting errors is a by-product, not the defined aim. Evaluating internal controls is the work of a control test or a walk-through, not of vouching a voucher. Assessing management performance is a special / operational / performance audit objective. The four options mix the purpose of vouching with the purposes of other audit procedures. Keep the short definition: voucher → authenticity.

Question 90

Which one of the following is not the objective of verification in auditing?

Options

(a)	**Checking the historical accuracy of accounts**
(b)	Verification of the existence of the assets
(c)	Verification of the valuation of the assets
(d)	Verification of the authority of the acquisition of the assets

Answer: A

Explanation

Verification is the auditor's work on assets and liabilities at the balance-sheet date: do they exist, does the entity own them (title / authority of acquisition), are they valued on an acceptable basis, are they free of undisclosed charge, and are they properly disclosed. Existence, valuation and authority of acquisition are three of those objectives. "Historical accuracy of accounts" is a description of what vouching and casting try to establish about past entries; it is not an objective of verification as the term is used in the auditing syllabus. Vouching looks backward at transactions; verification looks at the balances that those transactions have produced.

Question 91

Consider the following statements regarding Social Protection in India:

1. The World Social Protection Report (WSPR) 2024–26 released by the International Labour Organization estimates that India's social protection coverage has doubled from 2021 to 2024.

2. The Ministry of Labour and Employment estimates that nearly 65% of the population are now covered by at least one form of social protection, whether in cash or in kind, through Central Government schemes.

Options

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

Answer: C

Explanation

ILO WSPR 2024–26 put India's cash-benefit coverage at 24.4 per cent in 2021 and 48.8 per cent in 2024 — a doubling — after ILO began counting beneficiaries of 34 Central schemes rather than seven. That is statement 1. The Ministry of Labour and Employment's parallel data-pooling exercise, announced with the same report, estimates that once in-kind Central benefits (food, housing, health) are added, coverage of at least one form of protection reaches about 92 crore people, or nearly 65 per cent of the population. That is statement 2. Both sentences are the official March 2025 talking points. The paper is reproducing a PIB / Labour-Minister pair, not inviting a debate on ILO methodology.

Question 92

The classification of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises is based on which of the following factors?

1. Annual turnover

2. Number of workers

3. Investment in plant and machinery or equipment

Options

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

Answer: D

Explanation

From 1 July 2020 the MSMED Act classification is a composite of investment in plant and machinery or equipment and annual turnover, with a common definition for manufacturing and services. Number of workers is not a criterion in the present notification (it was relevant to older SSI / Factories-Act thresholds, not to the 2020 MSME composite). The current bands, as later revised upward in 2025, still use only those two axes. Statement 2 is therefore the dummy. Read the 2020 Gazette, not the 2006 one.

Question 93

Fiscal Health Index 2025 published by the NITI Aayog provides a comprehensive assessment of fiscal health of 18 major States based on which of the following key sub-indices?

1. Quality of expenditure

2. Debt index

3. Debt sustainability

4. Fiscal prudence

5. Revenue mobilisation

Options

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

Answer: D

Explanation

NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index 2025 scores eighteen major States on five sub-indices: quality of expenditure, revenue mobilisation, fiscal prudence, debt index and debt sustainability. All five numbered items are therefore in. The report is a post-Finance-Commission monitoring product and was in the current-affairs cycle for this paper. Partial lists in (a), (b) and (c) are trimmed versions of the same five.

Question 94

The contribution of the services sector in Gross Value Added at current prices in the Indian economy in 2024–25 is estimated to be:

Options

(a)	25%
(b)	35%
(c)	45%
(d)	**55%**

Answer: D

Explanation

Economic Survey 2024–25 and the Provisional Estimates put the services (tertiary) share of GVA at current prices at about 55 per cent (Survey figure 55.3 per cent; MOSPI current-price share 54.9 per cent). Agriculture is in the mid-teens and industry in the mid-to-high twenties. 25, 35 and 45 per cent are the wrong sector or an older decade. Carry three numbers into the hall: services ~55, industry ~27, agriculture ~18, at current prices, 2024–25.

Question 95

Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana:

1. The average ticket size of loan disbursed has more than doubled between FY 2016 and FY 2025.

2. Since its launch in 2015, Maharashtra has recorded the highest disbursal among States.

Options

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

Answer: A

Explanation

PMMY average ticket size moved from about ₹38,000 in FY16 to about ₹1.02 lakh in FY25 — more than a doubling (the official brief says “nearly tripled”). Statement 1 is true. Cumulative disbursal since launch, as of February 2025, is led by Tamil Nadu, then Uttar Pradesh, then Karnataka. Maharashtra is further down the list (sixth in that briefing). Statement 2 is false. The paper’s method is again one true trend and one wrong State name. Do not substitute “a large western State” for the actual leaderboard.

Question 96

Consider the following statements:

1. NISHTHA is an integrated teacher training programme that has been extended to cover teachers at all stages of school education.

2. PM POSHAN covers only those school children who are studying in classes I–VI in Government and Government-aided schools.

Options

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

Answer: A

Explanation

NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) began as an elementary-stage integrated training programme under Samagra Shiksha and has been extended in later phases to secondary teachers and to Stage-wise NEP coverage — "all stages of school education" is the official description of the expansion. Statement 1 is true. PM POSHAN (the renamed Mid-Day Meal) covers children of Classes I to VIII in Government and Government-aided schools, and Balvatika / pre-primary in notified cases, not "only I–VI." Statement 2 under-states the coverage by two classes and is false. One true education-scheme expansion, one truncated meal-scheme range.

Question 97

Consider the following statements:

1. India's bio-economy contributes about 4.25% to the GDP in India.

2. BioE3 promotes regenerative bio-manufacturing and supports a circular bio-economy aligned with India's net-zero goals.

Options

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

Answer: C

Explanation

The Department of Biotechnology's Bio-Economy reports have placed the sector at about 4.25 per cent of GDP in the latest cited year of this cycle. BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment), approved by Cabinet in 2024, is the policy umbrella for high-performance biomanufacturing, regenerative bio-manufacturing and a circular bio-economy aligned with net-zero. Statement 2 is the scheme's own purpose clause. Both statements are the official pair. This is a Science-and-Economy current-affairs item, not a biochemistry item.

Question 98

Which of the following Development Financial Institutions were set up in India between 1950s and 1960s?

1. Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI)

2. Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI)

3. Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI)

4. National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)

Options

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

Answer: C

Explanation

IFCI was set up in 1948 under a special Act — late 1940s, not the 1950s–60s window the stem names. ICICI was incorporated in 1955 as a company at the World Bank's instance. IDBI was established in 1964 as a wholly owned subsidiary of RBI (later a separate statute). NaBFID is a 2021 development finance institution for infrastructure. Inside the 1950s–1960s window sit only ICICI and IDBI.

Question 99

Core inflation includes which of the following?

1. Food prices

2. Energy prices

Options

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

Answer: D

Explanation

Headline CPI includes all items. Core inflation is headline inflation after the exclusion of food and energy (fuel) — the two most volatile groups — so that the remaining index speaks to persistent, demand-driven price pressure. Neither food prices nor energy prices are inside core. Both numbered statements are therefore false, and the answer is neither. RBI's communications and the Economic Survey use this definition.

Question 100

The rebellions that broke out at regular intervals against the British authorities in the hill region of Visakhapatnam, popularly known as the Gudem area, were due to which of the following reason(s)?

1. The feudal affinities of the muttadars with the Bhupathi family of Golconda zamindari

2. Placing the ex-zamindari family on the seat of Golconda

3. British authorities' refusal to grant annual maintenance for the Bhupathi family

Options

(a)	1 and 2
(b)	**2 and 3**
(c)	1 and 3
(d)	3 only

Answer: B

Explanation

After the Golgonda (Golconda) zamindari in the Visakhapatnam hills was taken over, the Gudem muttadars rose repeatedly (1840s, 1857–58 and later) to restore the Bhupathi family to the seat and to secure maintenance for that family. Those two political aims — statements 2 and 3 — are the reasons the stem's source-text isolates. The later and more famous Rampa / Alluri rising of 1922 sits in the same hills but is a different episode; this item is the nineteenth-century Gudem–Golgonda cycle.

Question 101

Consider the following:

1. Deccan Revolt

2. Santhal Rebellion

3. Kherwar Movement

4. Rampa Rebellion

Which of the following is the correct chronological order of the above (starting with the earliest)?

Options

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

Answer: C

Explanation

Santhal Hul: 1855–56. Kherwar (Kharwar) movement among the Santhals under Bhagirath Manjhi: 1874. Deccan Riots (the Deccan Revolt of this list): 1875, the peasant rising against Marwari and Gujarati moneylenders in Poona and Ahmednagar. Rampa Rebellion of Alluri Sitarama Raju: 1922–24 (there was an earlier 1879 Rampa, but the numbered "Rampa Rebellion" of modern syllabi is the 1922 rising). The order starting with the earliest is therefore 2 – 3 – 1 – 4. Option (a) puts Deccan first. Option (d) puts Deccan before Santhal. Option (b) is reverse chronology. Date-sort items on this paper are won by four year-tags written in the margin before the options are read.

Question 102

Which of the following statements about Home Rule Movement is/are correct?

1. The advocates of the Home Rule Movement believed in constitutional methods and were opposed to violence and revolutionary action.

2. In 1917, the two Home Rule Leagues of Lokmanya Tilak and Annie Besant worked in cooperation with each other.

3. Annie Besant confined her activities to the Bombay Presidency and the Central Provinces and the rest of India was left to Lokmanya Tilak.

Options

(a)	**1 and 2**
(b)	2 and 3
(c)	1 only
(d)	3 only

Answer: A

Explanation

Both Home Rule Leagues were constitutionalist: Tilak after Surat and Besant from the Theosophical / Congress moderate tradition rejected revolutionary violence as the method of the campaign. Statement 1 is true. In 1917, after Besant's internment and release, the two Leagues coordinated propaganda, and Congress itself moved towards the Home Rule demand at Calcutta; statement 2 is true. Statement 3 inverts the territorial division. Tilak's League worked the Bombay Presidency (Maharashtra, Karnataka) and the Central Provinces; Besant's All-India Home Rule League covered the rest of India, including Madras, where she was based. Statement 3 is false. Live pair = 1 and 2. The inverted map is the classic Home Rule trap.

SECTION · close
Questions 103–120

Question 103

Which of the following statements regarding the Freedom Struggle from 1920 to 1935 is/are correct?

1. In Bihar and Bengal, the Non-Cooperation Movement owed its effectiveness to the participation of peasants.

2. In Bihar they were organised against the planters under the banner of Kisan Sabha.

3. In Midnapore in Bengal, Mahishya peasants rallied against the taxes of the Union Board under the leadership of Birendranath Sasmal.

Options

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

Answer: A

Explanation

The Non-Cooperation Movement in the eastern countryside was not only a town-and-student affair. In Bihar the Kisan Sabha, already active against European indigo planters in Champaran's aftermath and against high rents, gave NCM its rural teeth — statement 2. In Midnapore the Mahishya peasantry, led by Birendranath Sasmal, refused Union Board taxes in 1921; that no-tax campaign is a standard NCM case-study — statement 3. Statement 1 is the generalisation those two regional facts support. All three sentences sit in the Bipan Chandra / Sumit Sarkar account of 1920–22. There is no trap in the dates: Kisan Sabha work and Sasmal's Midnapore campaign are inside 1920–22, which is inside 1920–1935.

Question 104

Which of the following statements about Bharata's Natyashastra is/are correct?

1. It is dated by scholars between the second century BCE and the second century CE.

2. It analyses theatrical spectacle as an amalgam of speech, vocal and instrumental music, gesture, mime, etc.

3. The ground it covers is less extensive than Aristotle's Poetics, its nearest ancient Greek counterpart.

Options

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

Answer: B

Explanation

Natyashastra is conventionally placed between the second century BCE and the second century CE. It is a total treatise on natya: speech, pathya, gita, vadya, angika, aharya, sattvika, rasa, theatre architecture, the audience. Statement 2 is the book's own definition of the spectacle. Statement 3 is false. Aristotle's Poetics is a short essay on tragedy and epic. Natyashastra is vastly more extensive — dance, music, gesture, rasa theory, playhouse design — which is why Indian art-history textbooks call Poetics the "nearest Greek counterpart" and then immediately add that Bharata's ground is wider, not narrower. Kill 3; keep 1 and 2.

Question 105

Who amongst the following discovered the rock art of Bhimbetka?

Options

(a)	Archibald Carlleyle
(b)	Alexander Cunningham
(c)	**V.S. Wakankar**
(d)	Mortimer Wheeler

Answer: C

Explanation

Vishnu Shridhar Wakankar noticed the Bhimbetka rock shelters from a train window in 1957 and then surveyed and published the painted caves that made the site world-famous; it is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Archibald Carlleyle recorded rock paintings in the Mirzapur / Kaimur belt in the 1860s — earlier Indian rock-art, not Bhimbetka. Cunningham founded the ASI and catalogued monuments; he did not discover Bhimbetka. Wheeler is the Harappa / Arikamedu stratigrapher. The name locked to Bhimbetka in every Indian-art MCQ is Wakankar.

Question 106

Which of the following is the correct chronological order in the evolution of Indian painting (starting with the earliest)?

1. Mahajanaka Jataka, Ajanta

2. Bhimbetka rock art

3. Royal portrait, Sittannavasal cave

4. Heavenly musicians, Brihadishvara temple

Options

(a)	1, 2, 3, 4
(b)	**2, 1, 3, 4**
(c)	2, 4, 3, 1
(d)	3, 1, 4, 2

Answer: B

Explanation

Bhimbetka paintings begin in the Mesolithic and run into historic times — the earliest item on the list. The Mahajanaka Jataka murals at Ajanta belong to the Vakataka / late-Gupta horizon, fifth–sixth century CE. Sittannavasal (Tamil Jain cave) portraits and lotuses are seventh–ninth century (Pallava–early

Pandya). The heavenly musicians in the circumambulatory of Brihadishvara, Thanjavur, are Chola, consecrated 1010 CE under Rajaraja I. The order starting with the earliest is therefore 2 − 1 − 3 − 4. Option (a) puts Ajanta before prehistory. Option (c) puts Chola frescoes before Ajanta.

Question 107

Which one among the following temples in India is referred to as the “Black Pagoda”?

Options

(a)	Jagannath Temple, Puri
(b)	**Sun Temple, Konark**
(c)	Kamakhya Temple, Guwahati
(d)	Kandariya Mahadeva Temple, Khajuraho

Answer: B

Explanation

European sailors in the Bay of Bengal used the dark khondalite tower of the Konark Sun Temple as a landfall mark and called it the Black Pagoda. The lighter-washed Jagannath temple at Puri was the White Pagoda. Kamakhya and Kandariya Mahadeva never carried those pilot-book names. Do not reverse Black and White; that is the only common error.

Question 108

Which of the following statements with reference to Mahayana (Buddhism) is/are correct?

1. Female deities are benevolent saviours and protectors who embody Buddhist virtues.

2. In Prajñāpāramitā texts, knowledge is visualised in feminine form, as a deity called Prajñāpāramitā.

3. Prajñāpāramitā is described as the source of the omniscience of all the Buddhas and the mother of all the Buddhas.

Options

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

Answer: A

Explanation

Mahayana populates the pantheon with female saviours — Tara, Prajnaparamita, Chunda — who embody karuna and prajna and protect the practitioner. Statement 1 is the general rule. The Prajnaparamita literature personifies Perfection of Wisdom as a goddess; statement 2 is that personification. The same texts call her the mother of all Buddhas and the source of their omniscience, because wisdom is what makes a Buddha a Buddha — statement 3. All three sentences are standard Mahayana iconography, of the kind used in Nalanda bronzes and in the Prajnaparamita-hrdaya cult. There is no Hinayana counter-statement hiding in the options.

Question 109

Which of the following statements are correct?

1. The Chief Justice of India is the highest Administrative Officer of the Supreme Court of India.

2. The administrative powers for determining the work structure of the Supreme Court and its Registry are exclusively vested in the Chief Justice of India.

3. A person who has been a Judge of the Supreme Court of India can practice after retirement only in the Supreme Court of India and not in any other court within India.

4. A designated Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India is not entitled to appear in the Supreme Court of India without an Advocate-on-Record.

Options

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

Answer: D

Explanation

Article 124(7) bars a retired Supreme Court judge from pleading or acting in any court or before any authority in India — including the Supreme Court itself. Statement 3, which permits post-retirement practice in the Supreme Court, is therefore false. Statement 4 is true: Order IV of the Supreme Court Rules requires an Advocate-on-Record to file and to instruct; a Senior Advocate appears only with an AoR. Statement 2 reflects the living administrative convention: the CJI as Master of the Roster determines the work-structure of the Court and has administrative superintendence over the Registry. Live pair on that key: 2 and 4.

Question 110

Consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court of India and High Courts have exclusive original jurisdiction in disputes amongst two or more States.

2. Only the Supreme Court of India, High Courts and District Courts have the power to issue Writs.

3. Chief Minister of a State has absolutely no role in the entire appointment process of a High Court Judge.

4. Local customs and conventions which do not contradict a Statute or the Constitution are recognised and taken into account by Courts while administering justice in certain spheres.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

Options

(a)	**One**
(b)	Two
(c)	Three
(d)	Four

Answer: A

Explanation

Article 131 gives the Supreme Court exclusive original jurisdiction in disputes between States (and Union–State). High Courts do not share that jurisdiction. Statement 1 is false. Writs under Articles 32 and 226 issue from the Supreme Court and the High Courts; district courts have no writ jurisdiction. Statement 2 is false. The Memorandum of Procedure for High Court appointments runs through the State Chief Minister and the Governor before the Supreme Court collegium; the CM is not a cypher. Statement 3 is false. Statement 4 is true: custom and usage not contrary to statute or the Constitution are sources of law in specified fields (personal law, riparian practice, mercantile usage). Exactly one statement survives.

Question 111

Consider the following statements about Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) in India:

1. The first use of EVMs in a Lok Sabha election was in the year 2004, when EVMs were deployed nationwide.

2. Votes are recorded in Control Units and VVPATs at exactly the same time.

3. Two PSUs, namely Bharat Electronics Ltd., and Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. have been engaged by the Election Commission of India to design and manufacture the EVMs.

Options

(a)	1 and 2
(b)	2 and 3
(c)	1 and 3
(d)	**3 only**

Answer: D

Explanation

BEL and ECIL are the two PSUs that design and manufacture Indian EVMs for the Election Commission. Statement 3 is true. Statement 1 glues two different facts. EVMs were used in 45 Lok Sabha constituencies in 1999; nationwide deployment across all 543 seats was 2004. “First use in a Lok Sabha election” is therefore 1999, not 2004. Statement 1 is false. Statement 2 is false on the engineering: the Control Unit records the vote and then the VVPAT prints a slip; the two events are sequential, not simultaneous, and VVPAT itself was not part of the original EVM. Only statement 3 survives.

Question 112

Which of the following statements about National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) is/are correct?

1. It is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) under the Digital India Programme (DIP) of the Government of India.

2. This application is based on the principle of 'One Nation – One Application'.

3. It has been developed by the Parliament Secretariat.

4. Its core aim is for end-to-end digitalisation of the functions of the State Legislatures.

Options

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

Answer: B

Explanation

NeVA is a Mission Mode Project under Digital India, hosted as 'One Nation – One Application' for legislatures, and aimed at paperless, end-to-end digitalisation of State Legislature business (list of business, questions, house proceedings). It is developed and midwifed by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, not by the Parliament Secretariat. Statement 3 is the dummy. Live set = 1, 2 and 4.

Question 113

Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) Scheme is meant for the rehabilitation of:

1. Transgender persons

2. Persons engaged in the act of Begging

Options

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

Answer: C

Explanation

SMILE, under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, has two sub-schemes: Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons, and Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in the Act of Begging. Both numbered groups are therefore inside the scheme. Do not reduce SMILE to only the transgender component, which is the more visible of the two in current-affairs capsules.

Question 114

Consider the following statements about Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI):

1. It works in accordance with UN Paris Principle.

2. Fully compliant and partially compliant members are accredited as ‘A’ and ‘B’ respectively.

3. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has been accredited/ classified under ‘A’ in the year 2025.

Options

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

Answer: C

Explanation

GANHRI accredits National Human Rights Institutions against the UN Paris Principles of 1993. Full compliance is Status A (voting member); partial compliance is Status B. Statements 1 and 2 are the rule-book. Statement 3 is the series lock: NHRC India is still listed as Status A on the GANHRI membership chart into 2026, even though the Sub-Committee on Accreditation recommended a downgrade to B in 2025 and that recommendation was fought before the Bureau.

Question 115

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

List-I (Provision of the Constitution of India)

A. Provisions related to Parliament

B. Legislative powers of the Governor

C. Borrowings by the Government of India

D. Cooperative Societies

List-II (Part of the Constitution of India)

1. Part-VI

2. Part-IX B

3. Part-XII

4. Part-V

Options

(a)	A-4, B-3, C-1, D-2
(b)	A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4

(c)	A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4
(d)	**A-4, B-1, C-3, D-2**

Answer: D

Explanation

Part V is The Union and contains the Parliament (Arts 79–122). Part VI is The States and contains the Governor's legislative powers (assent, reserved bills, ordinances — Arts 200–213). Part XII is Finance, Property, Contracts and Suits and contains Union and State borrowing (Arts 292–293). Part IXB, inserted by the 97th Amendment, is The Co-operative Societies (Arts 243ZH–243ZT). Mapping: A-4, B-1, C-3, D-2. That is option (d). The usual traps swap Part V with Part VI, or park co-operatives in Part IX instead of IXB.

Question 116

Who amongst the following is not a member of the GST Council?

Options

(a)	**Prime Minister of India**
(b)	Union Finance Minister
(c)	Union Minister of State (Finance)
(d)	A Minister nominated by each State Government

Answer: A

Explanation

Article 279A constitutes the GST Council with (a) the Union Finance Minister as Chairperson, (b) the Union Minister of State in charge of Revenue or Finance, and (c) the Minister in charge of Finance or Taxation or any other Minister nominated by each State Government. The Prime Minister is not a member. Do not promote the PM into the Council because he chairs the Cabinet that created the tax; the article does not put him in the room.

Question 117

Which of the following statements with reference to the RTI Act is/are correct?

1. The Chief Information Commissioner and other Information Commissioners are appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of a committee headed by the Chief Justice of India.

2. While the Chief Information Commissioner is not eligible for reappointment after completion of the term of five years, other Information Commissioners are eligible for reappointment.

Options

(a)	1 only
(b)	2 only

(c)	Both 1 and 2
(d)	**Neither 1 nor 2**

Answer: D

Explanation

Section 12 of the RTI Act: the committee that recommends CIC/IC names is the Prime Minister (chair), the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the PM. The Chief Justice of India is not on that committee. Statement 1 is false. After the 2019 amendment the term is three years (or until 65), not five, and is fixed by the Central Government; the CIC is not eligible for reappointment as CIC, and an IC may be appointed CIC but not reappointed as IC beyond the amended tenure rules. Statement 2 is false on the “five years” figure and on the reappointment sketch. Neither statement survives. The 2019 amendment is the trap for anyone still reciting the original five-year term.

Question 118

Consider the following statements with reference to the Constitution of India:

1. The Parliament can make laws on matters enumerated in the Union List and/or the Concurrent List.

2. The Parliament can make laws on any matter not enumerated in the Concurrent List or the State List.

Options

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

Answer: C

Explanation

Article 246: Parliament has exclusive power on the Union List and concurrent power on the Concurrent List. Statement 1 is true. Article 248 and Entry 97 of the Union List give Parliament residuary power — any matter not enumerated in the Concurrent List or the State List. Statement 2 is the residuary clause written in the article’s own words. Both statements are therefore correct. The “and/or” in statement 1 is not a trick; Parliament may legislate on Union items alone, Concurrent items alone, or both. Do not read statement 2 as a claim that Parliament cannot touch the Union List; the Union List is exactly the set of matters not in the Concurrent or State Lists, plus the named Union entries.

Question 119

Consider the following statements:

1. Only the Supreme Court of India is vested with the power to punish for contempt of itself.

2. Both the Supreme Court of India and High Courts have advisory jurisdiction.

Options

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

Answer: D

Explanation

Article 129 makes the Supreme Court a court of record with power to punish for contempt of itself. Article 215 makes every High Court a court of record with the same power in respect of itself. Statement 1 is therefore false — the word "Only" is the poison. Advisory jurisdiction under Article 143 is a Supreme Court special: the President may refer a question of law or fact to the Supreme Court for its opinion. High Courts have no equivalent advisory jurisdiction. Statement 2 is false. Neither statement lives.

Question 120

Which of the following subjects/provisions fall(s) under the Directive Principles of State Policy of the Constitution of India?

1. Uniform Civil Code for all persons living in India

2. Provision for early childhood care and education to children up to the age of 14 years

3. Promotion of international peace and security

Options

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

Answer: A

Explanation

Article 44 directs the State to secure a Uniform Civil Code for the citizens of India. Article 51 directs the State to promote international peace and security. Both are Directive Principles. Article 45, after the 86th Amendment, directs the State to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years; free and compulsory education to the age of fourteen was lifted into Article 21A as a Fundamental Right. Statement 2 therefore mixes the current Art 45 language ("early childhood care and education") with the pre-2002 age of fourteen.

COMPACT ANSWER STRIP

Answer key used in this edition. Refer to the official UPSC key for any subsequent revision.

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	B	41	D	81	D
2	D	42	B	82	A
3	B	43	C	83	C

4	B	44	B	84	A
5	A	45	D	85	B
6	D	46	C	86	D
7	A	47	B	87	B
8	C	48	C	88	B
9	D	49	B	89	C
10	B	50	A	90	A
11	B	51	B	91	C
12	A	52	D	92	D
13	B	53	B	93	D
14	C	54	A	94	D
15	A	55	D	95	A
16	D	56	D	96	A
17	D	57	C	97	C
18	A	58	B	98	C
19	D	59	A	99	D
20	C	60	A	100	B
21	D	61	C	101	C
22	B	62	B	102	A
23	A	63	B	103	A
24	A	64	C	104	B
25	A	65	C	105	C
26	C	66	B	106	B
27	A	67	A	107	B
28	B	68	A	108	A
29	A	69	C	109	D
30	B	70	B	110	A
31	A	71	C	111	D
32	B	72	D	112	B
33	A	73	B	113	C
34	B	74	C	114	C
35	A	75	A	115	D
36	D	76	D	116	A
37	A	77	A	117	D
38	B	78	C	118	C
39	D	79	A	119	D
40	A	80	D	120	A

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