

YASASVI General Awareness

Sample Paper – 8

Duration: 38 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 100

Instructions

- This paper contains **25** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer), modelled on the General Awareness portion of the **YASASVI** entrance test.
- Each correct answer carries **+4 marks**. There is **no negative marking** for incorrect or unattempted answers.
- Only **one** option is correct. Choose carefully.
- Syllabus level: **Class 8–9 level — current affairs (national), Indian history, polity and constitution, Indian geography, sports and awards, science and technology, economy and government schemes, books/culture, and computer basics.**
- Use of mobile phones, calculators, or electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited.

Q1. The Khelo India Youth Games 2024 were hosted by which Indian state?

- (A) Maharashtra
- (B) Uttarakhand
- (C) Himachal Pradesh
- (D) Rajasthan

Q2. Who founded the Delhi Sultanate and in which year was it established?

- (A) Qutb-ud-din Aibak in 1206
- (B) Iltutmish in 1211
- (C) Balban in 1266



(D) Alauddin Khilji in 1296

Q3. How many seats in the Lok Sabha are filled by direct election by the people of India?

(A) 525

(B) 530

(C) 540

(D) 543

Q4. The Kaveri River, one of the major rivers of peninsular India, originates from which location?

(A) Vindhya ranges in Madhya Pradesh

(B) Sahyadri mountains in Maharashtra

(C) Brahmagiri hills in Kodagu, Karnataka

(D) Nilgiri hills in Tamil Nadu

Q5. Which Indian wrestler won a gold medal in the freestyle wrestling event at the 2018 Commonwealth Games?

(A) Bajrang Punia

(B) Sushil Kumar

(C) Ravi Kumar Dahiya

(D) Vinesh Phogat

Q6. Which launch vehicle is recognised as ISRO's heaviest and most powerful operational rocket, capable of placing heavy satellites into geostationary orbit?

(A) PSLV-XL

(B) GSLV Mk III (LVM3)



(C) SLV-3

(D) ASLV

Q7. What is the primary objective of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), launched by the Government of India?

(A) To provide free electricity connections to rural households

(B) To construct bridges over rivers in rural areas

(C) To provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations

(D) To build national highways connecting state capitals

Q8. At which cantonment did the First War of Indian Independence (Revolt of 1857) break out?

(A) Barrackpore

(B) Delhi

(C) Kanpur

(D) Meerut

Q9. As of 2024, in approximately how many countries outside India has the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) been enabled for cross-border transactions?

(A) More than 7 countries

(B) Exactly 3 countries

(C) Only 1 country (Bhutan)

(D) More than 25 countries

Q10. Which Article of the Indian Constitution empowers the President to impose President's Rule (Constitutional Emergency) in a state?

(A) Article 352



- (B) Article 356
- (C) Article 360
- (D) Article 365

Q11. Which place is considered the southernmost point of the Indian mainland, where the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, and the Indian Ocean meet?

- (A) Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu
- (B) Lakshadweep Islands
- (C) Kanyakumari (Cape Comorin), Tamil Nadu
- (D) Great Nicobar Island

Q12. At India's National Film Awards, the prestigious 'Swarna Kamal' (Golden Lotus) award is presented for which of the following categories?

- (A) Best Actor (Male)
- (B) Best Director
- (C) Best Original Screenplay
- (D) Best Feature Film (Best Film)

Q13. The US-based semiconductor company Micron Technology announced the setting up of its chip packaging and testing plant in India. In which city and state is this facility being established?

- (A) Pune, Maharashtra
- (B) Hyderabad, Telangana
- (C) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- (D) Sanand, Gujarat

Q14. Which legendary Indian track and field athlete is popularly known as the "Payyoli Express" and the "Queen of Indian Athletics"?



- (A) Hima Das
- (B) P.T. Usha
- (C) Dutee Chand
- (D) Anju Bobby George

Q15. Which battle, fought in 1565, resulted in the decisive defeat and eventual downfall of the powerful Vijayanagara Empire?

- (A) Third Battle of Panipat
- (B) Battle of Khanwa
- (C) Battle of Talikota
- (D) Battle of Haldighati

Q16. Which component of a computer is commonly called the “brain” of the computer because it carries out all arithmetic, logic, and control operations?

- (A) Central Processing Unit (CPU)
- (B) Random Access Memory (RAM)
- (C) Hard Disk Drive (HDD)
- (D) Graphics Processing Unit (GPU)

Q17. The Finance Commission of India, which recommends the distribution of tax revenues between the Union and the States, is constituted under which Article and by whom?

- (A) Article 265, by Parliament
- (B) Article 270, by the Prime Minister
- (C) Article 275, by the Planning Commission
- (D) Article 280, by the President of India



- Q18.** The Atal Pension Yojana (APY), a government-backed pension scheme launched in 2015, is primarily designed to provide retirement security to which group of workers?
- (A) Central and state government employees
 - (B) Workers in the unorganised sector
 - (C) Employees of scheduled commercial banks
 - (D) Defence and paramilitary personnel
- Q19.** The Rann of Kutch, a unique geographical landscape that is flooded during monsoon and turns into a vast white salt desert in winter, is located in which Indian state?
- (A) Rajasthan
 - (B) Maharashtra
 - (C) Gujarat
 - (D) Haryana
- Q20.** India's workhorse rocket, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), is primarily designed to place satellites into which type of orbit?
- (A) Polar orbit and Sun-Synchronous Orbit (SSO)
 - (B) Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO)
 - (C) Medium Earth Orbit (MEO)
 - (D) Highly Elliptical Orbit (HEO)
- Q21.** Which Indian wrestler won a bronze medal in the freestyle wrestling 60 kg category at the London 2012 Summer Olympics?
- (A) Bajrang Punia
 - (B) Yogeshwar Dutt
 - (C) Sushil Kumar



(D) Narsingh Pancham Yadav

Q22. In which year did the Union Cabinet of India approve the National Quantum Mission (NQM) to develop quantum technologies in the country?

(A) 2019

(B) 2020

(C) 2021

(D) 2023

Q23. The Permanent Settlement of 1793, which fixed land revenue and created a class of zamindars in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa, was introduced by which British Governor-General?

(A) Lord Cornwallis

(B) Lord Dalhousie

(C) Lord Wellesley

(D) Lord Hastings

Q24. Which Article of the Indian Constitution provides for the establishment of a National Commission for Scheduled Castes to safeguard their interests?

(A) Article 330

(B) Article 335

(C) Article 338

(D) Article 340

Q25. The PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme, launched in 2020, was primarily designed to provide financial assistance to which group?

(A) Small and marginal farmers in rural areas



- (B) Street vendors in urban and semi-urban areas
- (C) Self-help groups of women in tribal areas
- (D) Artisans and craftsmen registered under MSMEs



Solutions & Explanations

Solution

Concept: Current Affairs – Khelo India Youth Games 2024 Host State

Step 1: The Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) is a national multi-sport competition organised under the Khelo India initiative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. It aims to promote sports culture among young athletes across India.

Step 2: The 2024 edition of the Khelo India Youth Games was hosted by the state of **Uttarakhand**. It was the first time the state hosted this prestigious event, with competitions held at multiple venues including Dehradun.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q1.**
- (A) **Maharashtra** – Maharashtra hosted earlier editions of KIYG but not the 2024 games.
 - (B) **Uttarakhand** – **Correct.** Uttarakhand hosted the Khelo India Youth Games 2024.
 - (C) **Himachal Pradesh** – Himachal Pradesh was not the host for the 2024 edition of KIYG.
 - (D) **Rajasthan** – Rajasthan did not host the Khelo India Youth Games 2024.

Answer: (B)

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Solution

Concept: Indian History – Founding of the Delhi Sultanate

Step 1: The Delhi Sultanate was a medieval Islamic empire that ruled large parts of the Indian subcontinent from 1206 to 1526. It comprised five successive dynasties: Mamluk (Slave), Khilji, Tughlaq, Sayyid, and Lodi.

Step 2: The Delhi Sultanate was founded by **Qutb-ud-din Aibak** in **1206 CE**. He was a slave-general of Muhammad of Ghor and established the Mamluk (Slave) dynasty after his master's death. He commissioned the famous Qutb Minar in Delhi and ruled until his death in 1210.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q2.**
- (A) **Qutb-ud-din Aibak in 1206** – **Correct.** He was the founder and first Sultan of Delhi.
 - (B) **Iltutmish in 1211** – Iltutmish was the third ruler of the Mamluk dynasty; he consolidated the Sultanate but did not found it.



- **(C) Balban in 1266** – Balban was a later Mamluk ruler who strengthened the Sultanate's administration but was not its founder.
- **(D) Alauddin Khilji in 1296** – Alauddin Khilji founded the Khilji dynasty (the second dynasty), not the Delhi Sultanate itself.

Answer: (A)

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Solution

Concept: Indian Polity – Composition of the Lok Sabha

Step 1: The Lok Sabha (House of the People) is the lower house of India's bicameral Parliament. Article 81 of the Constitution governs its composition and the maximum number of seats.

Step 2: The Lok Sabha consists of **543 seats** filled by direct election by Indian citizens. Historically, the President could also nominate 2 Anglo-Indian members, but this provision was removed by the 104th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019. The total elected strength remains 543.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q3.**
- **(A) 525** – This is not the correct number; 543 members are directly elected.
 - **(B) 530** – Article 81 allows up to 530 seats for states, but the total including Union Territories comes to 543.
 - **(C) 540** – This is not the actual count of elected seats in the Lok Sabha.
 - **(D) 543 – Correct.** There are 543 directly elected seats in the Lok Sabha.

Answer: (D)

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Solution

Concept: Indian Geography – Origin of the Kaveri River

Step 1: The Kaveri (also spelled Cauvery) is one of the most important and sacred rivers of South India. It flows through the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu before draining into the Bay of Bengal.

Step 2: The Kaveri River originates from the **Brahmagiri hills in Kodagu (Coorg) district of Karnataka** at an elevation of approximately 1,341 metres. The precise origin point is called **Talakaveri**, which is a revered pilgrimage site for Hindus.



Why other options are wrong:

- Q4.**
- **(A) Vindhya ranges in Madhya Pradesh** – Rivers like Narmada and Son originate from the Vindhyas; the Kaveri does not.
 - **(B) Sahyadri mountains in Maharashtra** – While the Western Ghats (Sahyadri) extend through Maharashtra, the Kaveri specifically rises in the Brahmagiri hills in Karnataka.
 - **(C) Brahmagiri hills in Kodagu, Karnataka** – **Correct.** This is the actual source of the Kaveri River (Talakaveri).
 - **(D) Nilgiri hills in Tamil Nadu** – The Nilgiris are in Tamil Nadu but are not the source of the Kaveri; the river flows through Tamil Nadu but originates in Karnataka.

Answer: (C)

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Solution

Concept: Sports – Bajrang Punia at the 2018 Commonwealth Games

Step 1: The 2018 Commonwealth Games (XXI Commonwealth Games) were held in Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, from 4 to 15 April 2018. Wrestling was one of the featured sports.

Step 2: **Bajrang Punia** won the **gold medal** in the men's freestyle **65 kg** wrestling category at the 2018 Commonwealth Games. He is one of India's premier wrestlers and went on to win a bronze medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q5.**
- **(A) Bajrang Punia** – **Correct.** He won the gold medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in wrestling.
 - **(B) Sushil Kumar** – Sushil Kumar is a celebrated wrestler who won gold at the 2010 Commonwealth Games; he did not win gold at the 2018 CWG.
 - **(C) Ravi Kumar Dahiya** – Ravi Dahiya won the Olympic silver medal at Tokyo 2020; he was not the gold medallist at the 2018 CWG.
 - **(D) Vinesh Phogat** – Vinesh Phogat is a women's wrestler who won gold at the 2018 CWG in a different category (50 kg); the question refers to the freestyle gold.

Answer: (A)

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Solution

Concept: Science & Technology – ISRO's Heaviest Operational Launch Vehicle

Step 1: ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) operates a fleet of launch vehicles with varying payload capacities. Each is designed for specific mission types and orbital targets.

Step 2: The **GSLV Mk III**, also officially renamed **LVM3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3)**, is ISRO's heaviest and most powerful operational launch vehicle. It can carry up to **4 tonnes to Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO)** and up to **10 tonnes to Low Earth Orbit (LEO)**. It was used to launch Chandrayaan-3 and commercial OneWeb satellite missions.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q6.**
- **(A) PSLV-XL** – PSLV-XL is a powerful variant of the PSLV series but is significantly lighter than GSLV Mk III, carrying around 1,750 kg to Sun-Synchronous Orbit.
 - **(B) GSLV Mk III (LVM3) – Correct.** This is ISRO's heaviest and most powerful operational launch vehicle.
 - **(C) SLV-3** – SLV-3 (Satellite Launch Vehicle-3) was India's first experimental launch vehicle, retired in the 1980s; it was far smaller.
 - **(D) ASLV** – The ASLV (Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle) was an intermediate experimental vehicle that was retired; it could carry only about 150 kg to LEO.

Answer: (B)

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Solution

Concept: Economy – Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

Step 1: Rural road connectivity is essential for the economic development of villages. The Government of India launched a dedicated scheme in 2000 to address the lack of all-weather roads in rural areas.

Step 2: The **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** was launched in December **2000** by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Its primary objective is to **provide all-weather road connectivity** to unconnected rural habitations with a population of 500 or above (250 in hilly, tribal, and desert areas). It is a centrally sponsored scheme.

Why other options are wrong:



- Q7.**
- **(A) To provide free electricity connections to rural households** – This is the aim of the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya), not PMGSY.
 - **(B) To construct bridges over rivers in rural areas** – While road connectivity may include bridges, the core mandate of PMGSY is all-weather road connectivity, not bridge construction per se.
 - **(C) To provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations** – **Correct.** This is the primary objective of PMGSY.
 - **(D) To build national highways connecting state capitals** – National highway construction is managed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI); this is not PMGSY's mandate.

Answer: (C)

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Solution

Concept: Indian History – Starting Point of the Revolt of 1857

Step 1: The Revolt of 1857, also called the First War of Indian Independence or the Sepoy Mutiny, was a widespread uprising against British rule. It began with Indian soldiers in the Bengal Army refusing to use new rifle cartridges believed to be greased with animal fat.

Step 2: The main outbreak of the revolt occurred on **10 May 1857** at the **Meerut cantonment** (in present-day Uttar Pradesh). Sepoys broke out of prison, killed their British officers, and then marched to Delhi, where they proclaimed the Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar as the symbolic leader of the revolt.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q8.**
- **(A) Barrackpore** – Mangal Pandey's individual act of resistance occurred at Barrackpore on 29 March 1857, but the main revolt began at Meerut.
 - **(B) Delhi** – Delhi became the focal point after sepoys from Meerut arrived, but the revolt did not start there.
 - **(C) Kanpur** – Kanpur (Cawnpore) was a major centre of the revolt led by Nana Sahib, but was not its origin.
 - **(D) Meerut** – **Correct.** The First War of Independence 1857 broke out at Meerut cantonment on 10 May 1857.

Answer: (D)



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Concept: Current Affairs – India's UPI International Expansion (2024)

Step 1: The Unified Payments Interface (UPI), developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), is India's real-time digital payment system. Since its launch in 2016, it has been expanding internationally as part of India's digital diplomacy.

Step 2: As of 2024, UPI has been enabled in **more than 7 countries**, including Bhutan (first country to adopt UPI), Nepal, Singapore, UAE, Mauritius, France, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and others. India's G20 presidency in 2023 further accelerated efforts to promote cross-border UPI adoption.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q9.**
- **(A) More than 7 countries – Correct.** UPI is accepted in more than 7 countries as of 2024.
 - **(B) Exactly 3 countries** – This significantly undercounts the countries where UPI transactions are possible.
 - **(C) Only 1 country (Bhutan)** – While Bhutan was the first country to adopt UPI, many more countries have followed since then.
 - **(D) More than 25 countries** – India is working towards broader adoption, but confirmed operational UPI access in 25+ countries had not been reached as of 2024.

Answer: (A)

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Concept: Indian Polity – Article 356 and President's Rule

Step 1: The Indian Constitution provides for three types of emergencies: National Emergency (Art. 352), State Emergency or President's Rule (Art. 356), and Financial Emergency (Art. 360). Each addresses a different kind of constitutional breakdown.

Step 2: **Article 356** empowers the President to impose **President's Rule** in a state if the President (on the Governor's report or otherwise) is satisfied that the constitutional machinery in the state has broken down. Under President's Rule,



the state legislature is dissolved or kept in suspended animation, and the central government assumes direct control.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q10.**
- **(A) Article 352** – Article 352 provides for the proclamation of National Emergency in case of war, external aggression, or armed rebellion; it is not about President's Rule.
 - **(B) Article 356 – Correct.** This article deals with the imposition of President's Rule (State Emergency) in a state.
 - **(C) Article 360** – Article 360 deals with Financial Emergency, not President's Rule.
 - **(D) Article 365** – Article 365 deals with the effect of failure to comply with the directions of the Union, which can lead to the application of Article 356, but it is not the article that directly provides for President's Rule.

Answer: (B)

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Solution

Concept: Indian Geography – Southernmost Point of the Indian Mainland

Step 1: India's landmass extends from the Great Himalayas in the north to the tip of the Deccan peninsula in the south. There is an important distinction between the southernmost point of the Indian mainland and the southernmost point of India's total territory (including islands).

Step 2: Kanyakumari (also called Cape Comorin), located in Tamil Nadu, is the southernmost point of the Indian mainland. It is a unique place where the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, and the Indian Ocean converge. The Vivekananda Rock Memorial is situated just off the coast. Note: Indira Point in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is the southernmost point of India's entire territory.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q11.**
- **(A) Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu** – Rameswaram is an island in the Palk Bay; it is not the southernmost point of the mainland.
 - **(B) Lakshadweep Islands** – Lakshadweep is a Union Territory in the Arabian Sea; it is not part of the Indian mainland.
 - **(C) Kanyakumari (Cape Comorin), Tamil Nadu – Correct.** Kanyakumari is the southernmost tip of the Indian mainland.



- **(D) Great Nicobar Island** – The southern tip of Great Nicobar (Indira Point) is the southernmost point of India's territory overall, but it is an island, not the mainland.

Answer: (C)

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Solution

Concept: Books/Culture – National Film Awards and the Swarna Kamal

Step 1: The National Film Awards are India's most prestigious film honours, presented annually by the Directorate of Film Festivals under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Two major awards are the Swarna Kamal and the Rajat Kamal.

Step 2: The **Swarna Kamal** (Golden Lotus) is the highest honour at the National Film Awards, awarded for the **Best Feature Film** (Best Film). The **Rajat Kamal** (Silver Lotus) is the second-highest honour and is given to winners in categories such as Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Screenplay, etc.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q12.**
- **(A) Best Actor (Male)** – The Best Actor award at the National Film Awards carries the Rajat Kamal (Silver Lotus), not the Swarna Kamal.
 - **(B) Best Director** – Best Director also receives the Rajat Kamal, not the Swarna Kamal.
 - **(C) Best Original Screenplay** – This category also receives the Rajat Kamal.
 - **(D) Best Feature Film (Best Film)** – **Correct.** The Swarna Kamal is awarded for the Best Feature Film at the National Film Awards.

Answer: (D)

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Solution

Concept: Current Affairs – Micron Technology Semiconductor Plant in India

Step 1: India has been actively developing a domestic semiconductor ecosystem under its Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for semiconductors and display fabs. This initiative aims to reduce India's dependence on semiconductor imports and attract global chip manufacturers.



Step 2: The US-based semiconductor giant **Micron Technology** announced plans to set up a semiconductor **chip assembly and test facility in Sanand, Gujarat**. With an investment of approximately \$825 million (with significant government support), it became a landmark step in India's semiconductor ambitions. The announcement was made in 2023 during Prime Minister Modi's visit to the United States.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q13.**
- **(A) Pune, Maharashtra** – Micron's announced facility is in Sanand, Gujarat, not Pune.
 - **(B) Hyderabad, Telangana** – While Hyderabad is a major tech hub, it is not where Micron's chip plant is being set up.
 - **(C) Bengaluru, Karnataka** – Bengaluru is India's IT capital, but Micron's semiconductor facility is in Gujarat, not Karnataka.
 - **(D) Sanand, Gujarat – Correct.** Micron Technology's semiconductor chip packaging and testing plant is being established in Sanand, Gujarat.

Answer: (D)

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Solution

Concept: Sports – P.T. Usha, Queen of Indian Athletics

Step 1: P.T. Usha (Pilavullakandi Thekeparambil Usha) is one of the greatest Indian athletes of all time. Born in Payyoli, Kerala, she dominated Indian and Asian athletics during the 1980s and early 1990s.

Step 2: P.T. Usha is popularly known as the "**Payyoli Express**" (named after her hometown Payyoli in Kerala) and the "**Queen of Indian Athletics.**" She became a national icon when she missed a bronze medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics by a fraction of a second in the 400m hurdles final. She was later appointed the President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) in 2022.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q14.**
- **(A) Hima Das** – Hima Das is known as the "Dhing Express" (named after her village Dhing in Assam), not the "Payyoli Express."
 - **(B) P.T. Usha – Correct.** She is the "Payyoli Express" and "Queen of Indian Athletics."
 - **(C) Dutee Chand** – Dutee Chand is a sprinter from Odisha known for different achievements; she does not carry these nicknames.



- **(D) Anju Bobby George** – Anju Bobby George is a renowned long jumper who won the World Athletics Championships bronze in 2003; she is not known by these specific nicknames.

Answer: (B)

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Solution

Concept: Indian History – Battle of Talikota (1565) and the Vijayanagara Empire

Step 1: The Vijayanagara Empire (1336–1646) was one of the largest and most powerful Hindu empires in the history of South India, with its capital at Vijayanagara (Hampi) in present-day Karnataka. It served as a bulwark against the southward expansion of the Deccan Sultanates.

Step 2: The **Battle of Talikota** (also called the Battle of Rakshasi-Tangadi) was fought on **23 January 1565**. The combined forces of the four Deccan Sultanates – Bijapur, Bidar, Ahmadnagar, and Golconda – defeated the Vijayanagara army. King Aliya Rama Raya was captured and beheaded. The capital Hampi was subsequently looted and razed, effectively ending the empire's glory.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q15.**
- **(A) Third Battle of Panipat** – The Third Battle of Panipat (1761) resulted in the defeat of the Marathas by Ahmad Shah Durrani; it has no connection to the Vijayanagara Empire.
 - **(B) Battle of Khanwa** – The Battle of Khanwa (1527) was fought between Babur and Rana Sanga of Mewar; it is not related to the Vijayanagara Empire.
 - **(C) Battle of Talikota** – **Correct.** This 1565 battle led to the downfall of the Vijayanagara Empire.
 - **(D) Battle of Haldighati** – The Battle of Haldighati (1576) was fought between Akbar's forces and Maharana Pratap of Mewar; it has no connection to the Vijayanagara Empire.

Answer: (C)

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Solution

Concept: Computer Basics – The Central Processing Unit (CPU)

Step 1: A computer system has several key components: input devices, output devices, memory units, and processing units. Each plays a specific role in handling data and instructions.

Step 2: The **Central Processing Unit (CPU)** is called the “**brain**” of the **computer** because it performs all processing tasks. It contains two main sub-units: the **Arithmetic Logic Unit (ALU)**, which performs mathematical and logical operations, and the **Control Unit (CU)**, which directs the operation of the processor and coordinates data movement. Every instruction a computer executes passes through the CPU.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q16.**
- **(A) Central Processing Unit (CPU) – Correct.** The CPU is the brain of the computer.
 - **(B) Random Access Memory (RAM)** – RAM is a temporary (volatile) memory that stores data and instructions currently being used; it is not called the brain of the computer.
 - **(C) Hard Disk Drive (HDD)** – The HDD is a storage device that permanently stores data; it does not process instructions.
 - **(D) Graphics Processing Unit (GPU)** – The GPU is specialised for rendering graphics and parallel computation tasks; though powerful, it is not referred to as the “brain” of a computer.

Answer: (A)

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Solution

Concept: Indian Polity – Finance Commission and Article 280

Step 1: India has a federal structure where both the central government and state governments have their own sources of revenue. A constitutional mechanism is needed to recommend how centrally collected taxes should be shared between them.

Step 2: The **Finance Commission** is a constitutional body constituted under **Article 280** of the Indian Constitution. It is **appointed by the President of India** every five years (or earlier if necessary). Its recommendations cover: distribution of net proceeds of taxes between the Union and States, grants-in-aid to states, and measures to improve the finances of Panchayati Raj institutions and urban local



bodies.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q17.**
- **(A) Article 265, by Parliament** – Article 265 says no tax shall be levied except by authority of law; it does not establish the Finance Commission.
 - **(B) Article 270, by the Prime Minister** – Article 270 deals with the distribution of certain taxes; the Finance Commission is appointed by the President, not the Prime Minister.
 - **(C) Article 275, by the Planning Commission** – Article 275 deals with grants-in-aid to states. The Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog) does not appoint the Finance Commission.
 - **(D) Article 280, by the President of India – Correct.** The Finance Commission is constituted under Article 280 by the President of India.

Answer: (D)

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Solution

Concept: Economy – Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

Step 1: A large proportion of India's workforce is engaged in the unorganised sector (agriculture, construction, domestic work, street vending, etc.). These workers traditionally lack access to formal social security and pension benefits.

Step 2: The **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** was launched on **9 May 2015**. It is administered by the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** and primarily targets **workers in the unorganised sector** between 18 and 40 years of age. The scheme guarantees a fixed minimum pension of Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 per month after the age of 60, depending on the contribution amount and age of joining.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q18.**
- **(A) Central and state government employees** – Government employees are covered under the National Pension System (NPS) or the Old Pension Scheme; APY is designed for unorganised sector workers.
 - **(B) Workers in the unorganised sector – Correct.** APY specifically focuses on providing retirement security to unorganised sector workers.
 - **(C) Employees of scheduled commercial banks** – Bank employees have their own pension and provident fund schemes; APY is not intended for them.



- **(D) Defence and paramilitary personnel** – Defence personnel are covered under separate government pension schemes, not APY.

Answer: (B)

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Solution

Concept: Indian Geography – Rann of Kutch

Step 1: India has several unique geographical features. The Rann of Kutch is one of the most extraordinary landscapes in the country, characterised by dramatic seasonal changes and a vast expanse of flat land near the coast.

Step 2: The **Rann of Kutch** is a seasonal salt marsh located in the **Kutch (Kachchh) district of Gujarat**. During the monsoon, it is flooded with water from the Arabian Sea and local rivers; in winter (October to March), it dries up into a vast white salt desert. It is divided into the Great Rann of Kutch and the Little Rann of Kutch. The annual **Rann Utsav** festival is held here and is a major tourist attraction.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q19.**
- **(A) Rajasthan** – Rajasthan is home to the Thar Desert; the Rann of Kutch is not located in Rajasthan.
 - **(B) Maharashtra** – Maharashtra shares a border with Gujarat but does not contain the Rann of Kutch.
 - **(C) Gujarat – Correct.** The Rann of Kutch is located in the Kutch district of Gujarat.
 - **(D) Haryana** – Haryana is a landlocked state in northern India with no connection to the Rann of Kutch.

Answer: (C)

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Solution

Concept: Science & Technology – PSLV and its Orbital Targets

Step 1: ISRO operates different launch vehicles for different mission needs. The type of orbit a satellite needs depends on its purpose: Earth observation, communication, navigation, or deep space.



Step 2: The **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** is primarily designed to deliver satellites into **Polar orbit and Sun-Synchronous Orbit (SSO)**. These orbits are ideal for Earth observation, remote sensing, and meteorological satellites as the satellite passes over all latitudes (including the poles). The PSLV is ISRO's most reliable workhorse and has also been used for interplanetary missions such as Chandrayaan-1 and Mangalyaan (Mars Orbiter Mission).

Why other options are wrong:

- Q20.**
- **(A) Polar orbit and Sun-Synchronous Orbit (SSO) – Correct.** PSLV is primarily used for polar and SSO missions.
 - **(B) Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO) –** GTO missions, which place communication satellites in geostationary orbit, are handled by GSLV Mk II and GSLV Mk III (LVM3), not PSLV.
 - **(C) Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) –** MEO is used for navigation satellites such as GPS or NavIC; PSLV's primary mission profile is polar orbit and SSO.
 - **(D) Highly Elliptical Orbit (HEO) –** HEO is used for certain specialised satellites; it is not the primary target orbit for PSLV missions.

Answer: (A)

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Solution

Concept: Sports – Yogeshwar Dutt at London 2012 Olympics

Step 1: India has had a proud history in Olympic wrestling. The London 2012 Summer Olympics (30 July – 12 August 2012) were particularly memorable for Indian wrestlers, with multiple medals won.

Step 2: **Yogeshwar Dutt** won the **bronze medal** in the men's freestyle **60 kg** wrestling category at the **London 2012 Summer Olympics**. At the same Games, Sushil Kumar won a silver medal in the 66 kg category, making it a landmark edition for Indian wrestling. (Note: Yogeshwar Dutt was later upgraded to silver after the original silver medallist was disqualified for doping.)

Why other options are wrong:

- Q21.**
- **(A) Bajrang Punia –** Bajrang Punia won a bronze medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics; he did not compete at London 2012.
 - **(B) Yogeshwar Dutt – Correct.** He won the bronze (later upgraded to silver) in wrestling at London 2012.
 - **(C) Sushil Kumar –** Sushil Kumar won the silver medal (not bronze) in the



66 kg category at London 2012, a different weight class.

- **(D) Narsingh Pancham Yadav** – Narsingh Yadav was selected for the Rio 2016 Olympics but was suspended for doping; he did not participate at London 2012.

Answer: (B)

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Solution

Concept: Current Affairs – India's National Quantum Mission (2023)

Step 1: Quantum technology is a rapidly advancing field encompassing quantum computing, quantum communication, quantum sensing, and quantum materials. Nations are investing heavily in this field as it is expected to revolutionise computing, cryptography, and scientific research.

Step 2: India's **Union Cabinet approved the National Quantum Mission (NQM) in April 2023**. The mission has an outlay of approximately **Rs 6,003 crore** over eight years (2023–2031). Its goals include developing quantum computers with 50–1,000 physical qubits, establishing satellite-based secure quantum communications, and building quantum sensing and metrology devices.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q22.**
- **(A) 2019** – The National Quantum Mission was not approved in 2019; quantum technology received initial policy mentions around the 2020 budget.
 - **(B) 2020** – While the Union Budget 2020-21 announced a National Mission on Quantum Technologies and Applications (NM-QTA) proposal, formal Cabinet approval came later.
 - **(C) 2021** – The NQM proposal was discussed and developed during 2020–2022 but Cabinet approval was granted in 2023.
 - **(D) 2023 – Correct.** The Union Cabinet approved the National Quantum Mission in 2023.

Answer: (D)

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Solution

Concept: Indian History – Permanent Settlement of 1793

Step 1: The British East India Company needed a stable and predictable land revenue system in Bengal. Various experiments were tried before the Permanent Settlement was introduced as a long-term policy.

Step 2: The **Permanent Settlement of 1793** (also called the Zamindari Settlement) was introduced by **Lord Cornwallis**, the Governor-General of Bengal (1786–1793). It was implemented in **Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa**. Under this system, zamindars were recognised as permanent owners of the land, and the land revenue demand was fixed permanently. The idea was that fixed revenue would encourage zamindars to invest in agricultural improvement.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q23.**
- **(A) Lord Cornwallis – Correct.** Lord Cornwallis introduced the Permanent Settlement of 1793.
 - **(B) Lord Dalhousie** – Lord Dalhousie (1848–1856) is associated with the Doctrine of Lapse, railway introduction, and telegraph; not the Permanent Settlement.
 - **(C) Lord Wellesley** – Lord Wellesley (1798–1805) is known for the Subsidiary Alliance system and expansion of British territory; he is not connected to the Permanent Settlement.
 - **(D) Lord Hastings** – Lord Hastings (1813–1823) fought the Anglo-Gurkha and Pindari wars; he did not introduce the Permanent Settlement.

Answer: (A)

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Solution

Concept: Indian Polity – Article 338 and National Commission for Scheduled Castes

Step 1: The Indian Constitution provides several special provisions for Scheduled Castes (SCs) to address historical injustice and ensure their social, economic, and political empowerment. A constitutional body was established to monitor and safeguard their rights.

Step 2: **Article 338** of the Indian Constitution provides for the establishment of the **National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)**. The Commission investigates and monitors all matters relating to the constitutional safeguards provided for SCs, and reports to the President. The Commission was given its current consti-



tutional form by the **89th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003**, which separated the earlier joint Commission for SCs and STs into two bodies.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q24.**
- **(A) Article 330** – Article 330 reserves seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha; it does not establish a commission.
 - **(B) Article 335** – Article 335 deals with the claims of SCs and STs to services and posts, ensuring their representation; it does not establish a commission.
 - **(C) Article 338 – Correct.** Article 338 establishes the National Commission for Scheduled Castes.
 - **(D) Article 340** – Article 340 empowers the President to appoint a Commission to investigate the conditions of socially and educationally backward classes (OBCs), not Scheduled Castes.

Answer: (C)

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Solution

Concept: Economy – PM SVANidhi Scheme

Step 1: The COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns severely disrupted the livelihoods of millions of street vendors across India, who lost their working capital and savings. The government responded with a targeted micro-credit scheme.

Step 2: The **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** scheme was launched on **1 June 2020**. It provides **collateral-free working capital loans** to **street vendors in urban and semi-urban areas**. Vendors can initially borrow Rs 10,000, and timely repayment enables them to access larger loans of Rs 20,000 and then Rs 50,000. The scheme also promotes digital payments and provides a cash-back incentive for using digital transactions.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q25.**
- **(A) Small and marginal farmers in rural areas** – Farmers are supported through PM-KISAN, PM Fasal Bima Yojana, and PM Kisan Credit Card; PM SVANidhi is exclusively for street vendors.
 - **(B) Street vendors in urban and semi-urban areas – Correct.** PM SVANidhi provides micro-credit loans specifically to street vendors.
 - **(C) Self-help groups of women in tribal areas** – Women's SHGs are supported through National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) and other pro-



grammes; PM SVANidhi is not designed for them.

- **(D) Artisans and craftsmen registered under MSMEs** – Artisans and craftsmen are specifically covered under the PM Vishwakarma Yojana (launched 2023); PM SVANidhi is targeted at street vendors.

Answer: (B)

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Answer Key

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

