Solution: Civil Services Preliminary Examination GS Paper 2016

Dear Readers/ Students,

Every year, we at GKToday try to bring out the solution of the UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination General Studies Paper. This document is yet another attempt towards that. We have tried our best to provide correct answers, but since all of us are subject to error of judgement, we humbly request you to bring out any error or mistake by making a comment on this page on GKToday.

Nature of the Prelims Paper - 2016

Traditionally, UPSC's prelims paper would check how good your schooling was, and Mains Papers (GS) would check how aware you are in current social, political and economical issues. This year, UPSC's sole aim seemed to put aside all the rote learning and check current awareness. Although, such a change should be welcomed, UPSC's delicate style of asking specially framed (or rather crafted) questions for this exam seems to have been lost somewhere for last 3 years. Nonetheless, awareness in all walks of life is as good as our schooling for a competitive exam like civil services.

Cut off Idea

Last year, we had predicted 105 marks and this year also, we expect it to be around 105-110 marks for General Category, 95-105 OBC, 90-95 SC and 85-90 ST. This figure is purely speculation and we have neither primary nor secondary data to substantiate it.

About Answers, Explanations and Embedded Questions in this document

Apart from maintaining a large website open to public, GKToday also conducts Target programmes for Civil Services. Last year, we had started an Integrated Target General Studies to create a large repository of quality content for Civil Services Aspirants. This is a paid, continuous programme which will not only continue till Mains this year, but also next year Prelims and Mains. Although we have not been able to run it as per a plan decided initially, yet we have completed the Prelims Specific Content library and are now working on delivering 20 Mains Current GS Documents along with a mains static study material library. We run our programmes without advertisements, promotions and without creating sensationalism / hype on internet. However, when we perform well, it becomes imperative to at least highlight what we have been doing. For this purpose, we have embedded screenshots of similar questions which we framed in our tests for Target Programme / Test Series Students in this document. This is not to show how good we are in tracking UPSC topics but just to make you aware that we really work hard.

Thanks and Good Wishes

With 4 million visitors and 15 million page views every month and a continued journey in its 8th year, GKToday would like to thank you for your continued trust and support which has helped it to become a household name in the country.

Note: If you are preparing for Civil Services 2016, 17 or beyond, you may check our online modules at this link:
http://www.gktoday.in/online-courses/
**Question-1**

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. A bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses on its prorogation.
2. A bill pending in the Rajya Sabha, which has not been passed by the Lok Sabha, shall not lapse on dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

[A] 1 only
[B] 2 only
[C] Both 1 and 2
[D] Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: B

Prorogation is end of a session. Prorogation is end of session and not the dissolution of the house in case of Lok Sabha, as Rajya Sabha does not dissolve. Prorogation does not result in lapse of a bill so statement 1 is incorrect. If a bill has been passed by Lok Sabha and is pending in Rajya Sabha and is pending in Rajya Sabha, it will lapse if Lok Sabha dissolves.

Reference Study Links

- Parliament in India: Sessions, Prorogation, Adjournment and Other Concepts
- How a Bill becomes a Law or Act in India?

**Question-2**

Which of the following is/are the indicator/indicators used by IFPRI to compute the Global Hunger Index Report?

1. Undernourishment
2. Child stunting
3. Child mortality

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

[A] 1 only
[B] 2 and 3 only
[C] 1, 2 and 3
[D] 1 and 3 only

Ans: C

GHI combines 4 component indicators viz. proportion of the undernourished as a percentage of the population; proportion of children under the age of five suffering from wasting; proportion of children under the age of five suffering from stunting and mortality rate of children under the age of five.

**Question-3**

There has been a persistent deficit budget year after year. What action/actions of the following can be taken by the Government to reduce the deficit?

1. Reducing revenue expenditure
2. Introducing new welfare schemes
3. Rationalizing subsidies
4. Reducing import duty

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

[A] 1 only
[B] 2 and 3 only
[C] 1 and 3 only
[D] 1,2,3 and 4

Ans: [C]

Reducing revenue expenditure would lead to reduction in revenue deficit; Introducing new welfare schemes would result in increased expenditure, so this needs to be opted out. Rationalizing subsidies would curb the government expenditure so would be opted in; Reducing import duty would reduce government revenue so would increase in deficit. Thus correct answer is C.
**Question-4:**
The establishment of “Payment Banks” is being allowed in India to promote financial inclusion. Which of the following statements is/are correct in this context?

1. Mobile telephone companies and supermarket chains that are owned and controlled by residents are eligible to be promoters of Payment Banks.
2. Payment Banks can issue both credit cards and debit cards.
3. Payment Banks cannot undertake lending activities.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

[A] 1 and 2 only  
[B] 1 and 3 only  
[C] 2 only  
[D] 1, 2 and 3

**Ans:** B

The second statement is incorrect in this question. Payment Banks can issue ATM/debit cards but not credit cards. Payment Banks can NOT give loans.

**Question-5:**
With reference to ‘Li-Fi’, recently in the news, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It uses light as the medium for high-speed data transmission.
2. It is a wireless technology and is several time faster than WiFi.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

[A] 1 only  
[B] 2 only  
[C] Both 1 and 2  
[D] Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans:** C

Both the statements are correct in this question.

**Reference:** Understanding Light Fidelity Technology

**Question 6**
The term Intended Nationally Determined Contribution is sometimes seen in the news in the context of:

[A] Pledge made by the European countries to rehabilitate refugees from the war-affected Middle East.
[B] Plan of nation outlined by the countries of the world to combat climate changes.
[C] Capital contributed by the member countries in the establishment of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.
[D] Plan of action outlined by the countries of the regarding Sustainable Developments Goals.

**Ans:** B

During the COP-20 talks in Lima, Peru, it was agreed that the INDCs submission by countries would contain:

• Information about a country’s emission reduction plans
• The Time frame to achieve such reductions
• The scope and coverage of reduction; and methodology to be adopted
• A reference point or base year from which the emissions would be reduced
• Adaptation plan

**Reference Material in Target 2016**
http://www.gktoday.in/blog/intended-nationally-determined-contributions-indcs/

**Question-7:**
Which one of the following is a purpose of ‘UDAY’, a scheme of the Government?

A. Providing technical and financial assistance to start-up entrepreneurs in the field or renewable source of energy.
B. Providing electricity to every household in the country by 2018.
C. Replacing the coal-based power plants with natural gas, nuclear, solar, wind and tidal power plants over a period of time.
D. Providing for financial turnaround and revival of power distribution companies.

**Ans:** D

**Explanation**
In November 2015, the Government had launched UDAY (Ujwala DISCOM Assurance Yojana) scheme to provide a permanent
solution for financial turnaround and revival of Power Distribution companies (discoms).

Reference

UDAY Scheme

**Question-8**

With reference to ‘IFC Masala Bonds’, sometimes given below is/are correct?

1. The International Financed Corporation, with offers these bonds, is an arm of the World Bank.
2. They are the rupee-denominated bonds and are a source of debt financing for the public and private sector.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

[A] 1 only
[B] 2 Only
[C] Both 1 and 2
[D] Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans:** C

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is an international financial institution which is an arm of World Bank Group.

The World Bank Group (WBG) consists of five international organizations viz. the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD); the International Development Association (IDA); the International Finance Corporation (IFC); the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

On the other hand, World Bank is an international financial institution which consists of two organizations viz. the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and the International Development Association (IDA). The World Bank is a component of the World Bank Group, considering which we assume first statement to be correct, technically. Second statement is also correct; “Masala bonds” are rupee denominated bonds which are offered by International Finance Corporation and act as a source for debt financing in the country.

Reference:

http://currentaffairs.gktoday.in/ifc-launches-uridashi-masala-bonds-03201631038.html

**Question-9**

Regarding the taxation system of Krishna Deva, the ruler of Vijayanagar, consider the following statements:

1. The tax rate on land was fixed depending on the quality of the land.
2. Private owners of workshops paid an industries tax.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

[A] 1 only
[B] 2 Only
[C] Both 1 and 2
[D] Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans:** C

Explanation

The Vijayanagar Empire obtained income mainly from trade and agriculture. During the reign of Krishnadeva Raya, land tax was fixed one-third to one-sixth depending upon the quality of the land. Beside land tax, Professional tax from shopkeepers, workmen and musicians were part of revenue collection.

**Question-10**

Which one of the following books of ancient India has the love story of the son of the founder of Sunga dynasty?

[A] Swapnavasavadatta
[B] Malavikagnimitra
[C] Meghadoota
[D] Ratnavali

**Ans:** B

Explanation

Malvikagnimitra is a five-act drama based on Sunga king Agnimitra’s love for Vidharbha princess Malvika. It was a Sanskrit play written by Kalidas.

http://www.gktoday.in/quiz-questions/who-wrote-malvikagnimitra/

**Question-11**

In the context of which of the following do you sometimes find the terms ‘amber box, blue box and green box’ in the news?

[A] WTO affairs
(b) SAARC affairs
(c) UNFCCC affairs
[D] India-EU negotiations on FTA

**Ans:** A

Explanation: Kindly read this to understand difference between these color boxes.

http://www.gktoday.in/blog/wto-trade-agreements/#Domestic_support_Subsidies
Question-12
Which of the following is/are included in the capital budget of the Government of India?
1. Expenditure on acquisition of assets like roads, buildings, machinery, etc.
2. Loans received from foreign governments.
3. Loans and advances granted to the States and Union Territories.
Select the correct answer using the code given below.
[A] 1 only
[B] 2 and 3 only
[C] 1 and 3 only
[D] 1, 2 and 3
Ans: D
Capital Budget consists of capital receipts and payments. You may go through below link to understand it properly.
http://www.gktoday.in/blog/capital-receipts-capital-expenditures/

Question-13
What is/are the importance/importances of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification?
1. It aims to promote effective action through innovative national programmes and supportive inter-national partnerships.
2. It has a special/particular focus on South Asia and North Africa regions, and its secretariat facilitates the allocation of major portion of financial resources to these regions.
3. It is committed to bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating the desertification.
Select the correct answer using the code given below.
[A] 1 only
[B] 2 and 3 only
[C] 1 and 3 only
[D] 1, 2 and 3
Correct answer: C
The second statement seems to be incorrect because there is a Development of the Dry lands of West Asia and North Africa (WANA Programme).
Question-14

Recently, which one of the following currencies has been proposed to be added to the basket of IMF’s SDR?

[A] Rouble
[B] Rand
[C] Indian Rupee
[D] Renminbi

Ans: D

Reference
http://www.gktoday.in/blog/yuans-inclusion-in-sdr-basket/ (Target 2016-CGS Content)

Question-15

With reference to the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), consider the following statements:

1. IMFC discusses matters of concern affecting the global economy, and advises the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the direction of its work.
2. The World Bank participates as observer in IMFC’s meetings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

[A] 1 only
[B] 2 only
[C] Both 1 and 2
[D] Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

The IMFC advises and reports to the IMF Board of Governors on the supervision and management of the international monetary and financial system Board of Governors. A number of international institutions, including the World Bank, participate as observers in the IMFC’s meetings.

Question-16

‘Rashtriya Garima Abhiyan’ is a national campaign to

[A] rehabilitate the homeless and destitute persons and provide them with suitable sources of livelihood
[B] release the sex workers from the practice and provide them with alternative sources of livelihood
[C] eradicate the practice of manual scavenging and rehabilitate the manual scavengers
[D] release the bonded labourers free their bondage and rehabilitate them

Answer: C

Question-17

With reference to the cultural history of medieval India, consider the following statements:

1. Siddhas (Sittars) of Tamil region were monotheistic and condemned idolatry.
2. Lingayats of Kannada region questioned the theory of rebirth and rejected the caste hierarchy

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

[A] 1 only
[B] 2 only
[C] Both 1 and 2
[D] Neither 1 nor 2

Both are correct statements. Both Siddha (Sittars) and Lingayats are monotheistic and worship Shiva in lingam form.
**Question-18**

Which of the following best describes the term “import cover”, sometimes seen in the news?

[A] It is the ratio of value of imports to the Gross Domestic product of a country

[B] It is the total value of imports of a country in a year.

[C] It is the ratio between the value of exports and that of imports between two countries

[D] It is the number of months of imports that could be paid for by a country's international reserves

**Ans:** D

Import cover is an important indicator of the stability of the currency. Import cover is defined as the time period for which a country’s foreign exchange reserves, which will be able to support its imports.

**Question-19**

Community sometimes mentioned in the news in the affairs of

1. Kurd : Bangladesh
2. Madhesi : Nepal
3. Rohingya : Myanmar

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

[A] 1 and 2

[B] 2 only

[C] 2 and 3

[D] 3 only

**Ans:** C

**Question-20**

With reference to ‘Organization for the prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)’ consider the following statements:

1. It is an organization of European Union in working relation with NATO and WHO

2. It monitors chemical industry to prevent new weapons from emerging

3. It provides assistance and protection to State (parties) against chemical weapons threats.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

[A] 1 Only

[B] 2 and 3 only

[C] 1 and 3 only

[D] 1, 2 and 3

**Ans:** B

OPCW is winner of 2013 Nobel Prize. In this question, first statement is incorrect OPCW is an intergovernmental organization and not EU organization. Also there is no substantially close relation of OPCW with WHO (World Health Organization). Other two statements are correct.

http://currentaffairs.gktoday.in/nobel-peace-prize-2013-opcw-1020139247.html

**Question-21**

With reference to ‘Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana’, consider the following statements:

1. Under this scheme, farmers with have to pay a uniform premium of two percent for any crop they cultivate in any season of the year.

2. This scheme covers post-harvest losses arising out of cyclones and unseasonal rains.

Which of the statements given about is/are correct?

[A] 1 only

[B] 2 only

[C] Both 1 and 2

[D] Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans:** B

www.gktoday.in
First statement is incorrect because there is no provision for uniform premium of 2 percent.
Details of this scheme can be read here.

**Question-22**
In which of the following regions of India are you most likely to come across the 'Great Indian Hornbill' in its natural habitat?

a) Sand deserts of northwest India  
b) Higher Himalayas of Jammu and Kashmir  
c) Salt marshes of western Gujarat  
d) Western Ghats

**Ans: D**

It is found in South and Southeast Asia. In India, 'Great Indian Hornbill' is mainly found in the moist deciduous forests along the lower slopes of the Western Ghats. This bird was particularly in news because a Great Indian Hornbill christened as Ammu (the state bird of the Kerala) was the official Mascot of the 35th National Games.

**Question 23**
Which of the following are the key features of 'National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)'?

1. River basin is the unit of planning and management.  
2. It spearheads the river conservation efforts at the national level.  
3. One of the Chief Ministers of the State through which the Ganga flows becomes the Chairman of NGRBA on rotation basis.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

[A] 1 and 2 only  
[B] 2 and 3 only  
[C] 1 and 3 only  
[D] 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: A**

The third statement is not correct because its chairman is PM.
http://currentaffairs.gktoday.in/ngrba-brought-ministry-water-resources-08201414323.html

**Question-24**
Why does the Government of India promote the use of 'Neem-coated Urea' in agriculture?

[A] Release of Neem oil in the soil increases nitrogen fixation by the soil microorganisms  
[B] Neem coating slows down the rate of dissolution of urea in the soil  
[C] Nitrous oxide, which is a greenhouse gas, is not at all released into atmosphere by crop fields  
[D] It is a combination of a weedicide and a fertilizer for particular crops

**Ans: B**

The benefits are as follows:
- Neem coating leads to more gradual release of urea, helping plants gain more nutrient and resulting in higher yields.  
- Lower underground water contamination due to leaching of urea.  
- Neem serves as a natural insecticide (not weedicide)  
- Collection of neem seeds is needed for manufacturing of neem coated urea. This would generate employments in rural areas.  
- Neem-coating will help check heavily subsidized urea’s pilgrimage to chemical industry and other uses such as making of adulterated milk.

Thus, the correct answer is B.

**Question - 25**
Consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Secretary in a State is appointed by the Governor of that State.  
2. The Chief Secretary in a State has a fixed tenure

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

[A] 1 only  
[B] 2 only  
[C] Both 1 and 2  
[D] Neither 1 nor 2

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**Ans:** D

**Explanation**
First statement is incorrect because Chief Secretary in the state is appointed by the Chief Minister of the state. Second statement is incorrect because as of now there is no fixed tenure for Chief Secretary. Recently, the Supreme Court directed the Centre and the States to set up a Civil Services Board (CSB) for the management of transfers, postings, inquiries, process of promotion, reward, punishment and disciplinary matters and to assure fixed tenure for Civil Servants.

**Question - 26**

With reference to 'Stand-up India Scheme', which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. Its purpose is to promote entrepreneurship among SC/ST and women entrepreneurs.
2. It provides for refinance through SIDBI.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

[A] 1 only
[B] 2 only
[C] Both 1 and 2
[D] Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans:** C

Both the statements are correct in this question.

http://currentaffairs.gktoday.in/pm-narendra-modi-launches-stand-india-scheme-scst-women-04201631939.html

**Question-27**

The FAO accords the status of 'Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)' to traditional agricultural systems. What is the overall goal of this initiative?
1. To provide modern technology, training in modern farming methods and financial support to local agricultural productivity
2. To identify and safeguard eco-friendly traditional farm practices and their associated landscapes, agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems of the local communities
3. To provide Geographical Indication status to all the varieties of agricultural produce in such identified GIAHS

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

[A] 1 and 3 only
[B] 2 only
[C] 2 and 3 only
[D] 1, 2 and 3

**Ans:** B

**Question-28**

Which of the following is/are tributary/tributaries of Brahmaputra?
1. Dibang
2. Kameng
3. Lohit

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

[A] 1 only
[B] 2 and 3 only
[C] 1 and 3 only
[D] 1, 2 and 3

**Ans:** D

http://www.gktoday.in/blog/brahmaputra-river-system/

The major tributaries of Brahmaputra include: Dibang, Lohit, Dhansiri, Kolong, Kameng, Manas, Raidak, Jaldhaka, Teesta, Subansiri etc.

**Question 29**

The term ‘Core Banking Solution’ is sometimes such in the news. Which of the following statements best describes/describe this term?
1. It is a networking of a bank’s branches which enables customers to operate their accounts from any branch of the bank on its network regardless of where they open their accounts.
2. It is an effort to increase RBI’s control over commercial banks through computerization.
3. It is a detailed procedure by which a bank with huge non-performing assets is taken over by another bank.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

[A] 1 only
[B] 2 and 3 only
[C] 1 and 3 only
[D] 1, 2 and 3

**Ans:** A

Only 1 is correct statement.
Consider the following pairs:
Terms sometimes seen in the news their origin
1. Annex-I Countries: Cartagena Protocol
2. Certified Emissions Reductions: Nagoya Protocol
3. Clean Development Mechanism: Kyoto Protocol
Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
[A] 1 and 2 only
[B] 2 and 3 only
[C] 3 only
[D] 1, 2 and 3
Ans: C
All the three terms are related to Kyoto Protocol.

In the context of the developments in bioinformatics, the term ‘transcriptome’, sometimes seen in the news, refer to
[A] A range of enzymes used in genome editing
[B] the full range of mRNA molecules expressed by an organism
[C] the description of the mechanism of gene expression
[d] A mechanism of genetic mutation taking place in cells
Ans: B
Explanation: The transcriptome is the set of all messenger RNA molecules in one cell or a population of cells. Wikipedia

'Mission Indradhanush' launched by the Government of India pertains to
[A] Immunization of children and pregnant women
[B] Construction of smart cities across the country
[C] India's own search for the Earth-like planets in outer space
[D] New Educational policy
Ans: A
Mission Indradhanush will provide protection against seven life-threatening diseases (diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, measles and hepatitis B). In addition, vaccination against Japanese Encephalitis and Haemophilus influenzae type B will be provided in selected districts of the country. Vaccination against tetanus toxiod will be provided to the pregnant women.

Which of the following best describe the aim of ‘Green India Mission’ of the Government of India?
1. Incorporating environment benefits and costs into the Union and State Budgets thereby implementing the 'green accounting'.
2. Launching the second green revolution to enhance agriculture output so as to ensure food security to one and all in the future.
3. Restoring and enhancing forest cover and responding to climate change by a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures.
Select the correct answer using the code given below
[A] 1 only
[B] 2 and 3 Only
[C] 3 Only
[D] 1, 2 and 3
Ans: C
Only 3 is the correct answer.
http://currentaffairs.gktoday.in/green-indian-mission-plans-approved-4-states-10201527350.html

With reference to pre-packaged items in India, it is mandatory to the manufacturer to put which of the following information on the main label, as per the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011?

www.gktoday.in
1. List of ingredients including additives
2. Nutrition information
3. Recommendations, if any made by the medical profession about the possibility of any allergic reactions
4. Vegetarian/non-vegetarian

Select the correct answer using the code given below

a) 1, 2 and 3
b) 2, 3 and 4
c) 1, 2 and 4
d) 1 and 4 Only

Ans: C

Project Loon, sometimes seen in the news, is related to

[A] Waste management technology
[B] Wireless communication technology
[C] Solar power production technology
[D] Water conservation technology

Ans: B

Net metering’ is sometimes seen in the news in the context of promoting the

A. production and use of solar energy by the households/consumers
B. use of piped natural gas in the kitchens of households
C. installation of CNG kits in motor-cars
D. installation of water meters in urban households

Answer: A

India’s ranking in the ‘Ease of Doing Business Index’ is sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following has declared that ranking?

A. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
B. World Economic Forum
C. World Bank
D. World Trade Organization (WTO)

Ans: C

Banjaras during the medieval period of Indian history were generally

A. Agriculturists
B. Warriors
C. Weavers
D. Traders

Answer: D

Who of the following had first deciphered the edicts of Emperor Ashoka?

[A] Georg Buhier
[B] James Prinsep
[C] Max Muller
[D] William Jones

Ans: B

These edicts were decoded by British archeologist and historian James Prinsep.

http://www.gktoday.in/asokas-edicts-inscriptions/
Question-40

With reference to the ‘Gram Nyayalaya Act’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. As per the Act, Gram Nyayalayas can hear only civil cases and not criminal cases.
2. The Act allows local social activists as mediators/reconciliators.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

[A] 1 only
[B] 2 only
[C] Both 1 and 2
[D] Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: B

First statement is not correct as Gram Nyayalaya try criminal cases, civil suits, claims or disputes which are specified in the First Schedule and the Second Schedule to the Act. The second statement is correct and the act allows local social activists and lawyers as mediators/reconciliators.

Question-41

With reference to the ‘Trans-Pacific Partnership’, consider the following statements:

1. It is an agreement among all the Pacific Rim countries except China and Russia.
2. It is a strategic alliance for the purpose of maritime security only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

[A] 1 only
[B] 2 only
[C] Both 1 and 2
[D] Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: D

The TPP involves 12 Pacific Rim nations – Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam. The pact aims to deepen economic ties between these nations, slashing tariffs and fostering trade to boost growth.

Question-42

Consider the following statements:

The India-Africa Summit
1. Held in 2015 was the third such Summit
2. Was actually initiated by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1951

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

[A] 1 only
[B] 2 only
[C] Both 1 and 2
[D] Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: A

The first statement is correct. First summit was held in 2008 in New Delhi and was represented by 14 countries of Africa chosen by the African Union. The 2015 summit was third one. Second statement does not seem to be correct.

Question: 43

What is/are the purpose/purposes of the ‘Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate (MCLR)’ announced by RBI?

1. These guidelines help improve the transparency in the methodology followed by banks for determining the interest rates on advances
2. These guidelines help ensure availability of bank credit & interest rates which are fair to the borrowers as well as the banks

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

[A] 1 only
[B] 2 only
[C] Both 1 and 2
[D] Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: C

To ensure better transmission of its rate cut to borrowers, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced the Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate (MCLR) to calculate the banks lending rate to borrowers. All rupee loans sanctioned and credit limits renewed w.e.f. April 1, 2016 will be priced with reference to the MCLR method. Currently, many banks follow average cost of
funds or ‘blended cost of funds (liabilities) method’ for calculating the base rate. The MCLR methodology will help the borrowers to reap the benefit of lower lending rates. It will also improve transparency in the methodology followed by banks for determining interest rates on advances.


**Question 44**

What is/are unique about ‘Kharai camel’ a breed found in India?
1. It is capable of swimming up to three kilometers in seawater.
2. It survives by grazing on mangroves.
3. It lives in the wild and cannot be domesticated.

Selected the correct answer using the code given below:

[A] 1 and 2 only
[B] 3 only
[C] 1 and 3 only
[D] 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: A**

Kharai Camel or Swimming Camels are found only in Gujarat’s Bhuj area. It has been recently recognized as a separate breed (one among nine such breeds found in India) of camel for better conservation. This camel is adapted to the extreme climate of Ran of Kachch where shallow seas and high salinity is prevalent. Kharai Camel can live in both coastal and dry ecosystems. It grazes on saline / mangrove trees and is tolerant to high saline water. It can swim up to three kilometers into the sea in search of mangroves, their primary food. The camel is distinct from other camels because of its rounded back, long and thin legs and small feet.

Note: This answer was updated. Kharai Camel is domesticated.

http://www.gktoday.in/quiz-questions/the-kharai-camel-or-swimming-camel-is-found-in-which-of-the-following-states-of-india/

**Question 45**

Recently, our scientists have discovered a new and distinct species of banana plant which attains a height of about 11 metres and has orange-coloured fruit pulp. In which part of India has it been discovered?

[A] Anadaman Islands
[B] Anamalai Forests
[C] Maikala Hills
[D] Tropical rain forest of northeast

**Ans: A**


**Question 46**

Which one of the following is the best description of ‘INS Astradharini’, that was in the news recently?

[A] Amphibious warfare ship
[B] Nuclear-powered submarine
[C] Torpedo launch and recovery vessel
[D] Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier

**Ans: C**

It is Indian Navy’s first totally indigenously-designed and built torpedo launch and recovery vessel.


**Question 47**

What is 'Greased Lightning-10 (GL-10)', recently in the news?

[A] Electric plane tested by NASA
[B] Solar-powered two-seater aircraft designed by Japan
[C] Space observatory launched by China
[D] Reusable rocket designed by ISRO

**Ans: A**

http://currentaffairs.gktoday.in/nasas-10-engine-electric-plane-named-gl-10-completes-flight-test-05201522468.html

**Question 48**

With reference to ‘Initiative for Nutritional Security through intensive Millets Promotion’, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. This initiative aims to demonstrate the improved production and post-harvest technologies, and to demonstrate value addition techniques, in an integrated manner, with cluster approach.
2. Poor, small, marginal and tribal farmers have larger stake in this scheme.
3. An important objective of the scheme is to encourage farmers of commercial crops to shift to millet cultivation by offering them free kits of critical inputs of nutrients and micro-irrigation equipment.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

[A] 1 only
[B] 2 and 3 only
[C] 1 and 2 only
[D] 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: A**


**Question 49**

The ‘Swadeshi’ and ‘Boycott’ adopted as methods of struggle for the first time during the
Question-50

With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:
1. The concept of Bodhisattva is central to Hinayana sect of Buddhism.
2. Bodhisattva is a compassionate one on his way to enlightenment.
3. Bodhisattva delays achieving his own salvation to help all sentient beings on their path to it.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

[A] 1 only  
[B] 2 and 3 only  
[C] 2 only  
[D] 1, 2 and 3  

Ans: B

Explanation
First statement is not correct because Bodhisattva is central to Mahayana Sect. Second statement and third statements are correct. Regarding third statement, we note that Bodhisattvas are the Buddhas who out of compassion delayed their entrance into nirvana in order to relieve suffering humankind.

Question-51

Doctors Without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontiercs), often in the news, is

[A] A division of World Health Organization  
[B] A non-governmental international organization  
[C] An inter-government agency sponsored by European Union  
[D] A specialized agency of the United Nations  

Ans: B

Question-52

With reference to an initiative called 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)', which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It is initiative hosted by UNEP, IMF and World Economic Forum.
2. It is a global initiative that focuses on drawing attention to the economic benefits of biodiversity.
3. It presents an approach that can help decision-makers recognize, demonstrate and capture the value of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

[A] 1 and 2 only  
[B] 3 only  
[C] 2 and 3 only  
[D] 1, 2 and 3  

Ans: C

The first statement is not correct.

http://www.teebweb.org/about/the-initiative/

Question-53

With reference to 'Red Sanders', sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements:
1. It is a tree species found in a part of South India.
2. It is one of the most important trees in the tropical rain forest areas of South India.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

[a] 1 only  
b] 2 only  
c] Both 1 and 2  
d] Neither 1 nor 2  

Ans: A

The second statement is not correct.

Question-54
Which of following statements is/are correct?
Proper design and effective implementation of UN-REDD+ Programme can significantly contribute to
1. Protection of biodiversity
2. Resilience of forest ecosystems
3. Poverty reduction
Select the correct answer using the code given below
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 3 Only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3
Ans: D

Forests are vital for the well-being of humanity and play a central role in poverty alleviation initiatives and thus all options are correct.

What is ‘Greenhouse Gas Protocol’?
a) It is an international accounting tool for government and business leaders to understand, quantify and manage greenhouse gas emissions
b) It is an initiative of the United Nations to offer financial incentives to developing countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adopt eco-friendly technologies
c) It is an inter-governments agreement ratified by all the member countries of the United Nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to specified levels by the year 2022
d) It is one of the multilateral REDD-initiatives hosted by the World Bank
Ans: A

With reference to ‘Financial Stability and Development Council’, consider the following statements:
1. It is an organ of NITI Aayog.
2. It is headed by the Union Finance Minister.
3. It monitors macro prudential super-vision of the economy.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
[A] 1 and 2 only
[B] 3 Only
[C] 2 and 3 only
[D] 1, 2 and 3
Ans: C

With reference to ‘Agenda 21’, sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements:
1. It is a global action plan for sustainable development.
2. It originated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
[A] 1 only
[B] 2 only
[C] Both 1 and 2
[D] Neither 1 nor 2
Ans: A

Satya Shodhak Samaj organized
[A] a movement for upliftment of tribals in Bihar
[B] a temple-entry movement in Gujarat
[C] an anti-caste movement in Maharashtra
[D] A peasant movement in Punjab
Ans: C

Satya Shodhak Samaj was founded by Mahatma Jotiba Phule on 24 September 1874 with an objective to liberate the Shudras and Ati Shudras and to prevent their ‘exploitation’ by the upper caste like ruling caste Marathas. Satya Shodhak Samaj refused to regard the Vedas as sacrosanct, opposed idol worship, denounced the chaturvarnya system [the caste system] and rejected the need for a Brahman priestly class as educational and religious leaders. The existence of God was replaced by Nirmik. Deenbandhu was the name of mouthpiece of the Satya Shodhak Samaj.
http://www.gktoday.in/answer/what-was-the-difference-between-ideology-of-satya-shodhak-samaj-and-prarthana-samaj/

Which of the following statements is/are correct?
Viruses can infect
1. Bacteria
2. Fungi
3. Plants
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
[A] 1 and 2 only
[B] 3 only
[C] 1 and 3 only
[D] 1, 2 and 3
Ans: D
Virus that affect Bacteria are called Bacteriophages.

Question 60
The term ‘Base Erosion and profit shifting’ is sometimes seen in the news in the context of
[A] mining operation by multinational companies in resource-rich by backward areas
[B] curbing of the tax evasion by multinational companies
(C) exploitation of genetic resources of a country by multinational companie
(d) Lack of consideration of environmental costs in the planning of development projects
Ans: B
You may read in detail about BEPS here:
http://www.gktoday.in/blog/base-erosion-and-profit-sharing-beps/

Question 61
Recently, India’s first ‘National Investment and Manufacturing Zone’ was proposed to be set up in
[A] Andhra Pradesh
[B] Gujarat
(C) Maharashtra
(d) Uttar Pradesh
Ans: A
Correct answer is Andhra Pradesh.
http://www.gktoday.in/national-manufacturing-policy-india/

Question 62
What is/are the purpose of ‘District Mineral Foundations’ in India?
1. Promoting mineral explorative activities in mineral-rich districts
2. Protecting the interests of the persons affected by mining operations
3. Authorizing State Governments to issue licenses for mineral exploration
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
[A] 1 and 2 only
[B] 2 only
[C] 1 and 3 only
[D] 1, 2 and 3
Ans: B
We have discussed it in our CGS documents and the article is also archived here:
http://www.gktoday.in/blog/district-mineral-foundation/
The objective of District Mineral Foundation is to work for the benefit of the persons and areas affected mining related operations in such manner as may be prescribed by the State Government.

Question 63
‘SWAYAM’, an initiative of the Government of India, aims at
[A] Promoting the Self Help Groups in rural areas
[B] Providing financial and technical assistance to young start-up entrepreneurs
[C] Promoting the education and health of adolescent girls
[D] Providing affordable and quality education to the citizens for free
Ans: D
SWAYAM is an online platform of the Ministry of HRD through which online programmes/courses will be offered to students in India.
The Montague-Chelmsford Proposals were related to 
[A] social reforms  
[B] educational reforms  
[C] reforms in police administration  
[D] constitutional reforms  
Ans: D  

**Question 65**

What is/are common to the two historical places known as Ajanta and Mahabalipuram?
1. Both were built in the same period.  
2. Both belong to the same religious denomination.  
3. Both have rock-cut monuments.  
Select the correct answer using the code given below.  
[A] 1 and 2 only  
[B] 3 only  
[C] 1 and 3 only  
[D] None of the statements given above is correct  
Ans: C  
The first statement is correct because while Ajanta caves were built during Gupta and Vakataka period, Mahabalipuram monuments were built during Pallava period and both these are chronologically same periods. Second statement is not correct.  
Third statement is correct.  

**Question 66**

With reference to 'Bitcoins' sometimes seen in the news, which of the following statements is/are correct?  
1. Bitcoins are tracked by the Central Banks of the countries.  
2. Anyone with a Bitcoin address can send and receive Bitcoins from anyone else with a Bitcoin address.  
3. Online payments can be sent without either side knowing the identity of the other.  
Select the correct answer using the code given below.  
[A] 1 and 2 only  
[B] 2 and 3 only  
[C] 3 only  
[D] 1, 2 and 3  
Ans: B  
First statement is not correct because Bitcoin transactions don't need a formal banking system. Rest two statements are correct.  

**Question 67**

Consider the following statements:  
1. New Development Bank has been set up by APEC.  
2. The headquarters of New Development Bank is in Shanghai.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
[A] 1 only  
[B] 2 only  
[C] Both 1 and 2  
[D] Neither 1 nor 2  
Ans: B  
http://www.gktoday.in/blog/new-development-bank/
Question 68

'Gadgil Committee Report' and ‘Kasturirangan Committee Report’, sometimes seen in the news, are related to

[A] Constitutional reforms
[B] Ganga Action Plan
[C] Linking of rivers
[D] Protection of Western Ghats

Ans: D
http://www.gktoday.in/madhav-gadgil-panel-and-kasturirangan-panel-for-protection-of-western-ghats/

Question 69

Consider the following:
1. Calcutta Unitarian Committee
2. Tabernacle of New Dispensation
3. Indian Reforms Association

Keshab Chandra Sen is associated with the establishment of which of the above?

[A] 1 and 3 only
[B] 2 and 3 only
[C] 3 only
[D] 1, 2 and 3

Ans: B

Question 70

Recently, which of the following States has explored the possibility of constructing an artificial inland port to be connected to sea by a long navigational channel?

[A] Andhra Pradesh
[B] Chhattisgarh
[C] Karnataka
[D] Rajasthan

Ans: D

Question 71

With reference to the Agreement at the UNFCCC Meeting in Paris in 2015, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Agreement was signed by all the member countries of the UN and it will go into effect in 2017.
2. The Agreement aims to limit the greenhouse gas emissions so that the rise in average global temperature by the end of this century does not exceed 20C or even 1.50C above pre-industrial levels.
3. Developed countries acknowledged their historical responsibility in global warming and committed to donate $1000 billion a year from 2020 to help developing countries to cope with climate change.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

[A] 1 and 3 only
[B] 2 only
[C] 2 and 3 only
[D] 1, 2 and 3

Ans: B
This question is based on Paris Agreement
Question 72
Consider the following statements:
1. The Sustainable Development Goals were first proposed in 1972 by a global think tank called the ‘Club of Rome’.
2. The Sustainable Development Goals have to be achieved by 2030.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
[A] 1 only
[B] 2 only
[C] Both 1 and 2
[D] Neither 1 nor 2
Ans B
First statement is not correct. Second is correct.

http://www.gktoday.in/blog/sustainable-development-goals/

Question 73
A recent movie titled *The Man Who Knew Infinity* is based on the biography of
[A] S. Ramanujan
[B] S. Chandrasekhar
[C] S. N. Bose
[D] C. V. Raman
Ans: A
This question was asked in our daily quiz in 2014. Hail UPSC!

Question 74
Consider the following statements:
1. The minimum age prescribed for any person to be a member of Panchayat is 25 years.
2. A Panchayat reconstituted after premature dissolution continues only for the remainder period.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a. 1 only
b. 2 only
c. Both 1 and 2
d. Neither 1 nor 2
Ans: (B)
In First option it should be 21 years. Second statement is correct.

Question 75
India is an important member of the ‘International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor’. If this experiment succeeds, what is the immediate advantage for India?
[A] It can use thorium in place of uranium for power generation
[B] It can attain a global role in satellite navigation
[C] It can drastically improve the efficiency of its fission reactors in power generation
[D] It can build fusion reactors for power generation
Ans: D

Question 76
In the context of the history of India, consider the following pairs:
Term                Description
1. Erripatti    :    Land, revenue from which was set apart for the maintenance of the village tank
2. Taniyurs    :    Villages donated to a single Brahmin or a group of Brahmins
3. Ghatikas    :    Colleges generally attached to the temples
Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
[A]     1 and 2
[B]    3 only
[C]    2 and 3
[D]    1 and 3
Ans: D
- **Erripatti:** Land from which the revenue was used to maintain irrigation tanks.
- **The meaning of taniyurs** is not clearly understood but they were managed by brahmin assemblies and their committees; not single Brahmins.
- **Ghatikas** were educational institutions in South India during ancient times.
Consider the following statements:
1. The International Solar Alliance was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2015.
2. The Alliance includes all the member countries of the United Nations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

[A] 1 only
[B] 2 only
[C] Both 1 and 2
[D] Neither 1 nor 2

Answer (A)

Under this alliance, 121 countries that fall within the tropics (i.e. between Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn) have been invited to make collaborative efforts to harness solar energy to generate the electricity. Most of these countries fall within Asia, Africa and South America. In this question, statement 1 is correct while statement 2 is incorrect.

http://www.gktoday.in/blog/international-solar-alliance/

Question 78

Which of the following is/are the advantage/advantages of practicing drip irrigation?
1. Reduction in weed
2. Reduction in soil salinity
3. Reduction in soil erosion

Select the correct answer using the code given below.
[A] 1 and 2 only
[B] 3 only
[C] 1 and 3 only
[D] None of the above is an advantage of practicing drip irrigation

Answer: 1 & 3

Reduction in weed:
Weed and disease problems may be reduced because drip irrigation does not wet the row middles or the foliage of the crops as does overhead irrigation.

Reduction in soil salinity
There are numerous sources available on internet that suggest that drip irrigation reduces soil salinity at least in localized pattern along the drips. However, applying General Knowledge here, we consider that drip irrigation is not primarily used to derive the benefits of reduction in soil salinity. Due to this, we opt out this option (due to not availability of option with all 1, 2 & 3 choices).

Reduction in soil erosion
Drip irrigation extends watering times for plants, and prevents soil erosion and nutrient runoff.

Question 80

Regarding ‘DigiLocker’, sometimes seen in the news, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It is a digital locker system offered by the Government under Digital India Programme.
2. It allows you to access your e-documents irrespective of your physical location.

Select the correct answer using the code given below
a) 1 only
b) 2 Only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer:C

http://www.gktoday.in/blog/digital-locker

Question 81

Recently, linking of which of the following rivers was undertaking?
a) Cauvery and Tungabhadra
b) Godavari and Krishna

www.gktoday.in
c) Mahanadi and Son

d) Narmada and Tapti

Ans: B

Godavari River was formally interlinked with the Krishna River at Ibrahimpatnam near Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh.
http://currentaffairs.gktoday.in/godavari-krishna-rivers-formally-interlinked-andhra-pradesh-09201526710.html

**Question 82**

In the cities of our country, which among the following atmospheric gases are normally considered in calculating the value of Air Quality Index?

1. Carbon dioxide
2. Carbon monoxide
3. Nitrogen dioxide
4. Sulphur Dioxide
5. Methane

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Ans: B

The National Air Quality Index is a part of the government’s Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. The index will measure eight major pollutants, namely, particulate matter (PM 10 and PM 2.5), nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide, ammonia and lead.
http://www.gktoday.in/national-air-quality-index/

**Question 83**

With reference to ‘Astrosat’, the astronomical observatory launched by India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Other than USA and Russia, India is the only country to have launched a similar observatory into space.
2. Astrosat is a 2000 kg satellite placed in an orbit at 1650 km above the surface of the Earth.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Ans: D

The first statement is not correct. Apart from India, Only the United States, European Space Agency, Japan and Russia have such observatories in space. Second statement is incorrect, its weight is 1650 KG.
http://currentaffairs.gktoday.in/indias-1st-dedicated-satellite-astronomy-research-astrosat-successfully-launched-09201526956.html

**Question 84**

With reference to the economic history of medieval India the term ‘Araghatta’ refers to

a) bonded labour
b) Land grants made to military officers
c) Waterwheel used in the irrigation of land
d) Wasteland converted to cultivated land

Araghatta [Persian Wheel] was instruments of irrigation.

**Question 85**

With reference to the cultural history of India, the memorizing of chronicles, dynastic histories and epic tales was the profession of who of the following?

a) Shrmanana
b) Parivraajaka
c) Agrahaarika
d) Magadha

www.gktoday.in
In determining the role of education as a means of social change a distinction must be made in the early period between oral education and formal education. In the early Vedic period, before the use of a script, brahmanical education was an oral tradition. The contents of this tradition were religious or magical formulae and the rituals appropriate to various occasions. The memorizing of chronicles, dynastic histories or epic tales was the work of a different group of people, the sūtas and māgadhās.

Even after much of the brahmanical literature had been recorded in writing, the actual recitation of certain sacrosanct sections was kept secret and remained a part of oral learning. The element of magic was never totally eliminated from early religious literature; hence the injunction that a śūdra who dares to listen to the recitation of the Vedas must be severely punished.⁴⁶ The secret knowledge of the recitation of the Vedas gave magical powers to those brahmans who had acquired this knowledge, even in an area of literate civilization.

**Question 86**

Which of the following is not a member of 'Gulf Cooperation Council'?

a) Iran  
b) Saudi Arabia  
c) Oman  
d) Kuwait

**Ans:** A

GCC is a political and economic alliance of six Middle Eastern countries—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman.

**Question 87**

What is/are the purpose/purposes of Government’s ‘Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme’ and Gold Monetization Scheme?

1. To bring the idle gold lying with India households into the economy  
2. To promote FDI in the gold and jewellery sector  
3. To reduce India’s dependence on gold imports

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

**Ans:** C

This scheme is not targeted at FDI. Basic idea is to bring the idle lying Gold into economy.

**Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB):**

1. are issued by RBI  
2. are tradable on stock exchanges  
3. assure market value of gold at time of maturity plus periodical interest

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- [A] Only 1 & 2  
- [B] Only 2 & 3  
- [C] Only 1 & 3  
- [D] 1, 2 & 3

**Answer:** [D] 1, 2 & 3

SGBs are government securities issued by Reserve Bank on behalf of Government of India. The bonds are excellent substitutes for holding physical gold. Investors are assured of the market value of gold at the time of maturity and periodical interest, but there may be a risk of capital loss if the market price of gold declines with the time period.

**Gold Monetisation scheme:**

1. earns regular interest to depositor  
2. allows pre-mature withdrawal with minimum lock-in period of one year  
3. is exempted from capital gains tax, wealth tax and income tax on earnings

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- [A] Only 1 & 2  
- [B] Only 2 & 3  
- [C] Only 1 & 3  
- [D] 1, 2 & 3

**Answer:** [C] Only 1 & 3

Second statement is incorrect because minimum lock period is of 3 years.

This question is a part of GKToday’s Integrated IAS General Studies Module.
Solution: Civil Services Preliminary Examination GS Paper 2016

Question 88
Recently, for the first time in our country, which of the following State has declared a particular butterfly as "State Butterfly?"

[A] Arunachal Pradesh
[B] Himachal Pradesh
[C] Karnataka
[D] Maharashtra

Ans: D
It's Maharashtra
The following question appeared in our Daily quiz.

Question 89
Consider the following statements:
The Mangalyaan launched by ISRO
1. is also called the Mars Orbiter Mission
2. Made India the second country to have a spacecraft orbit the Mars after USA
3. Made India the only country to be successful in making its spacecraft orbits the Mars in its very first attempt.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

[A] 1 only
[B] 2 and 3 only
[C] 1 and 3 only
[D] 1, 2 and 3

Ans: C
The second statement in this question is not a correct fact. ISRO is fourth space agency to reach Mars, after the Soviet space program, NASA, and the European Space Agency.

Question 90
What was the main reason for the split in the Indian National Congress at Surat in 1907?

[A] Introduction of communalism into Indian politics by Lord Minto.
[B] Extremists' lack of faith in the capacity of the moderates to negotiate with the British Government
[C] Foundation of Muslim League
[D] Aurobindo Ghosh's inability to be elected as the President of the Indian national Congress

Ans: B

Question 91
The plan of Sir Stafford Cripps envisaged that after the Second World War

[A] India should be granted complete independence
[B] India should be partitioned into two before granting independence
[C] India should be made a republic with the condition that she will join the Commonwealth
[D] India should be given Dominion status

Ans: D
The proposal of the Cripps mission was that:
"India would be a dominion associated with the United kingdom".
http://www.gktoday.in/cripps-proposals-1942/

Question 92
Consider the following pairs:
Famous place Region
1. Bodhgaya : Baghelkhand
2. Khajuraho : Bundelkhand
3. Shirdi : Vidarbha
4. Nasik (Nashik) : Malwa
5. Tirupati : Rayalaseema
Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

[A] 1, 2 and 4
[B] 2, 3, 4 and 5
[C] 2 and 5 only
[D] 1, 3, 4 and 5

Ans: C
2 & 5 only are correct answers.
Question 93

The Parliament of India acquires the power to legislate on any item in the State List in the national interest if a resolution to that effect is passed by the

[A] Lok Sabha by a simple majority of its total membership
[B] Lok Sabha by a majority of not less than two-thirds of its total membership
[C] Rajya Sabha by a simple majority of its total membership
[D] Rajya Sabha by a majority of not less than two-thirds of its members present and voting

Ans: D

http://www.gktoday.in/blog/exclusive-powers-of-rajya-sabha-in-indian-constitution/

Question 94

The “One Belt, One Road initiative” has been proposed by China for ___.

[A] Defence cooperation
[B] International Travel & Tourism
[C] Investment and Trade Promotion
[D] None of them

Answer: Investment and Trade Promotion

The One Belt One Road is China’s investment and trade promotion scheme. The scheme aims to deepen economic connections between China and rest of the world.

Question 95

Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana is aimed at

[A] Bringing the small entrepreneurs into formal financial system
[B] Providing loans to poor farmers for cultivating particular crops
[C] Providing pensions to old and destitute persons
[D] Funding the voluntary organization involved in the promotion of skill development and employment generation

Ans: A

http://www.gktoday.in/blog/pradhan-mantri-mudra-vojana/

Question 96

In which of the following regions of India are shale gas resources found?

1. Cambay Basin
2. Cauvery basin
3. Krishna-Godavari Basin

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

[A] 1 and 2 only
[B] 3 only
[C] 2 and 3 only
[D] 1, 2 and 3

Ans: D

Kindly note that these basins have “potential” so far commercial production has not been possible.
Question 97

In India, the which of the followings river basins have been found to possess shale gas potential?
1. Krishna Godavari
2. Goomish
3. Damodar
4. Indo Gangetic

Choose the correct answer from codes given below:

[A] Only 1 & 2
[B] Only 2 & 3
[C] Only 1 & 4
[D] 1, 2, 3 & 4

Answer: [D] 1, 2, 3 & 4
The major basins in India with shale gas potential include Cambay, Gujarat, Assam-Arakan in the northeast, Gondwana in central India, Krishna Godavari in Andhra Pradesh, Goomish, Damodar basin and the Indo Gangetic basin.

Question 98

‘Global Financial Stability Report’ is prepared by the

[A] European Central Bank
[B] International Monetary Fund
[C] International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
[D] Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Ans: B
It is published by IMF.

Question 99

Regarding ‘Atal Pension Yojana’, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It is a minimum guaranteed pension scheme mainly targeted at unorganized sector workers
2. Only one member of a family can join the scheme
3. Some amount of pension is guaranteed for the spouse for life after subscriber’s death.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

[A] 1 only
[B] 2 and 3 only
[C] 1 and 3 only
[D] 1, 2 and 3

Ans: C
First statement is correct. Second statement is not correct because Anybody who has attained the desired age and has an Aadhaar number along with a linked bank account can enrol for the scheme. The third statement is also NOT correct. The scheme was amended to give an option to the spouse to continue to contribute for balance period on premature death of the subscriber; After the death of both the subscriber and the spouse, the nominee of the subscriber is entitled to receive the pension wealth, as accumulated till age of 60 years.

The term ‘Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership’ often appears in the news in the context of the affairs of a group of countries known as

[A] G20
[B] ASEAN
[C] SCO
[D] SAARC

Ans: B
The RCEP is an ASEAN-led trade agreement linking the economies of 16 Asia-Pacific countries. The grouping includes more than 3 billion people, has a combined GDP of about $17 trillion, and accounts for about 40 percent of world trade. Negotiations are slated to begin in early 2013 and are expected to conclude by the end of 2015. The idea of the RCEP was first introduced in November 2011 at the ASEAN Leaders Summit in Bali, as officials attempted to reconcile two existing regional trade architectures. China supported the East Asia Free Trade Agreement, which restricted the grouping to ASEAN, China, Japan, and South Korea. Japan, on the other hand, favored the Comprehensive Economic Partnership in East Asia, which added three countries: India, Australia, and New Zealand.
On which of the following can you find the Bureau of Energy Efficiency Star Label?

1. Ceiling fans
2. Electric geysers
3. Tubular fluorescent lamps

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

[A] 1 and 2 only
[B] 3 only
[C] 2 and 3 only
[D] 1, 2 and 3

Ans: D

The Bureau initiated the Standards & Labeling programme for equipment and appliances in 2006 to provide the consumer an informed choice about the energy saving and thereby the cost saving potential of the relevant marketed product. The scheme is invoked for 21 equipment/appliances, i.e. Room Air Conditioners, Tubular Fluorescent Tube Lights, Frost Free Refrigerators, Distribution Transformers, Induction Motors, Direct Cool Refrigerator, electric storage type geyser, Ceiling fans, Color TVs, Agricultural pump sets, LPG stoves, Washing machine, Laptops, ballast, floor standing ACs, office automation products, Diesel Generating sets & Diesel pumpsets. Of which the first 4 products have been notified under mandatory labeling from 7th January, 2010. The other appliances are presently under voluntary labeling phase. The energy efficiency labeling programs under BEE are intended to reduce the energy consumption of appliance without diminishing the services it provides to consumers. The most recent additions to the list of labeled products are variable capacity AC's and LED lamps.

https://beeindia.gov.in/content/star-labelled-appliances

www.gktoday.in