

Kerala NMMS Social Science

Sample Paper – 4

Duration: 30 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 30

Instructions

- This paper contains **30** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer), modelled on the Social Science portion of **Kerala NMMS (SAT)**.
- Each correct answer carries **+1 mark**. There is **no negative marking** for incorrect or unattempted answers.
- Only **one** option is correct. Choose carefully.
- Syllabus level: **Class 7–8 (SCERT Kerala / NCERT) — History (Ancient, Medieval, Modern India, Kerala History), Geography (Physical Features, Climate, Rivers, Natural Vegetation, Agriculture, Industries, Transport, Population), Civics (Constitution, Parliament, Rights, Local Government) and Economics (Resources, Poverty, Food Security, Development)**.
- Use of mobile phones, calculators, or electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited. Rough work may be done in the space provided.

Q1. What was the most distinctive feature of the drainage and sanitation system found in Indus Valley cities such as Mohenjo-daro and Harappa?

- (A) Open earthen channels running along the sides of main streets
- (B) Sewage channels cut directly into the riverbanks for natural disposal
- (C) Underground stone pipes that discharged waste straight into rivers
- (D) Covered brick-lined drains with manholes and inspection chambers, forming the most sophisticated urban sanitation system of the ancient world

Q2. Emperor Ashoka convened a major Buddhist Council to resolve disputes



within the Sangha and to organise the sending of missionaries to spread the Dhamma. Where and when was this Council held?

- (A) Third Buddhist Council at Pataliputra, circa 250 BCE, under Ashoka's patronage
- (B) First Buddhist Council at Rajagriha, shortly after the Buddha's death (483 BCE)
- (C) Second Buddhist Council at Vaishali, about a century after the Buddha's death
- (D) Fourth Buddhist Council at Kashmir, under the patronage of King Kanishka

Q3. The Mauryan Empire (322–185 BCE) had a highly organised administrative system described in the *Arthashastra*. Which of the following correctly describes features of Mauryan provincial administration?

- (A) The empire was divided into five equal provinces each governed by an elected representative council
- (B) Provinces (Janapadas) were administered by royal princes as viceroys; the great road Uttarapath linked key regions; the *Arthashastra* prescribed regulations for roads and postal services
- (C) Each province was entirely self-governing with no administrative or financial connection to the Mauryan capital Pataliputra
- (D) The Mauryan empire had no provincial divisions and was governed solely and directly from Pataliputra

Q4. Which of the following statements about the Qutub Minar and the early Delhi Sultanate is CORRECT?

- (A) Qutub Minar was built entirely by Qutb-ud-din Aibak and stands 50 metres tall in Agra
- (B) Qutub Minar was completed by Alauddin Khalji as a symbol of Khalji military power in 1311



- (C) Qutub Minar was begun by Qutb-ud-din Aibak (the first Muslim Sultan of Delhi) and completed and extended by Iltutmish; it stands approximately 73 metres tall in Delhi
- (D) Qutub Minar was built during the Mughal period and served as a minaret for the Jama Masjid mosque

Q5. The decorative border below is inspired by Mughal miniature painting, a tradition that flourished under Emperor Jahangir (r. 1605–1627). Which statement best describes Mughal court culture under Jahangir?



- (A) Jahangir banned all forms of representational painting as contrary to Islamic tradition
 - (B) Jahangir had no interest in art and delegated all cultural patronage entirely to Nur Jahan
 - (C) Jahangir introduced Persian carpet weaving as the primary and dominant art form of the Mughal court
 - (D) Jahangir was a great patron of miniature painting and a keen naturalist; Nur Jahan wielded considerable political influence; the Mughal court blended Persian and Indian artistic traditions
- Q6.** Lord Dalhousie, Governor-General of India (1848–1856), used the “Doctrine of Lapse” to expand British-controlled territories. Which statement correctly describes this policy?
- (A) States that had no natural (biological) heir were annexed by the British East India Company; Jhansi, Satara, and Nagpur were among the states annexed under this policy
 - (B) The Doctrine of Lapse allowed Indian rulers to freely adopt heirs without any British interference or approval



- (C) Only states that refused to pay land revenue were annexed and taken over by the British Crown
- (D) The policy was introduced by Lord Bentinck to reform the land revenue system of Bengal Presidency

Q7. The Bengal Famine of 1943 was one of the most catastrophic famines in the history of British India. Which of the following best describes its causes and consequences?

- (A) The Bengal Famine was caused solely by a prolonged natural drought that destroyed all crops in Bengal
- (B) The famine resulted from wartime food shortages and serious administrative failures under British rule; over two million people died; it became a major moral indictment of British rule in India
- (C) The Bengal Famine of 1943 affected only the city of Calcutta and was swiftly resolved by British relief operations within a few months
- (D) The famine was directly caused by a catastrophic flood in the Brahmaputra river valley in 1942 that destroyed standing crops

Q8. The early phase of the Indian National Congress (1885–1905) was dominated by leaders known as the “Moderates”. Which of the following correctly identifies a Moderate leader and their approach to Indian nationalism?

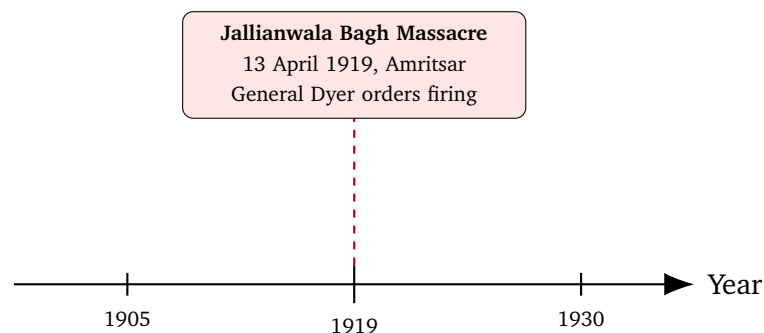
- (A) Bal Gangadhar Tilak was a prominent Moderate who advocated petitions and constitutional methods
- (B) Subhas Chandra Bose led the Moderates by calling for immediate armed revolution against British rule in 1905
- (C) Gopal Krishna Gokhale and Dadabhai Naoroji (who propounded the “Drain Theory” of economic exploitation) relied on petitions, memorials, and resolutions to press the British for reforms
- (D) Lala Lajpat Rai led the Moderate faction in organising large-scale civil disobedience movements across India



Q9. After returning from South Africa, Mahatma Gandhi led his first three significant satyagrahas on Indian soil. Which option correctly lists these early satyagrahas and their causes?

- (A) Dandi Salt March (1930), Non-Cooperation Movement (1920), and Quit India Movement (1942)
- (B) Salt Satyagraha (1930), Civil Disobedience Movement (1930), and Rowlatt Satyagraha (1919)
- (C) Bardoli Satyagraha (1928), Vaikom Satyagraha (1924), and Nagpur Satyagraha (1923)
- (D) Champaran Satyagraha (1917) against oppressive indigo planters, Kheda Satyagraha (1918) against harsh revenue collection during crop failure, and Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918) for fair wages for textile workers

Q10. The timeline below marks a turning point in India's struggle for independence. On 13 April 1919, General Reginald Dyer ordered troops to open fire on a peaceful crowd assembled at Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar. What was the primary significance of this event for the Indian freedom movement?

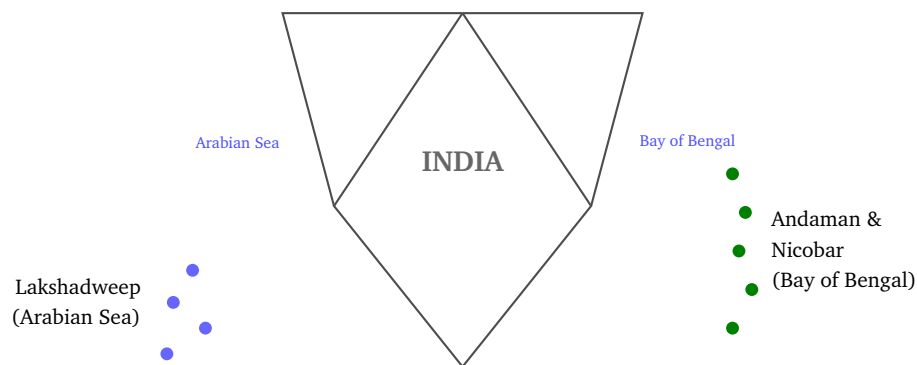


- (A) It shocked the Indian nation and the world; it galvanised Indian public opinion decisively against British rule and greatly accelerated the independence movement
- (B) It was a relatively minor incident of crowd control that had little lasting impact on Indo-British political relations
- (C) It marked the beginning of India's participation in the First World War and triggered mass enlistment



- (D) It was ordered by Lord Curzon to suppress the Swadeshi movement that had started in Bengal after the partition

Q11. Study the simplified outline map of India below. India has two major groups of islands. Which option correctly identifies both island groups, their locations, and their geological origins?



- (A) The Andaman and Nicobar Islands lie in the Arabian Sea; Lakshadweep lies in the Bay of Bengal
- (B) The Andaman and Nicobar Islands lie in the Bay of Bengal (partly volcanic and partly coral in origin); Lakshadweep lies in the Arabian Sea and consists entirely of coral atolls
- (C) Both island groups lie in the Indian Ocean south of Sri Lanka and are composed of granite and gneiss rocks
- (D) Lakshadweep consists of volcanic and sedimentary islands located in the Bay of Bengal near the Andaman chain

Q12. Which of the following statements about the major peninsular rivers of India is CORRECT?

- (A) The Kaveri is the longest peninsular river and originates in the Aravalli ranges of Rajasthan
- (B) The Krishna river flows entirely through Tamil Nadu before entering the Arabian Sea near Chennai
- (C) The Godavari is the longest peninsular river (also called the “Ganga of the South”); the Kaveri flows through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu;



the Krishna drains Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana before entering the Bay of Bengal

- (D) The Mahanadi is a west-flowing river that drains into the Arabian Sea through the Gulf of Khambhat

Q13. The states of Punjab, Haryana, and northern Uttar Pradesh receive some rainfall during the winter months (December–February). What weather system is responsible for this winter precipitation?

- (A) South-west monsoon winds that shift northward during the winter months and bring moisture from the Arabian Sea
- (B) Tropical cyclones originating in the Bay of Bengal that travel westward across the subcontinent during December
- (C) Land breezes from the Thar Desert that pick up moisture from the Arabian Sea and deposit it over northern India
- (D) Western disturbances — extra-tropical weather systems (temperate cyclones) originating over the Mediterranean Sea, which bring winter rain and snowfall to north-western India as they move eastward

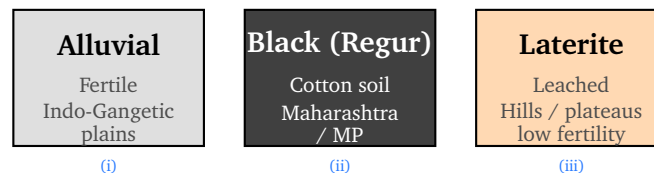
Q14. Above the snowline in the Himalayan mountain region, the natural vegetation consists mainly of mosses, lichens, and sparse low-growing shrubs. What is this type of vegetation zone called, and where is it found?

- (A) Alpine and tundra vegetation — found at very high altitudes (above approximately 3,600 m) in the Himalayas where conditions are harsh, extremely cold, and soil development is minimal; dominant plants include mosses and lichens
- (B) Tropical evergreen forest — found in regions receiving more than 200 cm of annual rainfall and experiencing uniformly high temperatures throughout the year
- (C) Mangrove vegetation — found in coastal tidal mudflats along estuaries, deltas, and sheltered lagoons in tropical and subtropical regions
- (D) Tropical deciduous forest — found in areas receiving 75–200 cm of



annual rainfall with a well-marked dry season during which trees shed their leaves

Q15. The diagram below shows three major soil types found in India. Which option correctly matches each soil type with its characteristics and region?



- (A) Black (regur) soil is found in the Indo-Gangetic plains and is most suitable for the cultivation of wheat and rice
- (B) Alluvial soil (i) is highly fertile and found mainly in the Indo-Gangetic plains; black (regur) soil (ii) is ideal for cotton cultivation in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh; laterite soil (iii) is formed by heavy leaching on hilly and plateau regions and has low fertility
- (C) Laterite soil (iii) is found on the Deccan Plateau and is the most fertile soil type in India, best suited for sugarcane cultivation
- (D) Alluvial soil (i) is found mainly in peninsular plateau regions and is formed through the process of heavy chemical leaching

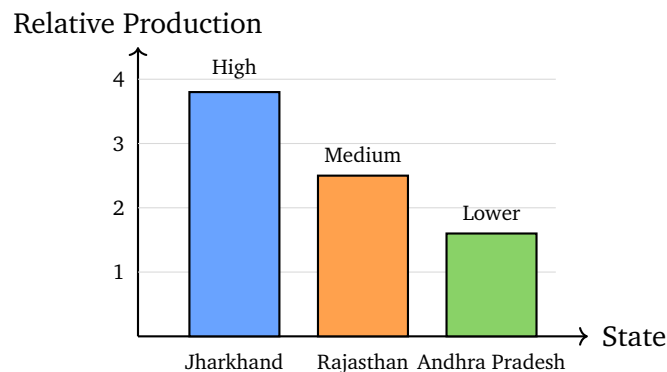
Q16. Which of the following correctly describes the agro-climatic conditions required for rice (paddy) cultivation and identifies the major rice-producing states of India?

- (A) Rice cultivation requires dry and cold conditions throughout the growing season; major producing states are Rajasthan and Gujarat
- (B) Rice grows best under arid conditions with very low humidity; Punjab and Haryana are the only significant rice-producing states in India
- (C) Rice requires water-logged or flooded-field conditions and a warm, humid climate with high rainfall; major producing states include West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu



- (D) Rice can be cultivated only in coastal areas and requires strong sea winds throughout the growing and ripening period

Q17. Study the bar chart below showing the relative mica production across three major states of India. Mica is an important non-metallic mineral used in the electrical and electronics industries. Which group of states are the leading mica-producing states?



- (A) Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Goa are the three dominant mica-producing states of India
- (B) Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala together produce the largest share of India's mica output
- (C) West Bengal, Bihar, and Odisha are the primary mica-mining states of India
- (D) Jharkhand, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh are the leading mica-producing states of India; India is a major global exporter of mica used in the electrical and electronics industries

Q18. National Waterway 1 (NW-1) is India's most important inland waterway used for cargo transport. Which of the following correctly identifies NW-1 and states the key advantage of inland water transport?

- (A) NW-1 runs on the Ganga river from Allahabad (Prayagraj) to Haldia; inland water transport is significantly cheaper than road and rail transport for bulk and heavy cargo
- (B) NW-1 runs along the Brahmaputra river from Sadiya to Dhubri and directly connects to the Bay of Bengal



- (C) NW-1 is a canal-based waterway running from Mumbai to Pune through the Sahyadri hill passes
- (D) Inland waterways are the fastest mode of transport for both passengers and perishable goods in India

Q19. India has witnessed large-scale movement of people from rural areas to urban centres, especially since the 1990s. Which statement best explains the primary cause and main consequence of this rural-urban migration?

- (A) Rural-urban migration occurs primarily because cities contain more and better-quality agricultural land than villages
- (B) People migrate from rural to urban areas mainly in search of employment opportunities and better educational facilities; this migration leads to rapid urban growth and a decline in rural population
- (C) Rural-urban migration in India is mainly driven by religious festivals and pilgrimages that temporarily attract large numbers of people to cities and pilgrimage towns
- (D) The Indian government enforces rural-to-urban migration as part of a mandatory urbanisation policy under the Five Year Plans

Q20. India is recognised as one of the world's 17 “mega-diverse” countries. Which of the following correctly identifies two of India's four recognised biodiversity hotspots?

- (A) The Thar Desert and the Indo-Gangetic plains are India's two most significant biodiversity hotspots
- (B) The Deccan Plateau and the Coromandel Coast are internationally recognised as India's major biodiversity hotspots
- (C) The Western Ghats (one of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots) and the Himalayan region (Indo-Burma hotspot) are two of India's four recognised biodiversity hotspots
- (D) The Sundarbans mangrove region and the Rann of Kutch salt flats are India's only two internationally recognised biodiversity hotspots



Q21. Study the comparison diagram below. Which of the following correctly describes the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) as enshrined in the Constitution of India?

Fundamental Rights	Directive Principles (DPSP)
• Part III of Constitution • Justiciable • Enforceable by courts • Protect individual • Negative duty on State	• Part IV of Constitution • Non-justiciable • Cannot be enforced in court • Welfare of society • Positive duty on State

- (A) Directive Principles of State Policy are justiciable — they can be directly enforced by a court of law just like Fundamental Rights
- (B) Directive Principles are contained in Part III of the Constitution, in the same chapter as Fundamental Rights
- (C) Directive Principles of State Policy always override Fundamental Rights and take precedence in all conflicts between the two
- (D) Directive Principles of State Policy are contained in Part IV of the Constitution; they are non-justiciable (cannot be enforced in court) but are fundamental to the governance of the country; they aim at achieving economic, social, and political justice

Q22. Articles 29 and 30 of the Constitution of India guarantee Cultural and Educational Rights. Which statement correctly describes what these rights provide?

- (A) Minorities — whether based on religion or language — have the right to establish and administer their own educational institutions and to conserve their distinct language, script, and culture
- (B) Under Articles 29 and 30, only Hindu religious minorities have the right to establish and administer their own educational institutions
- (C) Cultural and Educational Rights apply exclusively to linguistic minorities and do not extend to religious minority communities
- (D) Article 30 explicitly prohibits minority educational institutions from receiving any aid or grants from the State government



- Q23.** The Speaker is a key constitutional authority in the Indian Parliament. Which of the following correctly describes the role and election of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha?
- (A) The Speaker of the Lok Sabha is appointed by the President of India on the advice of the Prime Minister
 - (B) The Speaker is elected by the members of the Lok Sabha from among themselves; the Speaker presides over Lok Sabha sessions, maintains order, and decides the procedure for a No Confidence Motion
 - (C) The Speaker of the Lok Sabha serves a fixed term of six years, independent of the tenure of the Lok Sabha itself
 - (D) The Speaker is the presiding officer of the Rajya Sabha and chairs all joint sittings of both Houses of Parliament
- Q24.** The Governor is the constitutional head of a state government in India. Which of the following correctly describes the appointment and constitutional functions of the Governor?
- (A) The Governor is directly elected by the members of the State Legislative Assembly for a fixed five-year term
 - (B) The Governor has the independent power to dissolve the State Legislature at any time without any reference to the President
 - (C) The Governor is appointed by the President of India under Article 153; the Governor is the constitutional head of state government and has the power to summon, prorogue, and (on advice) dissolve the State Legislature
 - (D) The Governor acts entirely independently in all constitutional matters and is in no way bound by the advice of the Council of Ministers in ordinary governance
- Q25.** The Supreme Court and High Courts of India have the power to issue constitutional writs to protect Fundamental Rights. Which of the following correctly identifies the writ that protects personal liberty by directing that a detained person be produced before a court?



- (A) Mandamus — it directs a public authority or official to perform a mandatory public duty that they have failed or refused to perform
- (B) Certiorari — it is issued by a superior court to quash the order of a lower court or quasi-judicial tribunal that has acted in excess of jurisdiction
- (C) Quo Warranto — it challenges the legal right of a person to hold and continue in a public office or franchise
- (D) Habeas Corpus — it protects personal liberty by ordering that a person who has been unlawfully detained be produced before the court; other writs include Mandamus, Certiorari, Prohibition, and Quo Warranto

Q26. India's Panchayati Raj system operates at three tiers below the district level. Which of the following correctly describes the Panchayat Samiti and its role?

- (A) The Panchayat Samiti is the middle (block) tier of the Panchayati Raj system; it oversees the Gram Panchayats within the block and is responsible for implementing block-level development schemes
- (B) The Panchayat Samiti is the apex (district) tier of Panchayati Raj and coordinates all development activities at the district level
- (C) The Panchayat Samiti directly governs individual villages and has no administrative connection with the block-level structure
- (D) The Panchayat Samiti is a national advisory body that coordinates and monitors Panchayati Raj institutions across all states of India

Q27. India's total geographical area is used for many different purposes. Which of the following correctly describes the approximate land use pattern in India?

- (A) Net sown area covers about 70% of India's total land; forests cover only 5%; and the remaining 25% is wasteland or barren land
- (B) Forests cover approximately 23% of India's land; net sown area is approximately 47%; the remaining land comprises fallow lands, pas-



tures, land put to non-agricultural uses, and other categories; land is a finite and increasingly scarce resource

- (C) Urban settlements and industrial areas together account for about 40% of India's total geographical area
- (D) India has virtually no fallow land, as all cultivable land has been brought under active cultivation through successive Green Revolution programmes

Q28. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a landmark legislation in India. Which of the following correctly describes the key provisions of MGNREGA?

- (A) MGNREGA provides free food grains every month to urban households living below the poverty line
- (B) MGNREGA guarantees 200 days of wage employment per financial year to every rural household that demands work
- (C) MGNREGA legally guarantees at least 100 days of wage employment per financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work; it also aims to create durable community assets in rural areas
- (D) MGNREGA provides unconditional direct cash transfers to all rural households without requiring them to perform any work

Q29. Inflation is a key concept in economics. Which of the following correctly defines inflation and explains its impact on different sections of society?

- (A) Inflation refers to a sustained decrease in the general price level of goods and services, which benefits consumers by increasing their real purchasing power
- (B) Inflation occurs only when the government raises direct or indirect taxes, leading to a temporary and limited increase in commodity prices
- (C) Inflation means the value of the national currency increases steadily,



making imported goods and foreign services cheaper for ordinary citizens

- (D) Inflation is a sustained rise in the general price level of goods and services over time; it reduces the purchasing power of money; the poor and those on fixed incomes are most severely affected as they spend the largest share of their income on necessities

Q30. India's trade balance is an important indicator of its economic health. Which of the following correctly explains the concept of a trade deficit and gives an example relevant to India?

- (A) A trade deficit occurs when the total value of a country's imports exceeds the total value of its exports; India regularly imports large quantities of crude petroleum oil and gold, which are major contributors to its trade deficit
- (B) India consistently maintains a trade surplus because it exports more manufactured goods and software services than it imports in all categories
- (C) A trade surplus occurs when the value of imports exceeds the value of exports, resulting in a net outflow of foreign exchange from the country
- (D) India's trade balance is always kept in equilibrium through automatic price adjustment mechanisms regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)



Detailed Solutions**Q1.****Solution**

Concept — History/Ancient: Indus Valley Civilisation: The Indus Valley Civilisation (c. 2500–1900 BCE) is celebrated for its remarkable urban planning. Cities like Mohenjo-daro and Harappa had a sophisticated sanitation system that was far ahead of contemporary civilisations in Mesopotamia and Egypt.

Step 1 — Key features of Indus drainage: Streets were laid in a grid pattern. Below the streets ran covered brick-lined drains. These drains had manholes and inspection chambers at regular intervals to allow cleaning and maintenance. Wastewater from individual houses flowed through chutes and pipes into these main drains.

Step 2 — Significance: This system is considered the world's earliest planned urban sanitation network. The use of covered drains (rather than open channels) shows advanced civic consciousness and public health awareness.

Why other options are wrong: Option (A): The drains were covered, not open earthen channels — open drains would be a far more primitive arrangement. Option (B): Sewage channels cut into riverbanks was not the Indus practice; their drains were built within the city grid. Option (C): Underground stone pipes discharging directly to rivers describes a much cruder Roman system, not the Indus system, which had inspection chambers and covered brick construction.

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q1](#)

Q2.**Solution**

Concept — History/Ancient: Buddhist Councils: After the death of the Buddha (c. 483 BCE), a series of Buddhist Councils were held to compile and codify the Buddhist scriptures (Tipitaka) and to resolve doctrinal disputes within the Sangha (monastic community).

Step 1 — The Four Buddhist Councils:

- **First Council:** Rajagriha, shortly after the Buddha's death (c. 483 BCE) — to collect and compile the Dhamma.
- **Second Council:** Vaishali, c. 383 BCE — to resolve disputes about monastic rules.
- **Third Council:** Pataliputra, c. 250 BCE, under Emperor Ashoka — to



purify the Sangha and send missionaries (like Mahinda to Sri Lanka).

- Fourth Council: Kashmir, c. 1st century CE, under King Kanishka of the Kushana dynasty.

Step 2 — Confirm: Ashoka convened the Third Buddhist Council at Pataliputra (modern Patna) around 250 BCE.

Why other options are wrong: Option (B): The First Council was at Rajagriha, not convened by Ashoka. Option (C): The Second Council was at Vaishali, held about 100 years after the First, not under Ashoka. Option (D): The Fourth Council at Kashmir was under Kanishka, not Ashoka.

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q2](#)

Q3.

Solution

Concept — History/Ancient: Mauryan Empire Administration: The Mauryan Empire (c. 322–185 BCE) was the first large pan-Indian empire. Its administrative system was described in detail in the *Arthashastra*, attributed to Kautilya (Chanakya), Chandragupta Maurya's chief minister.

Step 1 — Provincial administration: The empire was divided into provinces (Janapadas or Mahajanapadas), each administered by a royal prince (Kumara) as viceroy. Below the provinces were districts and villages with their own officials.

Step 2 — Infrastructure: The Uttarapath was a major royal road linking Taxila (north-west) to Pataliputra and beyond, facilitating trade and military movement. The *Arthashastra* prescribed rules for the maintenance of roads, rest houses (dharma-shalas), and a spy network.

Why other options are wrong: Option (A): Provinces were not divided into five equal parts governed by elected councils; they were administered by royal princes appointed by the emperor. Option (C): Provinces were not self-governing; they were closely supervised by the central administration at Pataliputra. Option (D): The empire had a clear provincial administrative structure, not direct rule solely from the capital.

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q3](#)



Q4.

Solution

Concept — History/Medieval: Delhi Sultanate and the Qutub Minar: The Delhi Sultanate (1206–1526) was the first major Islamic state in India. Qutb-ud-din Aibak was its founder and the first Sultan of Delhi (1206–1210).

Step 1 — Construction of the Qutub Minar: Qutb-ud-din Aibak began the construction of the Qutub Minar in Delhi around 1193 CE as a minaret for the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque. However, he completed only the first storey. The subsequent Sultan, **Iltutmish** (r. 1211–1236), added three more storeys and essentially completed the tower. Firuz Shah Tughlaq later repaired and added the fifth storey.

Step 2 — Key facts: The Qutub Minar stands approximately **73 metres** tall, making it one of the tallest brick minarets in the world. It is located in Mehrauli, Delhi — not in Agra.

Why other options are wrong: Option (A): The height is wrong (50 m vs 73 m) and Aibak only began, not completed, the tower. Option (B): Alauddin Khalji did not build the Qutub Minar; he attempted to build a second, taller minaret (never completed). Option (D): The Qutub Minar is in Delhi, not Agra, and predates the Mughal period by over 300 years.

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q4](#)

Q5.

Solution

Concept — History/Medieval: Mughal Court Culture under Jahangir: Emperor Jahangir (Nur-ud-din Muhammad Salim, r. 1605–1627) was a remarkable patron of the arts and an acute observer of nature. His reign is regarded as the golden age of Mughal miniature painting.

Step 1 — Jahangir and miniature painting: Jahangir himself was a skilled painter and had a highly trained eye. He patronised master painters such as Ustad Mansur (renowned for naturalistic depictions of birds and animals) and Bichitr. Mughal miniature painting under Jahangir combined Persian finesse with Indian sensibility, producing exquisite portraits and nature studies.

Step 2 — Nur Jahan's political role: Jahangir's empress, Nur Jahan (born Mehr-un-Nissa), wielded extraordinary political influence. She issued imperial farmans, had coins struck in her name, and effectively co-ruled during Jahangir's later years when he was incapacitated by illness and addiction.

Why other options are wrong: Option (A): Jahangir was the opposite of a censor of arts; he was one of the keenest patrons of miniature painting in Mughal history.



Option (B): Jahangir was personally deeply involved in art, not indifferent to it.
Option (C): Persian carpet weaving was not the primary art form of Jahangir's court; miniature painting and calligraphy were the dominant courtly arts.

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q5](#)

Q6.

Solution

Concept — History/Modern: Doctrine of Lapse: Lord Dalhousie (Governor-General 1848–1856) used the Doctrine of Lapse as a systematic policy to expand British territorial control in India.

Step 1 — The policy: Under the Doctrine of Lapse, if a ruler of a princely state under British paramountcy died without a *natural* (biological) heir, the state would “lapse” and be annexed by the British East India Company. Adopted sons were not recognised for purposes of succession.

Step 2 — States annexed: Satara (1848), Jaitpur and Sambalpur (1849), Baghat (1850), Udaipur (1852), Jhansi (1853), and Nagpur (1854) were all annexed under this policy. The annexation of Jhansi (and its queen Lakshmi Bai) became a major cause of grievance leading to the 1857 uprising.

Why other options are wrong: Option (B): The policy specifically denied Indian rulers the right to adopt heirs — it did the opposite of allowing free adoption. Option (C): The policy was about the absence of natural heirs, not about refusal to pay revenue. Option (D): Lord Bentinck (Governor-General 1828–1835) is associated with social reforms (sati abolition), not the Doctrine of Lapse.

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q6](#)

Q7.

Solution

Concept — History/Modern: Bengal Famine of 1943: The Bengal Famine of 1943 was one of the deadliest famines in Indian history, occurring during the period of British colonial rule in the final phase of the Second World War.

Step 1 — Causes: The famine was not caused by a natural drought alone. Key causes included: wartime diversion of rice from Bengal to supply British troops; a British denial policy (denial of boats and rice stocks to prevent Japanese use); administrative failure to organise relief; hoarding and speculation by traders; and inflation eroding the purchasing power of the rural poor.

Step 2 — Consequences: Estimates suggest that **over 2 million people** (some



estimates put the figure at 3–4 million) died of starvation and related disease. The famine became a powerful moral indictment of British colonial rule and strengthened Indian demands for self-governance.

Why other options are wrong: Option (A): The famine was not caused solely by natural drought; administrative and policy failures were major contributing factors. Option (C): The famine devastated rural Bengal, not just Calcutta; relief was neither swift nor adequate. Option (D): No catastrophic Brahmaputra flood in 1942 was the cause; the causes were wartime policy and administrative failure.

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q7](#)

Q8.

Solution

Concept — History/Modern: Moderate Phase of Indian National Congress:

The early Congress leaders (1885–1905), known as the Moderates, believed in constitutional and peaceful methods to achieve political reforms under British rule. They had faith in British justice and sought reforms through dialogue.

Step 1 — Key Moderate leaders and their methods:

- **Dadabhai Naoroji:** Known as the “Grand Old Man of India”; propounded the “Drain Theory” arguing that British policies drained India’s wealth.
- **Gopal Krishna Gokhale:** A moderate who believed in working within the constitutional framework; he was also Gandhi’s political guru.
- **Methods:** Petitions, memorials, press campaigns, and resolutions at annual Congress sessions.

Step 2 — Contrast with Extremists: Leaders like Tilak (“Bal”) and Lajpat Rai (“Lal”) belonged to the Extremist (or Assertive) faction, which rejected moderate methods and called for more aggressive action.

Why other options are wrong: Option (A): Bal Gangadhar Tilak was an Extremist, not a Moderate; he famously said “Swaraj is my birthright.” Option (B): Subhas Chandra Bose belonged to the radical nationalist tradition and was active much later (1930s–40s). Option (D): Lala Lajpat Rai was part of the Lal-Bal-Pal extremist trio, not a leader of the Moderates.

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q8](#)



Q9.

Solution

Concept — History/Modern: Gandhi's Early Satyagrahas in India: After returning from South Africa in 1915, Mahatma Gandhi launched three localised but highly significant satyagrahas in India before leading the large national movements.

Step 1 — Three early satyagrahas:

- **Champaran Satyagraha (1917):** In Bihar, Gandhi supported indigo farmers (ryots) being forced to grow indigo under the tinkathia system by European planters.
- **Kheda Satyagraha (1918):** In Gujarat, Gandhi supported peasants who demanded remission of revenue after crop failure; the British eventually agreed to suspend revenue collection.
- **Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918):** Gandhi mediated a dispute between mill owners and workers over wage increases; this was his first hunger strike in India.

Step 2 — Significance: These three satyagrahas established Gandhi's credentials and methods in the Indian political context before he launched national-level campaigns.

Why other options are wrong: Option (A): Dandi March (1930) and Quit India (1942) are much later, major national movements. Option (B): These events are from 1919 and 1930, not Gandhi's first three satyagrahas in India. Option (C): Bardoli (1928) and Vaikom (1924) were significant satyagrahas but did not form the first three.

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q9](#)

Q10.

Solution

Concept — History/Modern: Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (1919): On 13 April 1919 (Baisakhi day), a large crowd — including pilgrims, festival visitors, and political protesters — had assembled at Jallianwala Bagh, a walled public garden in Amritsar, Punjab.

Step 1 — The event: Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer ordered his troops to open fire without warning on the unarmed crowd, which had no means of escape. Hundreds were killed (official British figure: 379 killed; Indian estimates far higher)



and over a thousand were wounded. Dyer then marched his troops away without arranging any medical aid for the wounded.

Step 2 — Impact on the freedom movement: The massacre shocked the entire Indian nation and much of the world. Rabindranath Tagore renounced his knighthood in protest. The event destroyed any remaining Indian faith in British justice and fair play. It became a powerful rallying point for the independence movement, contributing directly to Gandhi's decision to launch the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1920.

Why other options are wrong: Option (B): The massacre had a profound and lasting impact, not a minor one; it fundamentally altered Indian public opinion. Option (C): The First World War (1914–1918) had ended before this event; it played no role in war participation. Option (D): Lord Curzon (Governor-General 1899–1905) had nothing to do with this; the massacre was in 1919 under the Viceroy Lord Chelmsford.

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q10](#)

Q11.

Solution

Concept — Geography: Indian Islands: India has two major offshore island territories, both of which are Union Territories administered by the central government.

Step 1 — Andaman and Nicobar Islands:

- Location: Bay of Bengal.
- Geological origin: The Andaman Islands are partly **volcanic** in origin and are considered the submerged peaks of the Arakan Yoma mountain range. They also have coral formations.
- Administration: Union Territory; Port Blair is the capital.

Step 2 — Lakshadweep:

- Location: Arabian Sea, about 200–440 km off the Kerala coast.
- Geological origin: Entirely **coral atolls** (ring-shaped coral reefs enclosing a lagoon). Lakshadweep means “one hundred thousand islands” in Sanskrit.
- Administration: Union Territory; Kavaratti is the capital.



Why other options are wrong: Option (A): This reverses the locations — Andaman and Nicobar is in the Bay of Bengal (not Arabian Sea) and Lakshadweep is in the Arabian Sea (not Bay of Bengal). Option (C): They are not both south of Sri Lanka; the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are far to the east in the Bay of Bengal. Option (D): Lakshadweep is in the Arabian Sea, not the Bay of Bengal, and is entirely coral, not volcanic.

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q11](#)

Q12.

Solution

Concept — Geography: Peninsular Rivers of India: The peninsular rivers of India generally flow eastward into the Bay of Bengal (with some exceptions like the Narmada and Tapi that flow westward into the Arabian Sea). They are rain-fed and seasonal.

Step 1 — Key peninsular rivers:

- **Godavari:** Rising in Maharashtra's Nasik district (Western Ghats); flows eastward through Telangana and Andhra Pradesh; drains into the Bay of Bengal. It is the longest peninsular river (approximately 1,465 km) and is often called the "Ganga of the South" (Dakshina Ganga).
- **Krishna:** Rising in Maharashtra; flows through Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh/Telangana; drains into the Bay of Bengal.
- **Kaveri (Cauvery):** Rising in Coorg (Kodagu) district of Karnataka; flows through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu; drains into the Bay of Bengal.

Why other options are wrong: Option (A): The Kaveri is NOT the longest peninsular river; the Godavari is. The Kaveri does not originate in Rajasthan. Option (B): The Krishna flows through Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana — not just Tamil Nadu — and drains into the Bay of Bengal, not the Arabian Sea. Option (D): The Mahanadi flows eastward into the Bay of Bengal, not westward into the Arabian Sea.

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q12](#)



Q13.

Solution

Concept — Geography: Western Disturbances: India receives most of its rainfall from the South-West Monsoon (June–September). However, north-western India also receives winter precipitation from a different weather system.

Step 1 — What are Western Disturbances? Western disturbances are extra-tropical cyclones (temperate cyclones) that originate over the Mediterranean Sea. They travel eastward, picking up moisture over the Caspian Sea and Persian Gulf, and bring winter rain (and snowfall in the mountains) to north-western India (Punjab, Haryana, northern Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh) during December–February.

Step 2 — Significance: This winter precipitation (locally called “mahawat”) is crucial for rabi (winter) crops such as wheat, mustard, and barley.

Why other options are wrong: Option (A): The South-West Monsoon (June–September) brings summer rain, not winter rain; it does not shift northward during winter. Option (B): Bay of Bengal cyclones form during the pre- and post-monsoon seasons, not during winter, and they do not travel westward to north-western India in large numbers. Option (C): Land breezes from the Thar Desert are dry and do not carry moisture; this is not a recognised source of winter precipitation.

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q13](#)

Q14.

Solution

Concept — Geography: Natural Vegetation Zones of India: India has a wide variety of natural vegetation zones due to its diverse climate, altitude, and topography. These range from tropical evergreen forests in the Western Ghats to alpine vegetation in the high Himalayas.

Step 1 — Alpine and Tundra Vegetation: Above approximately 3,600 metres in the Himalayan region, the climate becomes too cold and the growing season too short for most trees and shrubs to survive. The vegetation here consists of:

- **Mosses and lichens:** These grow directly on rocks and thin soils.
- **Low-growing shrubs and sedges:** Including alpine meadows (bugyals in Uttarakhand) at lower alpine elevations.
- Above the snowline, virtually no plant life can survive permanently.



Step 2 — Distinguish from other zones: Tropical evergreen forests are found in the Western Ghats, Northeast India (heavy rainfall areas). Mangrove forests are coastal. Deciduous forests are in areas with a dry season.

Why other options are wrong: Option (B): Tropical evergreen forests grow at low altitudes in high-rainfall, high-temperature zones — the opposite conditions from the alpine zone. Option (C): Mangroves are coastal, tidal wetland vegetation — not found at high Himalayan altitudes. Option (D): Tropical deciduous forests need moderate rainfall and a dry season and are found at moderate altitudes and latitudes, not near the snowline.

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q14](#)

Q15.

Solution

Concept — Geography: Major Soil Types in India: India has eight major types of soils, each associated with specific climatic conditions, rock types, and agricultural uses. The three most important for Class 7–8 are alluvial, black (regur), and laterite soils.

Step 1 — Alluvial Soil (i): Deposited by rivers (Ganga, Brahmaputra, etc.) over millions of years. Found in the Indo-Gangetic plains, Brahmaputra valley, and coastal deltas. It is **India's most fertile soil** and supports the cultivation of rice, wheat, sugarcane, and pulses. It covers the largest area of India.

Step 2 — Black (Regur) Soil (ii): Also called cotton soil or Deccan trap soil, formed from volcanic basalt rocks. Found mainly in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, and parts of Gujarat. It has high clay content, retains moisture well, and is ideal for **cotton cultivation**. Rich in iron, calcium, and magnesium.

Step 3 — Laterite Soil (iii): Formed under conditions of heavy rainfall and high temperature, which leach away silica and other nutrients. Found on the hills and plateaus of southern India, Western Ghats, and eastern India. It has **low fertility** because nutrients are washed away, though it is suitable for tea and cashew cultivation.

Why other options are wrong: Option (A): Black (regur) soil is found in the Deccan, not the Indo-Gangetic plains. Alluvial soil is in the Indo-Gangetic plains and is most suitable for wheat and rice, not black soil. Option (C): Laterite soil has low fertility due to leaching — it is not the most fertile soil. Option (D): Alluvial soil is found in river plains (Indo-Gangetic plains), not peninsular plateau regions.

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q15](#)



Q16.

Solution

Concept — Geography: Rice Cultivation in India: Rice (paddy) is the most important food crop of India and the staple food of most Indians. It is a Kharif crop sown during the monsoon season.

Step 1 — Agro-climatic requirements of rice:

- **Water:** Rice requires abundant water, typically grown in flooded or water-logged fields (paddy fields).
- **Temperature:** Requires high temperatures (above 25°C) during the growing season.
- **Rainfall:** Requires 100–200 cm of annual rainfall, or irrigation to supplement.
- **Soil:** Alluvial and clayey soils that can retain water are ideal.

Step 2 — Major producing states: West Bengal (highest producer), Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu are among the top rice-producing states. Punjab and Haryana grow rice using extensive canal and tube-well irrigation despite lower natural rainfall.

Why other options are wrong: Option (A): Rice requires warmth and abundant water — cold and dry conditions (as in Rajasthan and Gujarat) are unsuitable for rice. Option (B): Arid conditions are not suitable for rice; Punjab and Haryana grow rice through irrigation, but they are not the only states. Option (D): Rice does not require sea winds; it grows in inland areas well away from the coast.

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q16](#)

Q17.

Solution

Concept — Geography: Mica Mineral Resources in India: Mica is a silicate mineral with excellent electrical and thermal insulating properties. India is one of the world's leading producers and exporters of mica.

Step 1 — Major mica-producing states:

- **Jharkhand** (formerly part of Bihar): The Hazaribagh and Giridih regions are the most important mica-producing areas; Jharkhand leads production.
- **Rajasthan:** The Jaipur, Bhilwara, and Ajmer districts are significant mica-



producing areas.

- **Andhra Pradesh:** The Nellore district is an important mica-producing region.

Step 2 — Uses of mica: Mica is used as an electrical insulator and heat-resistant material in electrical equipment, capacitors, vacuum tubes, and electronic components. India exports mica primarily to the USA, Germany, Japan, and the UK.

Why other options are wrong: Option (A): Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Goa are not significant mica producers; they are more associated with cotton, petroleum, and iron ore respectively. Option (B): Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala are not major mica producers in India. Option (C): West Bengal, Bihar (now Jharkhand), and Odisha have some mineral resources, but mica production is concentrated in Jharkhand, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh.

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q17](#)

Q18.

Solution

Concept — Geography: Inland Waterways of India: India has about 14,500 km of navigable inland waterways comprising rivers, canals, backwaters, and creeks. The National Waterways Authority of India (NWAI) maintains and develops these.

Step 1 — National Waterway 1 (NW-1): NW-1 is the longest and most important national waterway in India. It runs along the **Ganga river** from **Allahabad (Prayagraj) to Haldia** (West Bengal), covering approximately 1,620 km. It passes through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.

Step 2 — Advantages of inland water transport:

- **Cheapest** mode of transport for heavy and bulk cargo (coal, iron ore, fertilisers, construction materials).
- Energy-efficient and environment-friendly compared to road and rail.
- Reduces pressure on road and rail networks.

Why other options are wrong: Option (B): NW-1 is on the Ganga, not the Brahmaputra. NW-2 runs on the Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri. Option (C): No such canal waterway exists from Mumbai to Pune; this description is invented. Option (D): Inland waterways are the *slowest* mode of transport, not the fastest; they are used for bulk cargo, not primarily for passengers or perishables.

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q18](#)



Q19.

Solution

Concept — Geography/Population: Rural-Urban Migration in India: Migration is the movement of people from one place to another. In India, rural-to-urban migration has been a dominant demographic trend, particularly since the economic liberalisation of 1991.

Step 1 — Push and Pull factors:

- **Push factors** (from rural areas): Limited employment opportunities, low agricultural wages, seasonal unemployment, lack of educational facilities and healthcare, natural disasters.
- **Pull factors** (towards urban areas): Better employment in industries and services, higher wages, better educational institutions and healthcare, improved infrastructure.

Step 2 — Consequences: Urban growth, slum development in cities (lack of affordable housing), infrastructure pressure in cities, rural depopulation and ageing rural populations, and remittances sent back to villages.

Why other options are wrong: Option (A): Cities do not have more or better agricultural land than villages; agriculture is mainly a rural activity. Option (C): Religious festivals may cause temporary movement but are not the primary driver of sustained migration. Option (D): The government does not force rural-urban migration; it is a voluntary economic phenomenon.

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q19](#)

Q20.

Solution

Concept — Geography: Biodiversity Hotspots of India: A biodiversity hotspot is a biogeographic region that is both a significant reservoir of biodiversity and is threatened with destruction. India has four internationally recognised biodiversity hotspots.

Step 1 — India's four biodiversity hotspots:

- Western Ghats:** A mountain range along India's west coast, recognised as one of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots. Home to thousands of endemic plant and animal species.
- Himalaya (Eastern Himalayas / Indo-Burma hotspot):** Includes the East-



ern Himalayas, northeast India, and extends into Myanmar.

(c) **Sundaland** (includes Nicobar Islands).

(d) **Indo-Burma**: Covers northeast India and extends into Southeast Asia.

Step 2 — Confirm: The Western Ghats and the Himalayan region are two of India's biodiversity hotspots.

Why other options are wrong: Option (A): The Thar Desert and Indo-Gangetic plains, while ecologically important, are not recognised as international biodiversity hotspots; the Thar Desert has low biodiversity by definition. Option (B): The Deccan Plateau and Coromandel Coast are not recognised international biodiversity hotspots. Option (D): While the Sundarbans is an important ecosystem and a Ramsar site, it is not separately listed as a biodiversity hotspot; the Rann of Kutch is a saline desert with limited biodiversity.

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q20](#)

Q21.

Solution

Concept — Civics: Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP): The Directive Principles of State Policy are contained in **Part IV** (Articles 36–51) of the Constitution of India. They are inspired by the Irish Constitution and the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

Step 1 — Key features of DPSP:

- **Non-justiciable:** They cannot be enforced in a court of law. No citizen can go to court if the government fails to implement a DPSP.
- **Positive obligations:** They impose positive duties on the State to take proactive steps for the welfare of citizens.
- **Goals:** They aim at establishing a welfare state by achieving economic and social justice, equal pay for equal work, free and compulsory education (now a Fundamental Right under Art. 21A), and protection of environment.

Step 2 — Contrast with Fundamental Rights: Fundamental Rights (Part III) are justiciable — they can be enforced in courts through writs. DPSP are non-justiciable but are fundamental guidelines for governance.

Why other options are wrong: Option (A): DPSP are specifically non-justiciable — they cannot be enforced in court. Only Fundamental Rights are justiciable.



Option (B): DPSP are in Part IV, not Part III. Fundamental Rights are in Part III.
Option (C): DPSP do not override Fundamental Rights. In fact, in conflicts, Fundamental Rights generally prevail (though the 42nd Amendment tried to give DPSP precedence in certain areas).

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q21](#)

Q22.

Solution

Concept — Civics: Cultural and Educational Rights (Articles 29–30): Articles 29 and 30 form the chapter on Cultural and Educational Rights in Part III of the Constitution of India.

Step 1 — Article 29 (Protection of interests of minorities):

- Any section of citizens with a distinct language, script, or culture has the right to conserve the same.
- No citizen shall be denied admission to any state-funded educational institution solely on the ground of religion, race, caste, or language.

Step 2 — Article 30 (Right of minorities to establish educational institutions):

- All minorities, whether based on **religion** or **language**, have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- The State shall not discriminate against minority educational institutions when granting aid.

Why other options are wrong: Option (B): Article 30 applies to all minorities (both religious and linguistic) — it is not restricted to Hindu minorities alone. Option (C): Both religious and linguistic minorities are covered by Article 30 — not just linguistic minorities. Option (D): Article 30(2) explicitly states that the State *shall not discriminate* against minority institutions when granting aid — they can receive government aid.

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q22](#)



Q23.

Solution

Concept — Civics: Lok Sabha Speaker: The Speaker is the presiding officer of the Lok Sabha (House of the People), the lower house of the Indian Parliament.

Step 1 — Election of the Speaker: The Speaker is **elected by the members of the Lok Sabha** from among themselves, by a simple majority, soon after a new Lok Sabha is constituted. The Speaker serves during the life of the Lok Sabha (five years) unless removed earlier.

Step 2 — Role and powers of the Speaker:

- Presides over and conducts the proceedings of the Lok Sabha.
- Maintains order and decorum in the House.
- Decides whether a bill is a Money Bill.
- Certifies constitutional amendments.
- Presides over joint sittings of both Houses of Parliament.
- Decides the procedure and rules for a **No Confidence Motion** against the government.

Why other options are wrong: Option (A): The Speaker is elected by Lok Sabha members, not appointed by the President. The Deputy Speaker is also elected by Lok Sabha members. Option (C): The Speaker's term coincides with the life of the Lok Sabha (typically five years), not a fixed six-year term. Option (D): The Rajya Sabha is presided over by the Vice-President of India, who serves as its ex-officio Chairman — not the Lok Sabha Speaker.

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q23](#)

Q24.

Solution

Concept — Civics: Governor of a State: The Governor is the constitutional head of a state in India, analogous to the President at the national level.

Step 1 — Appointment: Under **Article 153**, every state shall have a Governor. The Governor is **appointed by the President of India** (on the advice of the Union Council of Ministers). The Governor holds office at the pleasure of the President.

Step 2 — Constitutional functions:



- Summons, prorogues, and dissolves the State Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha).
- Addresses the State Legislature at the commencement of the first session each year.
- Gives assent to bills passed by the State Legislature.
- Appoints the Chief Minister and on the CM's advice appoints other ministers.
- Reserves bills for the President's consideration.
- The Governor acts on the advice of the State Council of Ministers in ordinary governance.

Why other options are wrong: Option (A): The Governor is appointed by the President, not elected by the State Legislature. Option (B): The Governor cannot dismiss the State Legislature independently; dissolution of the Assembly requires the advice of the Chief Minister or the President's approval in special circumstances. Option (D): In ordinary matters, the Governor is bound by the advice of the State Council of Ministers under Article 163; only in certain discretionary matters can the Governor act independently.

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q24](#)

Q25.

Solution

Concept — Civics: Writ Jurisdiction and Fundamental Rights: The Supreme Court (under Article 32) and High Courts (under Article 226) have the power to issue five types of constitutional writs to protect Fundamental Rights and enforce legal duties.

Step 1 — The five writs:

- **Habeas Corpus** ("You shall have the body"): Protects personal liberty. Courts can issue this writ to direct any person (including government authorities) who has detained another to produce the detained person before the court and show lawful cause for the detention.
- **Mandamus** ("We command"): Directs a public official or government body to perform a mandatory public duty they have neglected.
- **Certiorari** ("To be certified"): Issued to quash the order of a lower court or tribunal that has acted beyond its jurisdiction or violated principles of



natural justice.

- **Prohibition:** Directs a lower court to stop proceedings it has no jurisdiction to conduct.
- **Quo Warranto** (“By what authority”): Challenges a person’s legal right to hold a public office.

Step 2 — Key distinction: The question asks specifically about the writ protecting personal liberty by requiring production before a court. That is **Habeas Corpus**.

Why other options are wrong: Option (A): Mandamus directs performance of public duty — it does not protect personal liberty from detention. Option (B): Certiorari quashes lower court orders — it does not address detention of persons. Option (C): Quo Warranto challenges the right to hold office — it is not about personal liberty.

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q25](#)

Q26.

Solution

Concept — Civics: Panchayati Raj System: The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act (1992) provided constitutional status to Panchayati Raj institutions and established a mandatory three-tier structure of local self-government in rural India.

Step 1 — Three tiers of Panchayati Raj:

- **Gram Panchayat:** Village level — the grassroots unit of local self-government.
- **Panchayat Samiti (Block Panchayat / Mandal Panchayat):** Block level — the middle tier. It coordinates and supervises the Gram Panchayats within the block and implements block-level development programmes.
- **Zila Parishad:** District level — the apex tier of Panchayati Raj at the district level.

Step 2 — Panchayat Samiti’s role: The Panchayat Samiti (called by different names in different states — Panchayat Union in Tamil Nadu, Mandal Parishad in Andhra Pradesh, Kshetra Panchayat in Uttar Pradesh) acts as the link between the village Gram Panchayats and the district-level Zila Parishad. It implements government schemes at the block level.

Why other options are wrong: Option (B): The apex (district) tier is the *Zila Parishad*, not the Panchayat Samiti. Option (C): The Panchayat Samiti operates



at the block level and coordinates multiple Gram Panchayats; it does not govern individual villages. Option (D): Panchayat Samiti is a local government body at the block level within a single state — it is not a national body.

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q26](#)

Q27.

Solution

Concept — Economics: Land Use in India: India's total geographical area is approximately 3.28 million square kilometres. The use of this land is classified into several categories for planning and agricultural purposes.

Step 1 — Approximate land use pattern (as per NCERT Class 8):

- **Net sown area:** Approximately 46–47% of total land — land actually under cultivation.
- **Forest land:** Approximately 22–23% of total land (though the National Forest Policy target is 33%).
- **Pastures and grazing land:** Approximately 4%.
- **Fallow lands** (land left uncultivated for one season or more): Approximately 7–8%.
- **Land put to non-agricultural uses** (urban areas, roads, railways): Approximately 8%.
- **Waste and barren land:** Remaining area.

Step 2 — Key point: Land is a finite and non-renewable resource. With growing population and increasing pressure for agriculture, industry, and housing, land is increasingly scarce.

Why other options are wrong: Option (A): Net sown area is about 47%, not 70%; forests cover about 23%, not just 5%. Option (C): Urban areas and industry cover a much smaller proportion than 40%. Option (D): India does have fallow lands — about 7–8% of the total area; not all cultivable land is under active cultivation.

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q27](#)



Q28.

Solution

Concept — Economics: MGNREGA: The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was enacted in 2005 and is one of the world's largest public works programmes.

Step 1 — Key features of MGNREGA:

- It is a **legal guarantee** — every adult member of a rural household has a *legal right* to demand work.
- Guarantees **at least 100 days of wage employment** per financial year per household.
- Employment is **demand-driven**: the government must provide work within 15 days of a job application, or pay an unemployment allowance.
- Work must be provided **within 5 km** of the applicant's home.
- Aims to create **durable community assets** such as roads, ponds, check dams, and land development works.
- At least one-third of workers must be women.

Step 2 — Impact: MGNREGA provides a social safety net for the rural poor, reduces distress migration, and creates productive rural infrastructure.

Why other options are wrong: Option (A): MGNREGA is for rural households, not urban households; it provides employment, not food grains (that is the PDS/NFSA scheme). Option (B): The guarantee is 100 days, not 200 days; it applies to rural households, not urban ones. Option (D): MGNREGA requires actual work in exchange for wages — it is not an unconditional cash transfer programme (that is DBT/PM-KISAN).

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q28](#)

Q29.

Solution

Concept — Economics: Inflation: Inflation is one of the most important macroeconomic concepts and directly affects the standard of living of citizens.

Step 1 — Definition: Inflation is defined as a **sustained and general rise in the price level** of goods and services in an economy over a period of time. It is measured by indices such as the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or the Wholesale



Price Index (WPI).

Step 2 — Effects of inflation:

- **Reduces purchasing power:** The same amount of money buys fewer goods and services when prices rise.
- **Impact on the poor:** The poor and those on fixed incomes are most severely affected because they spend a higher proportion of their income on food and necessities, and cannot negotiate higher wages easily.
- **Impact on savings:** Real value of savings erodes.
- **Debtors benefit:** Borrowers repay loans in money that has lower real value.

Why other options are wrong: Option (A): A sustained *decrease* in the general price level is called **deflation**, not inflation. Deflation also has harmful economic consequences. Option (B): Inflation is not caused only by tax increases; it can result from excess money supply (demand-pull) or rising input costs (cost-push), or supply shocks. Option (C): Inflation means the value of currency *decreases* (not increases), making imports more *expensive*, not cheaper.

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q29](#)

Q30.

Solution

Concept — Economics: Trade Balance and Trade Deficit: A country's trade balance (also called the balance of trade) is the difference between the value of its exports and the value of its imports over a given period.

Step 1 — Key definitions:

- **Trade Surplus:** Exports > Imports $\Rightarrow$ positive balance of trade.
- **Trade Deficit:** Imports > Exports $\Rightarrow$ negative balance of trade (more foreign exchange going out than coming in).
- **Trade Balance (Equilibrium):** Exports = Imports.

Step 2 — India's trade situation: India has typically run a trade **deficit** because it imports large quantities of:

- **Crude petroleum oil:** India imports about 85% of its crude oil requirements.
- **Gold:** India is the world's second-largest consumer of gold and imports large quantities.



- Electronic goods and machinery.

India's main exports include software services, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and engineering goods.

Why other options are wrong: Option (B): India does not consistently maintain a trade surplus; it has historically run a significant trade deficit, particularly in merchandise trade. Option (C): This definition is reversed — a trade surplus occurs when *exports* exceed imports, not when imports exceed exports. Option (D): The RBI does not automatically equalise exports and imports; the trade balance is determined by market forces, and India routinely runs a deficit.

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q30](#)



Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	D	2	A	3	B	4	C	5	D
6	A	7	B	8	C	9	D	10	A
11	B	12	C	13	D	14	A	15	B
16	C	17	D	18	A	19	B	20	C
21	D	22	A	23	B	24	C	25	D
26	A	27	B	28	C	29	D	30	A

