

Bihar Board Class 10 Social Science (SET - B) 2025 Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hours 15 Minutes	Maximum Marks :80	Total Questions :112
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. The test is of 3 hour duration.
2. Candidate must enter his/her Question Booklet Serial No. (10 Digits) in the OMR Answer Sheet.
3. Candidates are required to write their answers in their own words as far as practicable.
4. Figures in the top-hand margin indicate full marks.
5. An extra time of 15 minutes has been allotted for the candidates to read the questions carefully.
6. This question booklet is divided into two sections — Section-A and Section-B.
7. Use of any electronic appliances is strictly prohibited.

Section - A

1. National income in India is calculated by which of the following?

- (A) Central statistical office
- (B) Planning Commission
- (C) NITI Aayog
- (D) National Development Council

Correct Answer: (A) Central statistical office

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify the official body responsible for estimating the National Income in India.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- The **Central Statistical Office (CSO)** is the government agency in India responsible for the coordination of statistical activities and for evolving and maintaining statistical

standards. One of its primary tasks is the estimation of national income, GDP, and other macroeconomic aggregates. In 2019, the CSO was merged with the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) to form the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, which now carries out this function.

- The Planning Commission (now replaced by NITI Aayog) and the National Development Council were involved in national planning and policy-making, not the technical calculation of national income.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Therefore, the national income in India is calculated by the Central Statistical Office (now NSO).

Quick Tip

Remember that any task involving official data collection and calculation, like national income or inflation, is handled by the statistical wings of the government. In India, the key organization is the NSO (previously CSO).

2. Who changed the name of Bolshevik Party to Communist Party ?

- (A) Lenin
- (B) Trotsky
- (C) Stalin
- (D) Bismarck

Correct Answer: (A) Lenin

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question pertains to a key event in the history of the Russian Revolution and the formation of the Soviet Union.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- Under the leadership of **Vladimir Lenin**, the Bolshevik Party, after seizing power in the October Revolution of 1917, officially changed its name to the **Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks)** in March 1918.

- This name change was significant as it distanced the party from the more moderate social democratic parties of Europe and emphasized its commitment to the principles of communism as laid out by Karl Marx.
- Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin were other prominent Bolshevik leaders, but the decision was made under Lenin's leadership. Otto von Bismarck was a German statesman and is unrelated to Russian politics.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Vladimir Lenin was the leader who changed the name of the Bolshevik Party to the Communist Party.

Quick Tip

Associate Lenin with the founding events of the Soviet state. As the main leader of the Bolshevik Revolution, he was responsible for key decisions like changing the party's name to reflect its new role as the ruling communist power.

3. When was the partition of Bengal annulled?.

- (A) 1904
- (B) 1905
- (C) 1907
- (D) 1911

Correct Answer: (D) 1911

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question asks for the year when the controversial Partition of Bengal was revoked.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- The Partition of Bengal was first implemented by the British Viceroy Lord Curzon in **1905**. This decision was met with widespread protests and the launch of the Swadeshi movement across India.
- Due to the intense political opposition, the British government decided to reverse the decision.

- The annulment of the partition was officially announced in **1911** by King George V at the Delhi Durbar. At the same time, the capital of British India was shifted from Calcutta to Delhi.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The partition of Bengal was annulled in 1911.

Quick Tip

Remember these two key dates for the Partition of Bengal: **1905** for the implementation by Lord Curzon and **1911** for the annulment by King George V.

4. Which of the following was founded by Lala Hardayal ?

- (A) Home Rule League
- (B) Ghadar Party
- (C) Communist Party of India
- (D) Brahmo Samaj

Correct Answer: (B) Ghadar Party

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify the organization founded by the Indian revolutionary Lala Hardayal.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Ghadar Party:** This was a revolutionary organization founded primarily by expatriate Indians in the United States and Canada with the aim of liberating India from British rule. **Lala Hardayal** was a key founder of the party in 1913.
- **Home Rule League:** The Home Rule movement in India was led by Annie Besant and Bal Gangadhar Tilak in 1916.
- **Communist Party of India:** Founded in the 1920s, with M. N. Roy being a key figure in its formation.
- **Brahmo Samaj:** A social-religious reform movement founded by Raja Ram Mohan Roy in 1828.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Lala Hardayal was a founder of the Ghadar Party.

Quick Tip

Associate Lala Hardayal with revolutionary activities outside India. The Ghadar Party, based in San Francisco, is his most famous contribution to the Indian freedom struggle.

5. What is the another name for Government of India Act, 1919?

- (A) Montague-Chelmsford Reforms
- (B) Ilbert Bill
- (C) Indian Statutory Commission
- (D) Nehru Report

Correct Answer: (A) Montague-Chelmsford Reforms

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

The question asks for the popular name of the constitutional reforms introduced by the British in India in 1919.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- The **Government of India Act, 1919** is popularly known as the **Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms**. This is because the reforms were formulated based on the recommendations in a report by Edwin Montagu, the Secretary of State for India, and Lord Chelmsford, the Viceroy of India at the time.
- The other options are incorrect:
 - The **Ilbert Bill** was introduced in 1883.
 - The **Indian Statutory Commission** is the official name for the Simon Commission (1928).
 - The **Nehru Report** (1928) was a memorandum outlining a proposed new dominion status constitution for India.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The other name for the Government of India Act, 1919 is the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms.

Quick Tip

Remember the pairings for the major British Indian reforms: The 1909 Act is known as the Morley-Minto Reforms, and the 1919 Act is known as the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms.

6. Who founded the All India Muslim League ?

- (A) Mohammad Ali Jinnah
- (B) Zakir Hussain
- (C) Nawab Salimullah Khan
- (D) Muhammad Ismail

Correct Answer: (C) Nawab Salimullah Khan

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question asks to identify a founder of the All India Muslim League.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- The All India Muslim League was founded at Dacca (now Dhaka, Bangladesh) on 30th December 1906.
- The proposal for its formation was put forward by **Nawab Salimullah Khan**, the Nawab of Dacca. He was one of the principal founders of the organization, along with other prominent Muslim leaders like Aga Khan III (who served as its first president) and Mohsin-ul-Mulk.
- Mohammad Ali Jinnah joined the Muslim League later, in 1913, and eventually became its most prominent leader, but he was not a founder.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Nawab Salimullah Khan was a key founder of the All India Muslim League.

Quick Tip

While Mohammad Ali Jinnah is the most famous leader associated with the Muslim League and Pakistan, it's important to remember that the organization was founded earlier, in 1906, with Nawab Salimullah Khan playing a pivotal role.

7. The government of Bao Dai in South Vietnam was a supporter of which of the following ?

- (A) China
- (B) Spain
- (C) France
- (D) Portugal

Correct Answer: (C) France

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks about the political alignment of Bao Dai's government during the period of decolonization in Vietnam.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- Bao Dai was the last emperor of the Nguyen dynasty in Vietnam.
- After World War II, Vietnam was in a struggle for independence from its colonial ruler, **France**.
- In 1949, during the First Indochina War against the communist-led Viet Minh, the French established the State of Vietnam as a client state within the French Union and installed Bao Dai as its head of state.
- Therefore, Bao Dai's government was a French-backed entity, created to serve as an anti-communist alternative and to legitimize continued French influence in the region.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The government of Bao Dai in South Vietnam was a supporter of France.

Quick Tip

In the context of the Indochina Wars, remember that Bao Dai was associated with the colonial power, France, while his main rival, Ho Chi Minh, led the nationalist and communist independence movement against the French.

8. Who abolished Serfdom in Russia?

- (A) Lenin
- (B) Czar Alexander II
- (C) Stalin

(D) Trotsky

Correct Answer: (B) Czar Alexander II

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question asks to identify the Russian ruler who ended the system of serfdom.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- Serfdom, a system where peasants were tied to the land and the nobility who owned it, was a major social and economic issue in Russia for centuries.
- The abolition of serfdom was accomplished by **Czar Alexander II** through his **Emancipation Manifesto** of 1861.
- This monumental reform earned him the title "Alexander the Liberator".
- Lenin, Stalin, and Trotsky were figures from the later communist era, long after serfdom had been abolished.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Czar Alexander II abolished serfdom in Russia.

Quick Tip

Associate Czar Alexander II with the title "The Liberator" specifically for his role in the 1861 emancipation of the serfs, a key event in 19th-century Russian history.

9. Where was the first hydropower plant established in India ?

- (A) Gangtok
- (B) Darjeeling
- (C) Dibrugarh
- (D) Calcutta

Correct Answer: (B) Darjeeling

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for the location of the first operational hydroelectric power plant in India.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- The first hydroelectric power plant in India was the **Sidrapong Hydroelectric Power Station**.
- It was commissioned in 1897.
- The power plant is located near **Darjeeling** in the state of West Bengal.
- It was established to supply electricity to the city of Darjeeling.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The first hydropower plant in India was established in Darjeeling.

Quick Tip

When thinking of the first hydropower plant in India, picture a hilly region with fast-flowing streams. Darjeeling, in the foothills of the Himalayas, fits this description perfectly and was the site of this pioneering project in 1897.

10. Kutch region of Gujarat falls in which seismic zone ?

- (A) Zone-II
- (B) Zone-III
- (C) Zone-IV
- (D) Zone-V

Correct Answer: (D) Zone-V

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

India is divided into four seismic zones (Zone-II, Zone-III, Zone-IV, and Zone-V) based on the risk of earthquakes. Zone-V represents the highest level of seismic activity.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Zone-V (Very High Risk Zone):** This zone has the highest risk of suffering high-intensity earthquakes.
- The **Kutch region** of Gujarat is one of the most seismically active regions in India and falls under Zone-V. This was tragically demonstrated by the devastating Bhuj earthquake in 2001.
- Other areas in Zone-V include the entire northeastern region, parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Kutch region of Gujarat falls in seismic Zone-V.

Quick Tip

Remember the most high-risk seismic zones in India are the Himalayan belt and the Kutch region. Both fall under Zone-V.

11. Which river is called the 'Sorrow of Bengal' ?

- (A) Ganga
- (B) Damodar
- (C) Kosi
- (D) Brahmaputra

Correct Answer: (B) Damodar

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Certain rivers in India are historically nicknamed "Sorrow" because of their tendency to cause frequent and devastating floods.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- The **Damodar River** was historically known as the 'Sorrow of Bengal' (Bengaler Dukh) because it would frequently flood large areas of the plains in West Bengal, causing immense damage to life and property.
- However, the construction of several dams under the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has largely tamed the river and controlled the floods.
- The **Kosi River** is known as the 'Sorrow of Bihar' for similar reasons.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Damodar river is called the 'Sorrow of Bengal'.

Quick Tip

Memorize the "Sorrow" rivers:

- Sorrow of **Bengal** → **Damodar** River
- Sorrow of **Bihar** → **Kosi** River
- Sorrow of **Odisha** → **Mahanadi** River

12. Which is the largest artificial lake in India ?

- (A) Govind Sagar
- (B) Pant Sagar
- (C) Sardar Sarovar
- (D) Krishna Sagar

Correct Answer: (B) Pant Sagar

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify the largest man-made (artificial) lake in India from the given options.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Govind Sagar Lake** is a reservoir created by the Bhakra Dam on the Sutlej River in Himachal Pradesh. It is one of the largest and most famous artificial lakes in India.
- **Govind Ballabh Pant Sagar** (often shortened to Pant Sagar), the reservoir of the Rihand Dam in Uttar Pradesh, is the largest artificial lake in India by volume.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Pant Sagar is the largest artificial lake among the given options.

Quick Tip

For general knowledge questions, Govind Sagar Lake (Bhakra Dam) and Govind Ballabh Pant Sagar (Rihand Dam) are the two most common answers for the largest artificial lake in India. Be familiar with both.

13. On which river is Aswan Dam built ?

- (A) Nile River
- (B) Brahmaputra River
- (C) Amazon River
- (D) Ganga River

Correct Answer: (A) Nile River

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify the river on which the famous Aswan Dam is located.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- The Aswan Dam, specifically the Aswan High Dam, is a major embankment dam situated across the **Nile River** in Aswan, Egypt.
- Construction of the High Dam began in 1960 and was completed in 1970.
- The dam is crucial for Egypt as it controls the annual flooding of the Nile, provides water for irrigation, and generates a significant amount of hydroelectricity.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Aswan Dam is built on the Nile River.

Quick Tip

The Aswan Dam is a landmark of modern Egypt. Always associate it with the country Egypt and its lifeline, the Nile River.

14. What was India's position in the world in terms of population in 2011?

- (A) First
- (B) Second
- (C) Third
- (D) Fourth

Correct Answer: (B) Second

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for India's rank in world population based on data from the year 2011.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- According to the Census of India 2011, India's population was approximately 1.21 billion.
- At that time, China was the world's most populous country.
- Therefore, in 2011, India held the position of the **second** most populous country in the world.

Step 3: Final Answer:

In 2011, India's position in the world in terms of population was second.

Quick Tip

Remember the order for 2011: 1. China, 2. India. Note that as of 2023, reports indicate that India has surpassed China to become the world's most populous country, so be mindful of the year specified in the question.

15. By which strait is India separated from Sri Lanka ?

- (A) Palk Strait
- (B) Malacca Strait
- (C) Bering strait
- (D) Hormuz strait

Correct Answer: (A) Palk Strait

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

The question asks to identify the narrow body of water that separates India and Sri Lanka.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- The **Palk Strait** is a strait that lies between the Indian state of Tamil Nadu and the Jaffna District of the island nation of Sri Lanka.
- It connects the Bay of Bengal in the northeast with the Gulf of Mannar in the southwest.
- The other straits are located elsewhere:
 - **Malacca Strait:** Between the Malay Peninsula and the Indonesian island of Sumatra.
 - **Bering Strait:** Between Russia and the United States (Alaska).
 - **Hormuz Strait:** Between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Step 3: Final Answer:

India is separated from Sri Lanka by the Palk Strait.

Quick Tip

The Palk Strait is the specific geographical feature separating India and Sri Lanka. Remember this name as it is a very common question in geography.

16. What is the old alluvial soil of Ganga plain called ?

- (A) Khadar
- (B) Bhangar
- (C) Regur
- (D) None of these

Correct Answer: (B) Bhangar

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The alluvial soils of the North Indian plains are classified based on their age. The question asks for the name of the older alluvium.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Bhangar:** This refers to the **old alluvial soil**. It is found in the higher terraces of the floodplains, away from the river banks. It is less fertile than Khadar and often contains calcareous concretions known as 'kankars'.
- **Khadar:** This refers to the **new alluvial soil**. It is found in the low-lying areas of the floodplains near the river. It is replenished by fresh deposits of silt every year during floods, making it extremely fertile.
- **Regur:** This is another name for **black soil**, which is found primarily in the Deccan Plateau and is ideal for growing cotton.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The old alluvial soil of the Ganga plain is called Bhangar.

Quick Tip

A simple way to remember: **Bhangar** = **Bhari** (heavy, old, coarse). **Khadar** = New, fertile soil, rich in **khaad** (manure/fertilizer).

17. Who among the following was the German Chancellor ?

- (A) Mazzini
- (B) Hegel
- (C) Bismarck
- (D) Victor Emmanuel

Correct Answer: (C) Bismarck

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify a historical figure who held the position of German Chancellor.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Otto von Bismarck:** He was a prominent Prussian statesman who orchestrated the unification of Germany in 1871. He served as the first **Chancellor of the German Empire** from 1871 to 1890 and is famously known as the "Iron Chancellor".
- The other figures are not German Chancellors:
 - **Giuseppe Mazzini:** An Italian revolutionary and a key figure in the unification of Italy.
 - **Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel:** A German philosopher.
 - **Victor Emmanuel II:** The first King of a unified Italy.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Among the given options, Otto von Bismarck was the German Chancellor.

Quick Tip

When you see the topic of German unification, the first name to come to mind should be Otto von Bismarck, the "Iron Chancellor". Similarly, for Italian unification, think of Mazzini, Garibaldi, Cavour, and King Victor Emmanuel II.

18. When did the Naples Revolution happen?

- (A) 1789
- (B) 1821
- (C) 1839
- (D) 1917

Correct Answer: (B) 1821

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for the year of the revolution in Naples. This refers to the uprising in the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies (of which Naples was the capital) led by the Carbonari, a secret revolutionary society.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Naples Revolution took place in 1820-1821. It was part of a wave of revolutionary movements in Europe following the Napoleonic Wars. The Carbonari, an Italian secret society, led the uprising, forcing King Ferdinand I to promise a constitutional monarchy. However, the revolution was short-lived as it was suppressed by the Austrian army in March 1821, acting on behalf of the Holy Alliance to crush liberal movements. The year 1821 marks the culmination and suppression of this revolution.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Naples Revolution happened in the period 1820-1821. Among the given options, 1821 is the correct choice.

Quick Tip

Associate the early 1820s with a series of liberal revolutions across Europe (in Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece) which were largely suppressed by the conservative powers of the Concert of Europe.

19. Who is considered the father of scientific socialism ?

- (A) Hegel
- (B) Karl Marx
- (C) Saint Simon
- (D) Martin Luther

Correct Answer: (B) Karl Marx

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

"Scientific socialism" is a term used to describe the socio-political and economic theory first developed by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. It is contrasted with what they called "utopian socialism."

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Karl Marx is considered the father of scientific socialism. He, along with Engels, argued that their version of socialism was "scientific" because it was based on a historical and materialist analysis of society's development, particularly the class struggle between the bourgeoisie (owners) and the proletariat (workers). They believed that the transition from capitalism to socialism was an inevitable historical outcome, not just a desirable idea. Early socialists like Saint Simon were termed "utopian" by Marx because their ideas were based on moral arguments rather than a scientific analysis of history.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Karl Marx is considered the father of scientific socialism.

Quick Tip

Remember the key distinction: Karl Marx → Scientific Socialism (based on historical analysis and class struggle). Thinkers like Robert Owen and Saint Simon → Utopian Socialism (based on idealistic and moral principles).

20. Who among the following was given the title of Kaiser-i-Hind?

- (A) Rabindra Nath Tagore
- (B) Mahatma Gandhi
- (C) Shankaran Nair
- (D) Surendra Nath Banerjee

Correct Answer: (B) Mahatma Gandhi

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

The Kaisar-i-Hind (Emperor of India) was a medal awarded by the British monarch to civilians of any nationality for their service to the British Raj. The question asks to identify a recipient from the given options.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Mahatma Gandhi was awarded the Kaisar-i-Hind medal in 1915 by the British government for his contribution to ambulance services in South Africa during the Boer War. However, he returned the medal in 1920 as a protest against the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and in support of the Khilafat Movement, as part of his campaign of non-cooperation.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Mahatma Gandhi was given the title of Kaiser-i-Hind.

Quick Tip

This is a popular question. Remember two key facts about Gandhi and the Kaiser-i-Hind medal: he received it in 1915 for his humanitarian work and returned it in 1920 to protest British atrocities.

21. Which of the following movements started with 'Dandi March' ?

- (A) Civil Disobedience Movement
- (B) Non-Cooperation Movement
- (C) Quit India Movement
- (D) Khilafat Movement

Correct Answer: (A) Civil Disobedience Movement

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify the major national movement that was launched with the Dandi March (also known as the Salt March).

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Dandi March was a landmark event in the Indian independence movement. In March-April 1930, Mahatma Gandhi led a long march from his Sabarmati Ashram to the coastal village of Dandi. There, he broke the British Salt Law by producing salt from seawater. This symbolic act of defiance against British rule marked the beginning of the nationwide **Civil Disobedience Movement**. Millions of Indians across the country began to break the salt law and other unjust laws.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Civil Disobedience Movement started with the Dandi March.

Quick Tip

Remember the timeline and trigger for the major Gandhian movements:

- Non-Cooperation (1920-22)
- Civil Disobedience (1930) → Started with Dandi March
- Quit India (1942)

22. Amrit Bazar Patrika was the newspaper of which language ?

- (A) Hindi
- (B) Bengali
- (C) Marathi
- (D) Gujarati

Correct Answer: (B) Bengali

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for the original language of the Amrita Bazar Patrika, a prominent newspaper during the Indian freedom struggle.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Amrita Bazar Patrika was one of the oldest daily newspapers in India. It was founded in 1868 by Sisir Kumar Ghosh and Moti Lal Ghosh. Initially, it was launched as a weekly newspaper in the **Bengali** language. Later, to circumvent the restrictive Vernacular Press Act of 1878 (which targeted non-English newspapers), it famously converted overnight into a full-fledged English daily. However, its origin and initial language was Bengali.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Amrit Bazar Patrika was originally a Bengali language newspaper.

Quick Tip

Remember the famous story associated with Amrita Bazar Patrika: its overnight transformation from a bilingual/vernacular paper to an English daily to avoid censorship under the Vernacular Press Act of 1878. This highlights its nationalist character.

23. When was 'All India Trade Union Congress' established ?

- (A) 1848
- (B) 1881
- (C) 1885
- (D) 1920

Correct Answer: (D) 1920

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for the founding year of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC).

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) is the oldest trade union federation in India. It was founded on **31 October 1920** in Bombay (now Mumbai). The founding conference was presided over by the prominent nationalist leader Lala Lajpat Rai. The establishment of the AITUC was a significant step in organizing the Indian working class and linking their struggles with the broader national movement for independence.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The 'All India Trade Union Congress' was established in 1920.

Quick Tip

To remember the year, associate the founding of the AITUC (1920) with the beginning of the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920). This was a period of intense political and social mobilization in India.

24. When did the Soviet Union disintegrate ?

- (A) 1985
- (B) 1991
- (C) 1968
- (D) 1990

Correct Answer: (B) 1991

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

The question asks for the year of the formal dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Soviet Union officially ceased to exist on **December 26, 1991**. This event was the culmination of a process of internal decay and nationalist movements in its constituent republics, accelerated by the reform policies of Glasnost (openness) and Perestroika (restructuring) introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev starting in 1985. Following a failed coup attempt against Gorbachev in August 1991, the constituent republics began to declare independence, leading to the final dissolution at the end of the year.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Soviet Union disintegrated in 1991.

Quick Tip

Remember the key events and dates: The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 symbolized the beginning of the end for Soviet influence in Eastern Europe. The final official dissolution of the USSR itself occurred in 1991.

25. Which is the longest National waterway ?

- (A) National Waterway-1
- (B) National Waterway-2
- (C) National Waterway-3
- (D) National Waterway-4

Correct Answer: (A) National Waterway-1

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify the longest of the designated National Waterways in India.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

National Waterway-1 (NW-1) is the longest National Waterway in India.

- **Route:** It stretches from Prayagraj (Allahabad) in Uttar Pradesh to Haldia in West Bengal.
- **River System:** It runs along the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system.
- **Length:** The total length of NW-1 is **1620 kilometers**.

The other major waterways, such as NW-2 (on the Brahmaputra) and NW-3 (on the West Coast Canal), are significantly shorter.

Step 3: Final Answer:

National Waterway-1 is the longest National Waterway in India.

Quick Tip

Associate the longest waterway (NW-1) with the longest and most significant river system in North India, the Ganga. Its route from Prayagraj to Haldia is a crucial transport artery.

26. Where is Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary located?

- (A) Odisha
- (B) Maharashtra
- (C) Rajasthan
- (D) Karnataka

Correct Answer: (C) Rajasthan

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for the location of the Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary, which is also a famous Tiger Reserve.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Sariska Tiger Reserve is located in the Alwar district of the state of **Rajasthan**. It is a part of the Aravalli Range and is well-known for its population of Royal Bengal Tigers, leopards, and various species of deer and birds.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Rajasthan.

Quick Tip

Remember the locations of a few key national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. For Rajasthan, the most famous ones are Ranthambore National Park and Sariska Tiger Reserve.

27. Where is Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant located?

- (A) Tamil Nadu
- (B) Karnataka
- (C) Kerala
- (D) Uttar Pradesh

Correct Answer: (B) Karnataka

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

The question asks for the location of the Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Kaiga Generating Station is a major nuclear power plant in India. It is located at Kaiga, in the Uttara Kannada district of the state of **Karnataka**. It is operated by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL).

Step 3: Final Answer:

Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant is located in Karnataka.

Quick Tip

Memorizing the locations of India's nuclear power plants is useful for exams. Some key ones are: Tarapur (Maharashtra), Rawatbhata (Rajasthan), Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu), Narora (UP), Kakrapar (Gujarat), and Kaiga (Karnataka).

28. How many public sector oil refineries are functioning in India?

- (A) 18
- (B) 20
- (C) 23
- (D) 25

Correct Answer: (C) 23

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks about the number of oil refineries in India. While it specifies "public sector," the options provided often relate to the total number of refineries in the country, which can lead to ambiguity.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

As of recent data, India has a total of **23** oil refineries. These include:

- Refineries under Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) like Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL), etc.
- Refineries in Joint Ventures.
- Refineries in the Private Sector like those owned by Reliance Industries and Nayara Energy.

The number of purely public sector refineries is 18 or 19 depending on the classification. However, 23 is the standard figure for the total number of refineries in India, and it is the most likely intended answer given the options. It is possible the question uses "public sector" in a broader sense or contains a minor inaccuracy.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Considering the standard data and the options, there are 23 oil refineries functioning in India.

Quick Tip

For questions on industrial numbers, be aware that figures can change. The total number of refineries in India is a commonly cited statistic, and the number 23 has been stable for some time.

29. By which name is Brahmaputra river known in Tibet ?

- (A) Jamuna river
- (B) Tsangpo river
- (C) Yangtze river
- (D) Manas river

Correct Answer: (B) Tsangpo river

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The Brahmaputra River is a trans-boundary river that flows through Tibet, India, and Bangladesh. It is known by different names in different regions.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- In **Tibet**, where the river originates, it is called the **Yarlung Tsangpo** or simply **Tsangpo**.
- It enters India in Arunachal Pradesh, where it is known as the Siang or Dihang River.
- As it flows through Assam, it is called the Brahmaputra.
- After entering Bangladesh, it is known as the Jamuna River.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Brahmaputra river is known as the Tsangpo river in Tibet.

Quick Tip

Remember the journey and names of the Brahmaputra: **Tsangpo** (Tibet) → **Siang/Dihang** (Arunachal) → **Brahmaputra** (Assam) → **Jamuna** (Bangladesh).

30. Which is the oldest oil refining unit in India?

- (A) Barauni
- (B) Jamnagar
- (C) Dibrugarh
- (D) Bombay High

Correct Answer: (C) Dibrugarh

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify the location of the first and oldest oil refinery in India.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- The first oil refinery in India, and one of the oldest in the world, is the **Digboi Refinery**.
- It was commissioned on December 11, 1901.
- The Digboi refinery is located in the Tinsukia district of Assam. Previously, this area was part of the larger **Dibrugarh** district. Among the given options, Dibrugarh is the correct geographical locator.
- Jamnagar has the largest refinery, and Bombay High is a major offshore oilfield, but Digboi is the oldest refinery.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The oldest oil refining unit in India is in the Dibrugarh region (specifically, Digboi) of Assam.

Quick Tip

Remember the "firsts" in India's oil industry: The first oil discovery was in Digboi, Assam. The first and oldest refinery is also the Digboi refinery.

31. Which of the following is a plantation crop ?

- (A) Tea
- (B) Rubber
- (C) Sugarcane
- (D) All of these

Correct Answer: (D) All of these

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Plantation agriculture is a form of commercial farming where a single crop is grown on a large scale. These crops are primarily grown for profit.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Tea:** Grown in large estates, especially in Assam, West Bengal, and the Nilgiris. It is a classic example of a plantation crop.
- **Rubber:** Grown on large plantations, primarily in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

- **Sugarcane:** Also grown on a large scale as a cash crop, fitting the description of a plantation crop.

Other major plantation crops include coffee, cocoa, and bananas. Since Tea, Rubber, and Sugarcane all fit the definition, the correct answer is "All of these".

Step 3: Final Answer:

Tea, Rubber, and Sugarcane are all plantation crops.

Quick Tip

When you think of plantation crops, think of large-scale commercial farming of single crops, often requiring significant capital and labor. Common examples include tea, coffee, rubber, sugarcane, and bananas.

32. Natural gas is found with which mineral ?

- (A) Uranium
- (B) Limestone
- (C) Coal
- (D) Petroleum

Correct Answer: (D) Petroleum

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks about the geological association of natural gas with other minerals or resources.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Natural gas is a fossil fuel, formed from the decomposition of organic matter under heat and pressure over millions of years. This formation process is very similar to that of **petroleum** (crude oil). As a result, deposits of natural gas are most commonly found trapped in underground reservoirs along with petroleum. The gas can be dissolved in the oil or exist as a separate 'gas cap' above the oil. While some natural gas is also found associated with coal deposits (coal-bed methane), its primary and most significant association is with petroleum.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Natural gas is most commonly found with petroleum.

Quick Tip

Remember that natural gas and petroleum are like siblings among the fossil fuels. They are formed through similar processes and are usually found together in the same geological traps.

33. What is the main source of livelihood in Bihar ?

- (A) Agriculture
- (B) Industry
- (C) Trade
- (D) All of these

Correct Answer: (A) Agriculture

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks about the primary economic activity and source of employment for the population of the state of Bihar.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The economy of Bihar is predominantly based on **agriculture**. It is an agrarian state where a very large percentage of the population (around 80%) depends on agriculture and allied activities for their livelihood. The fertile Gangetic plains provide a suitable environment for farming. While industry and trade exist, their contribution to the state's economy and employment is significantly smaller compared to agriculture.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The main source of livelihood in Bihar is Agriculture.

Quick Tip

For questions about the economy of states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab, agriculture is often the mainstay. Remember Bihar as a primarily agrarian economy.

34. Which of the following is not an economic activity ?

- (A) Agriculture
- (B) Communication
- (C) Poverty

(D) Transportation

Correct Answer: (C) Poverty

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

An economic activity is a process that involves the production, distribution, or consumption of goods and services. The question asks to identify which option does not fit this definition.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Agriculture:** Involves the production of food and raw materials. It is a primary economic activity.
- **Communication:** Involves the provision of services like telephone and internet. It is a tertiary economic activity.
- **Transportation:** Involves the movement of goods and people, which is a service. It is a tertiary economic activity.
- **Poverty:** Is a state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living. It is a social and economic *problem or condition*, not an activity that produces goods or services.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Poverty is not an economic activity.

Quick Tip

Economic activities are actions or processes (like farming, teaching, manufacturing, transporting). Conditions or states (like poverty, wealth, unemployment) are outcomes or problems related to the economy, but not activities themselves.

35. What is the primary function of money ?

- (A) Store of value
- (B) Transfer of value
- (C) Medium of exchange
- (D) Both (A) and (C)

Correct Answer: (C) Medium of exchange

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Money has several important functions in an economy. The question asks for the *primary* or most fundamental function.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The three main functions of money are:

1. **Medium of Exchange:** This is the most important function of money. It acts as an intermediary in transactions, eliminating the "double coincidence of wants" required in a barter system. People accept money in exchange for goods and services because they know they can use it to buy other goods and services.
2. **Store of Value:** Money can be saved and used for future purchases. It holds its value over time (though inflation can erode it).
3. **Unit of Account:** Money provides a common measure of value, allowing the value of diverse goods and services to be compared.

While "store of value" and "transfer of value" (which is related to the medium of exchange function) are also functions, the role of money as a **medium of exchange** is its core and distinguishing feature. It is what separates money from other assets and is therefore considered its primary function.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The primary function of money is to act as a medium of exchange.

Quick Tip

All functions of money are important, but the medium of exchange is the most fundamental. It is the function that solved the main problem of the barter system. Think of it as the "root" function from which the others grow.

36. Which of the following provides long term loans ?

- (A) Primary Agricultural Credit Society
- (B) Land Development Bank
- (C) Commercial Bank
- (D) None of these

Correct Answer: (B) Land Development Bank

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify the financial institution specifically designed to provide long-term

credit, particularly in the agricultural sector.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS):** These are grassroots-level cooperative credit institutions. They primarily provide **short-term** and medium-term loans to farmers for seasonal agricultural operations.
- **Land Development Banks (LDBs):** Now known as Land and Agriculture Development Banks, these are specialized banks that provide **long-term loans** to farmers for purposes like purchasing machinery (tractors), land improvement, minor irrigation, etc. The loan period can extend from 5 to 20 years.
- **Commercial Banks:** While commercial banks do provide a range of loans, including some long-term ones, their primary focus is not exclusively on long-term agricultural credit in the way LDBs are. LDBs are the specialized agency for this purpose.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Land Development Banks are the institutions that specifically provide long-term loans for agricultural development.

Quick Tip

Remember the time frames for agricultural credit: PACS = Short-term (e.g., for seeds, fertilizers). Land Development Banks = Long-term (e.g., for tractors, land purchase).

37. Which of the following is a part of non-economic infrastructure ?

- (A) Finance
- (B) Education
- (C) Energy
- (D) Communication

Correct Answer: (B) Education

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Infrastructure is broadly divided into two categories:

- **Economic Infrastructure:** This includes facilities and services that directly support economic production and distribution, such as energy, transport, communication, and finance.
- **Non-economic (or Social) Infrastructure:** This includes facilities and services that improve the quality of human resources and contribute indirectly to economic development, such as education, health, sanitation, and housing.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Based on the definitions:

- Finance, Energy, and Communication are all part of the **economic infrastructure** as they directly facilitate economic activities.
- **Education** is a part of the **social or non-economic infrastructure** because it focuses on human development, which in turn enhances productivity and economic growth in the long run.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Education is a part of non-economic (social) infrastructure.

Quick Tip

To distinguish between the two, ask if the infrastructure directly helps in producing or moving goods/money (Economic) or if it helps in developing people (Social/Non-economic). Education and Health are the prime examples of social infrastructure.

38. As a result of globalization, which of the following has uninterrupted flow among different countries ?

- (A) Capital
- (B) Technology
- (C) Labour
- (D) All of these

Correct Answer: (D) All of these

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Globalization refers to the increasing interconnectedness and integration of national economies through trade, investment, and the flow of capital, labor, and technology across international borders.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Globalization has facilitated the greater movement of several factors across countries:

- **Capital:** Financial capital (investments) flows freely across borders in the form of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Institutional Investment (FII).
- **Technology:** Technological know-how, patents, and processes are shared and transferred between countries through multinational corporations, collaborations, and trade.
- **Labour:** While the movement of labor is often more restricted by immigration policies compared to capital, globalization has certainly led to an increased flow of skilled and unskilled labor between countries.

Since globalization has led to a greater, though not entirely unrestricted, flow of capital, technology, and labor, the most comprehensive answer is "All of these". The term "uninterrupted" should be interpreted as "less restricted" in this context.

Step 3: Final Answer:

As a result of globalization, capital, technology, and labor have a greater and less interrupted flow among different countries.

Quick Tip

Globalization is about breaking down barriers. Think about what can move more easily between countries now than 50 years ago: Money (Capital), Ideas (Technology), and People (Labour). All have seen increased flow.

39. What is the removal of unnecessary controls and restrictions on economic activities by the government called ?

- (A) Privatization
- (B) Disinvestment
- (C) Liberalization
- (D) Globalization

Correct Answer: (C) Liberalization

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for the term that describes the process of reducing government regulations on the economy.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Liberalization:** This refers to the process of making policies less constraining for economic actors. It involves loosening or removing government regulations, controls, and restrictions (like licenses, permits, quotas) on private business and trade, thereby giving more freedom to private enterprises.
- **Privatization:** This is the transfer of ownership of a business, enterprise, or property from the public sector (government) to the private sector.
- **Disinvestment:** A form of privatization where the government sells a part of its equity (shareholding) in a public sector undertaking.
- **Globalization:** The integration of a country's economy with the world economy.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The removal of unnecessary controls and restrictions on economic activities by the government is called liberalization.

Quick Tip

Remember the LPG reforms in India (1991):

- **Liberalization** = Freedom from rules (Reducing restrictions).
- **Privatization** = Transfer of ownership (Selling government companies).
- **Globalization** = Integrating with the world (Opening up the economy).

40. Where can a consumer complain if the value of the goods or service or the compensation amount exceeds Rs. 1 crore ?

- (A) District Forum
- (B) State Commission
- (C) National Commission
- (D) All of these

Correct Answer: (C) National Commission

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The Consumer Protection Act in India establishes a three-tier quasi-judicial machinery for redressing consumer grievances. The jurisdiction of each level is based on the monetary value of the claim.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The pecuniary jurisdiction under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 is as follows:

- **District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (District Forum):** For claims where the value of goods or services paid as consideration does not exceed Rs. 50 lakh.
- **State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (State Commission):** For claims where the value of goods or services paid as consideration is more than Rs. 50 lakh but does not exceed Rs. 2 crore.
- **National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (National Commission):** For claims where the value of goods or services paid as consideration exceeds Rs. 2 crore.

Note: The question likely refers to the limits under the older Consumer Protection Act of 1986, where the National Commission's jurisdiction began for claims exceeding Rs. 1 crore. Under those previous rules, the answer would be National Commission. Even under the new 2019

Act, a claim of exactly Rs. 1 crore would fall under the State Commission, but if it *exceeds* Rs. 1 crore (e.g., Rs. 1.1 crore), it would still be under the State Commission, up to Rs. 2 crore. However, in the context of older exam questions, "exceeds Rs. 1 crore" was the threshold for the National Commission. Given the options, the intended answer is the National Commission.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Based on the likely context of the question (referring to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986), a complaint for a value exceeding Rs. 1 crore would be filed in the National Commission.

Quick Tip

Be aware that the monetary limits for consumer courts were updated by the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. For older questions, remember the 1986 limits: District (≤20 Lakh), State (20 Lakh to 1 Crore), National (≤1 Crore). For new questions, check the updated limits.

41. Which is the best type of coal ?

- (A) Peat
- (B) Lignite
- (C) Anthracite
- (D) Bituminous

Correct Answer: (C) Anthracite

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Coal is a fossil fuel and is classified into different types or ranks based on its carbon content, moisture content, and calorific value (heat-producing ability). The "best" type of coal is the one with the highest carbon content and highest energy output.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The ranks of coal from lowest to highest quality are:

1. **Peat:** This is the earliest stage in coal formation. It has a low carbon content (less than 60%), high moisture, and a low calorific value.
2. **Lignite (Brown Coal):** This is a soft, low-grade coal with about 60-70% carbon content.
3. **Bituminous Coal:** This is a widely used type of coal with a carbon content of 70-86%. It has a high calorific value and is used for power generation and making coke for the steel industry.
4. **Anthracite:** This is the highest rank of coal. It is hard, brittle, and has the highest carbon content (86-97%) and the highest calorific value. It burns with a short, blue flame and produces very little smoke.

Since Anthracite has the highest carbon content and energy density, it is considered the best type of coal.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Anthracite is the best type of coal.

Quick Tip

Remember the order of coal quality with the acronym **PLBA**: **P**eat (worst) → **L**ignite → **B**ituminous → **A**nthracite (best).

42. Where is Kusheshwar Sthan Sanctuary located ?

- (A) Morena
- (B) Darbhanga
- (C) Bhagalpur
- (D) Nandan Kanan

Correct Answer: (B) Darbhanga

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for the location of the Kusheshwar Sthan Bird Sanctuary.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Kusheshwar Asthan (or Sthan) Bird Sanctuary is located in the **Darbhang**a district of Bihar. It is a major wetland area that attracts a large number of migratory birds, especially during the winter season, making it an important site for avifauna in the state.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Kusheshwar Sthan Sanctuary is located in Darbhanga.

Quick Tip

For questions related to Bihar's geography, remember a few key wildlife sanctuaries. Kusheshwar Sthan in Darbhanga is famous for birds, and Valmiki National Park in West Champaran is the state's main tiger reserve.

43. Where is contour ploughing done ?

- (A) Plain area
- (B) Coastal area
- (C) Mountainous area
- (D) All of these

Correct Answer: (C) Mountainous area

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Contour ploughing is a specific farming technique designed to conserve soil and water. The question asks where this technique is typically practiced.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Contour ploughing is the practice of ploughing and planting crops along lines of equal elevation, following the contours of a slope. This is done in hilly or **mountainous areas**. The furrows and ridges created by this method act as small dams, slowing down the flow of rainwater down the slope. This prevents the formation of gullies, reduces soil erosion, and allows more water to infiltrate the soil. This technique is not needed in plain or flat coastal areas where water runoff and slope-related erosion are not major issues.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Contour ploughing is done in mountainous areas.

Quick Tip

Associate "contour" with the lines on a topographical map that show elevation. Therefore, contour ploughing is a technique used on sloped land (hills and mountains) to combat soil erosion by water.

44. Which Earth Summit was held in Johannesburg?

- (A) First
- (B) Second
- (C) Third
- (D) Fourth

Correct Answer: (B) Second

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify the major Earth Summit that took place in Johannesburg, South

Africa.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The major UN conferences on environment and development, often called Earth Summits, are:

- **First Earth Summit (1992):** Held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Also known as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).
- **Second Earth Summit (2002):** Held in **Johannesburg**, South Africa. Officially called the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). It was a 10-year follow-up to the Rio Summit.
- **Third Earth Summit (2012):** Held again in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Known as the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) or Rio+20.

Therefore, the summit held in Johannesburg was the second major Earth Summit.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Second Earth Summit was held in Johannesburg.

Quick Tip

Remember the key locations and years for the Earth Summits:

- 1992: Rio de Janeiro (First)
- 2002: Johannesburg (Second, Rio+10)
- 2012: Rio de Janeiro (Third, Rio+20)

45. What type of crop is peanut?

- (A) Rabi
- (B) Kharif
- (C) Zaid
- (D) None of these

Correct Answer: (B) Kharif

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Crops in India are classified into three seasons based on their sowing and harvesting periods: Rabi, Kharif, and Zaid. The question asks to classify peanut (also known as groundnut).

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Kharif Crops:** These are the monsoon crops, sown at the beginning of the rainy season (June-July) and harvested in autumn (September-October). They require warm, wet weather. Examples include rice, maize, soybean, and **peanut (groundnut)**.
- **Rabi Crops:** These are the winter crops, sown in winter (October-December) and harvested in spring (April-June). They require cool, dry weather. Examples include wheat, barley, gram, and mustard.
- **Zaid Crops:** These are summer crops grown in the short season between Rabi and Kharif crops (March-June). Examples include watermelon, muskmelon, and cucumber.

Since peanut is sown during the monsoon season, it is a Kharif crop.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Peanut is a Kharif crop.

Quick Tip

Associate Kharif crops with the monsoon. Think of major crops grown during the rainy season. Peanut, being an important oilseed grown during this time, is a classic example of a Kharif crop.

46. What is the rank of Bihar in the production of vegetables ?

- (A) First
- (B) Second
- (C) Third
- (D) Fourth

Correct Answer: (C) Third

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for Bihar's ranking among Indian states in terms of total vegetable production. This rank can fluctuate yearly based on agricultural output.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

According to recent agricultural data from Indian government sources (like the National Horticulture Board), the top vegetable producing states are typically Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, vying for the first and second positions. Bihar has consistently been a major producer of vegetables and, according to recent statistics, holds the **third** or fourth position in the country. Given the options, "Third" is a plausible and often cited rank for Bihar in vegetable production.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The rank of Bihar in the production of vegetables is generally third.

Quick Tip

For questions about agricultural production ranks, remember that Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are almost always at the top for food grains and vegetables. Bihar is a significant producer, often ranking in the top 3 or 4.

47. Where is Bagmati project located?

- (A) Sitamarhi
- (B) Darbhanga
- (C) Saran
- (D) Rohtas

Correct Answer: (A) Sitamarhi

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for the location of the Bagmati Project, a major river management and irrigation project in Bihar.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Bagmati Project is a multi-purpose project on the Bagmati River. A key component of this project is the construction of a barrage. The primary site for the barrage and the project's main works is located in the **Sitamarhi** district of Bihar, near a place called Dheng. The project aims to provide irrigation facilities and flood control in several districts of North Bihar, including Sitamarhi, Sheohar, and Muzaffarpur.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Bagmati project is located in Sitamarhi.

Quick Tip

Associate major river projects in Bihar with their respective rivers and locations. The Bagmati Project is a key project for flood control on the Bagmati River, with its main site in Sitamarhi.

48. According to census 2011, which district of Bihar has the highest density of population ?

- (A) Sheohar
- (B) Patna
- (C) Kaimur
- (D) Nalanda

Correct Answer: (A) Sheohar

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Population density is defined as the number of people per square kilometer. The question asks for the district in Bihar with the highest population density as per the 2011 Census data.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

According to the official data from the Census of India 2011:

- Bihar is the state with the highest population density in India (1106 persons/sq. km).
- Within Bihar, the district of **Sheohar** recorded the highest population density, with **1880** persons per square kilometer.
- Patna, the state capital, had the second-highest density (1823 persons/sq. km).
- Kaimur had the lowest population density in the state.

Step 3: Final Answer:

According to the 2011 census, Sheohar has the highest density of population in Bihar.

Quick Tip

For Bihar census data, remember the extremes: Highest Population Density = Sheohar. Lowest Population Density = Kaimur. Highest Population = Patna.

49. Who appoints the Governor ?

- (A) Prime Minister
- (B) President
- (C) Chief Minister
- (D) Chief Justice

Correct Answer: (B) President

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks about the constitutional authority responsible for appointing the Governor of a state in India.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

According to Article 155 of the Constitution of India, the Governor of a State is appointed by the **President** by warrant under his hand and seal. The Governor holds office during the pleasure of the President. Although the President makes the appointment, it is done on the advice of the Union Council of Ministers, headed by the Prime Minister. However, the constitutional appointing authority is the President.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The President of India appoints the Governor of a state.

Quick Tip

Remember the key appointments made by the President of India: the Prime Minister, other Union Ministers, Governors of states, Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, and the chiefs of the armed forces.

50. Who formed Lok Janshakti Party ?

- (A) Ram Vilas Paswan
- (B) Mulayam Singh
- (C) Kanshi Ram
- (D) Sharad Yadav

Correct Answer: (A) Ram Vilas Paswan

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify the founder of the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP).

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Lok Janshakti Party was a state-level political party in Bihar. It was founded in the year 2000 by **Ram Vilas Paswan**. He formed the party after splitting from the Janata Dal (United). The party's primary support base was among the Dalit community in Bihar. Following his death, the party has split into two factions.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Ram Vilas Paswan formed the Lok Janshakti Party.

Quick Tip

Associate the founders with their parties, especially for major regional parties: Ram Vilas Paswan → LJP, Mulayam Singh Yadav → Samajwadi Party, Kanshi Ram → Bahujan Samaj Party, Sharad Yadav → associated with Janata Dal factions.

51. In case of dissolution of Panchayati Raj institutions, at what time interval is it mandatory to hold elections ?

- (A) 2 months
- (B) 6 months
- (C) 1 year
- (D) 1 month

Correct Answer: (B) 6 months

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question pertains to the constitutional provisions regarding the elections for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India, specifically in a situation where a Panchayat is dissolved before completing its full term.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

According to Article 243E of the Indian Constitution, which was added by the 73rd Amendment Act, every Panchayat shall continue for five years from the date of its first meeting.

The article further states that if a Panchayat is dissolved before the expiration of its duration, an election to constitute the new Panchayat must be completed within a period of **six months** from the date of its dissolution.

The newly elected Panchayat will then serve for the remainder of the term that the dissolved Panchayat would have had if it had not been dissolved.

Step 3: Final Answer:

It is mandatory to hold elections for a dissolved Panchayati Raj institution within a time interval of 6 months.

Quick Tip

The 6-month rule for holding elections to a dissolved body is a standard constitutional mandate in India. This same time limit applies to filling a vacancy in the Lok Sabha or a State Legislative Assembly. It's a crucial timeframe to remember in Indian Polity.

52. Meghalaya was formed from which state ?

- (A) Tripura
- (B) Assam
- (C) Nagaland
- (D) Arunachal Pradesh

Correct Answer: (B) Assam

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question tests knowledge about the reorganization of states in Northeast India.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The state of Meghalaya was created by carving out territory that was previously part of the state of **Assam**.

Initially, in 1970, Meghalaya was granted autonomous state status within Assam. Later, under the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971, it was established as a full-fledged separate state on 21 January 1972. The state was formed from two districts of Assam: the United Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills, and the Garo Hills.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Meghalaya was formed from the state of Assam.

Quick Tip

Remember that the state of Assam was historically much larger. Many of the current states in Northeast India, such as Nagaland, Mizoram, and Meghalaya, were carved out of the territory of Assam at different times.

53. Who is the head of the village court ?

- (A) Sarpanch
- (B) District Magistrate
- (C) Nyaya Mitra

(D) Mukhiya

Correct Answer: (A) Sarpanch

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify the head of the judicial body at the village level in the Panchayati Raj system.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In many states in India, the Panchayati Raj system includes a village-level judicial body known as the Nyaya Panchayat or Gram Kutchery.

- The head of this village court is the **Sarpanch**. The Sarpanch presides over a bench of elected members (Panches) to adjudicate minor civil and criminal disputes at the local level.
- The **Mukhiya** is the elected head of the Gram Panchayat, which is the executive body responsible for administrative and development functions, not judicial ones.

Therefore, the Sarpanch is the head of the village court.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The head of the village court is the Sarpanch.

Quick Tip

It's important to distinguish between the executive and judicial wings of the Panchayat. **Mukhiya/Pradhan** = Executive Head (like a local Chief Minister). **Sarpanch** = Judicial Head (like a local Chief Justice).

54. Which of the following countries has a Unitary Government system ?

- (A) Great Britain
- (B) France
- (C) China
- (D) All of these

Correct Answer: (D) All of these

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

A unitary system of government is one where a single, central government holds all the power. Any sub-national units (like regions or provinces) only have powers that the central government chooses to delegate. This is in contrast to a federal system, where power is divided between a central government and state governments by a constitution.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Great Britain (UK):** It is a classic example of a unitary state. The UK Parliament in London is sovereign, and it has delegated some powers to devolved assemblies in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, but it can theoretically take those powers back.
- **France:** It is a highly centralized unitary republic.
- **China:** It is a single-party state governed by the Communist Party and has a unitary system of government.

Since all three countries have unitary systems of government, the correct answer is "All of these".

Step 3: Final Answer:

Great Britain, France, and China all have a Unitary Government system.

Quick Tip

To identify a unitary system, think of where the ultimate power lies. If it's concentrated in the national government, it's unitary. Examples of federal systems, where power is shared, include the USA, India, Germany, and Canada.

55. Which of the following is not a pressure group ?

- (A) Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP)
- (B) All India Trade Union Congress
- (C) Indian National Congress
- (D) Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh

Correct Answer: (C) Indian National Congress

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

The question asks to differentiate between a pressure group and a political party.

- A **pressure group** is an organization that tries to influence government policies and public opinion but does not aim to capture political power itself.

- A **political party** is an organization that contests elections with the aim of forming a government and holding political power.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **ABVP** is a student organization, **AITUC** is a trade union, and **RSS** is a socio-cultural organization. All three seek to influence government policies and are thus considered pressure groups.
- The **Indian National Congress (INC)** is one of the major political parties in India. It contests elections at the national and state levels to form governments.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Indian National Congress is a political party, not a pressure group.

Quick Tip

The main litmus test to distinguish a political party from a pressure group is participation in elections. Political parties field candidates under their own symbol to win power. Pressure groups do not.

56. Biju Janata Dal belongs to which state ?

- (A) Bihar
- (B) Jharkhand
- (C) Odisha
- (D) Chattisgarh

Correct Answer: (C) Odisha

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify the home state of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), a regional political party in India.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is a major regional political party whose main political base is in the state of **Odisha**. The party was founded in 1997 by Naveen Patnaik, who is the current Chief Minister of Odisha. The party is named after his father, Biju Patnaik, a former Chief Minister of the state.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Biju Janata Dal belongs to the state of Odisha.

Quick Tip

Associate key regional parties with their states and founders. Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is strongly associated with Naveen Patnaik and the state of Odisha.

57. Which sector contributes the most to Gross Domestic Product ?

- (A) Primary sector
- (B) Secondary sector
- (C) Tertiary sector
- (D) None of these

Correct Answer: (C) Tertiary sector

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The economy is divided into three sectors:

- **Primary Sector:** Agriculture and allied activities (e.g., farming, fishing, mining).
- **Secondary Sector:** Manufacturing and industry.
- **Tertiary Sector:** Services (e.g., banking, transport, IT, healthcare).

The question asks which sector has the largest share in India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Over the past few decades, the structure of the Indian economy has undergone a significant transformation. While the primary sector once dominated, the **tertiary sector (service sector)** has grown to become the largest contributor to India's GDP. It currently accounts for well over 50% of the national income.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The tertiary sector contributes the most to India's Gross Domestic Product.

Quick Tip

Remember this important distinction for the Indian economy: The **Tertiary (Service) sector** is the largest contributor to **GDP**. However, the **Primary (Agriculture) sector** still employs the largest number of people.

58. Which of the following has a three-tier structure ?

- (A) Co-operative credit society
- (B) Consumer Protection Act
- (C) Panchayati Raj
- (D) All of these

Correct Answer: (D) All of these

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

A three-tier structure refers to a system organized at three distinct hierarchical levels. The question asks to identify which of the given systems follow this model in India.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Co-operative credit society:** The rural co-operative credit system in India has a three-tier structure: Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (village level), Central Cooperative Banks (district level), and State Cooperative Banks (state level).
- **Consumer Protection Act:** It establishes a three-tier quasi-judicial machinery for consumer grievance redressal: District Commissions, State Commissions, and the National Commission.
- **Panchayati Raj:** The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act provides for a three-tier system of local self-government in every state: Gram Panchayat at the village level, Panchayat Samiti at the block level, and Zila Parishad at the district level.

Since all three systems have a three-tier structure, the correct answer is "All of these".

Step 3: Final Answer:

Co-operative credit society, the Consumer Protection Act machinery, and Panchayati Raj all have a three-tier structure.

Quick Tip

The "three-tier" model is a common principle in Indian administration for decentralization and hierarchical appeal/governance. Panchayati Raj is the most famous example, but the consumer courts and cooperative banks also follow this pattern.

59. Which of the following does not include the value of depreciation ?

- (A) GDP
- (B) GNP
- (C) NNP

(D) All of these

Correct Answer: (C) NNP

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question relates to national income accounting. The key difference between "Gross" and "Net" economic measures is depreciation. Depreciation (or Consumption of Fixed Capital) is the wear and tear of capital goods during the production process.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

The fundamental relationship is:

$$\text{Gross Value} - \text{Depreciation} = \text{Net Value}$$

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

- **GDP (Gross Domestic Product)** and **GNP (Gross National Product)** are "Gross" measures, so they include the value of depreciation.
- **NNP (Net National Product)** is a "Net" measure. It is calculated by subtracting depreciation from GNP:

$$NNP = GNP - \text{Depreciation}$$

Therefore, NNP does not include the value of depreciation.

Step 4: Final Answer:

NNP (Net National Product) does not include the value of depreciation.

Quick Tip

Remember this simple rule: **G** for Gross includes depreciation. **N** for Net excludes depreciation. To get from Gross to Net, you always subtract depreciation.

60. Which of the following is included in Indian economic reforms ?

- (A) Liberalization
- (B) Privatization
- (C) Globalization
- (D) All of these

Correct Answer: (D) All of these

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question refers to the New Economic Policy (NEP) introduced in India in 1991 to deal with a severe economic crisis.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The economic reforms of 1991 are popularly known as the **LPG reforms**, which stands for:

- **Liberalization:** The process of reducing government controls, regulations, and restrictions on the economy to encourage private enterprise.
- **Privatization:** The process of transferring ownership and management of public sector enterprises to the private sector.
- **Globalization:** The process of integrating the Indian economy with the global economy, involving freer flow of trade, capital, and technology.

Since all three were the pillars of the 1991 reforms, the correct answer is "All of these".

Step 3: Final Answer:

Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization are all part of the Indian economic reforms.

Quick Tip

The acronym **LPG** (Liberalization, Privatization, Globalization) is the key to remembering the core components of India's 1991 economic reforms.

61. What is the remuneration of capital ?

- (A) Rent
- (B) Wages
- (C) Interest
- (D) Mixed income

Correct Answer: (C) Interest

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

In economics, there are four factors of production that are used to create goods and services. Each of these factors earns a specific form of income or remuneration for its contribution.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The four factors of production and their corresponding remunerations are:

1. **Land:** The remuneration is **Rent**.
2. **Labour:** The remuneration is **Wages**.
3. **Capital:** (e.g., machinery, tools, money invested) The remuneration is **Interest**.
4. **Entrepreneurship:** The remuneration is **Profit**.

Therefore, the remuneration for the use of capital is interest.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The remuneration of capital is Interest.

Quick Tip

Memorize the four pairs of factors of production and their returns: Land → Rent, Labour → Wages, Capital → Interest, Entrepreneur → Profit. This is a fundamental concept in economics.

62. Which of the following assets has the least liquidity ?

- (A) Currency
- (B) Bond
- (C) Real estate
- (D) Bank deposit

Correct Answer: (C) Real estate

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Liquidity refers to the ease and speed with which an asset can be converted into cash without affecting its market price. An asset that can be converted to cash quickly is highly liquid, while one that takes time is illiquid.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's analyze the liquidity of the options from most to least liquid:

1. **Currency:** Cash itself is the most liquid asset by definition.
2. **Bank deposit:** Savings or demand deposits can be converted to cash almost instantly.
3. **Bond:** A government or corporate bond can be sold on a financial market, but it might take a few days, and its price can fluctuate. It is less liquid than cash or bank deposits.
4. **Real estate:** Land and buildings are the least liquid. Selling a property is a lengthy process that involves finding a buyer, negotiating a price, legal paperwork, and high transaction costs. It cannot be converted to cash quickly.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Real estate has the least liquidity among the given assets.

Quick Tip

To test for liquidity, ask yourself: "How fast can I get cash for this without losing value?" The harder and slower the process, the less liquid the asset. Real estate is the classic example of an illiquid asset.

63. When did Jawahar Rojgar Yojana start ?

- (A) 1988
- (B) 1989
- (C) 1990
- (D) 1991

Correct Answer: (B) 1989

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for the launch year of the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY), a major rural employment scheme in India.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Jawahar Rojgar Yojana was a wage employment program launched by the Government of India during the Seventh Five-Year Plan. It was started on **April 1, 1989**, by merging two existing employment programs: the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP). The primary objective was to generate meaningful employment opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed in rural areas.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Jawahar Rojgar Yojana started in 1989.

Quick Tip

Associate major government schemes with the Prime Minister of the time. The Jawahar Rojgar Yojana was launched by the government of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

64. Which of the following was formed with the aim of ensuring participation of states in economic planning ?

- (A) Planning Commission
- (B) National Development Council
- (C) NABARD
- (D) Money Market

Correct Answer: (B) National Development Council

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify the institution created to act as a bridge between the central government and state governments in the context of India's Five-Year Plans.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The **National Development Council (NDC)** was established in August 1952. Its primary purpose was to bring state governments into the process of national planning. Its composition included the Prime Minister, all Union Cabinet Ministers, Chief Ministers of all states, and members of the Planning Commission. The NDC served as the apex body for approving the Five-Year Plans, thereby ensuring that states had a voice in the planning process and fostering cooperative federalism.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The National Development Council was formed to ensure the participation of states in economic planning.

Quick Tip

Think of the planning process hierarchy: The **Planning Commission** drafted the plans. The **National Development Council** (with CMs) approved the plans. This ensured a cooperative approach between the Centre and the States.

65. Who planned the main streets of Paris ?

- (A) Baron Haussmann
- (B) Ebenezer Howard
- (C) Le Corbusier
- (D) Samuel Crompton

Correct Answer: (A) Baron Haussmann

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify the urban planner responsible for the large-scale renovation of Paris in the 19th century, which created its famous boulevards.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The comprehensive urban renewal of Paris was commissioned by Emperor Napoleon III and carried out between 1853 and 1870 by his prefect of the Seine, **Baron Georges-Eugène Haussmann**. This massive project, known as Haussmann's renovation of Paris, involved demolishing medieval neighborhoods and constructing wide avenues, parks, and squares, as well as new sewers, fountains, and aqueducts. This is what gave Paris its modern and iconic layout.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Baron Haussmann planned the main streets of modern Paris.

Quick Tip

The name "Haussmann" is synonymous with the urban planning of 19th-century Paris. When you think of the grand, wide boulevards of Paris, think of Baron Haussmann.

66. Where did Gandhiji establish Sabarmati Ashram ?

- (A) Gandhinagar
- (B) Ahmedabad
- (C) Surat
- (D) Vadodara

Correct Answer: (B) Ahmedabad

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for the location of the famous Sabarmati Ashram, which was a central hub for the Indian independence movement.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

After returning to India from South Africa, Mahatma Gandhi first established an ashram at Kochrab in 1915. He later shifted this ashram to a new location on the banks of the Sabarmati river in 1917 to have more space for farming and other activities. This new location was on the outskirts of the city of **Ahmedabad** in Gujarat. The Sabarmati Ashram served as his residence for many years and was the starting point for the historic Dandi March in 1930.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Gandhiji established the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad.

Quick Tip

Associate the Sabarmati Ashram with two key things: the Sabarmati River and the city of Ahmedabad. It was from here that Gandhi directed many of his campaigns for India's freedom.

67. Who was defeated in the battle of Sedan ?

- (A) France
- (B) Germany
- (C) Austria
- (D) Prussia

Correct Answer: (A) France

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

The Battle of Sedan was the decisive battle of the Franco-Prussian War. The question asks who was defeated in this battle.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Battle of Sedan was fought on September 1, 1870. The Prussian army, under the command of Helmuth von Moltke, decisively defeated the French army. The French Emperor Napoleon III himself was captured along with his entire army. This catastrophic defeat for **France** led to the fall of the Second French Empire and the proclamation of the Third Republic. For Prussia, this victory paved the way for the unification of Germany, which was proclaimed a few months later in the Palace of Versailles.

Step 3: Final Answer:

France was defeated in the Battle of Sedan.

Quick Tip

Remember the Battle of Sedan (1870) as the event that sealed the fate of two empires: it ended the Second French Empire of Napoleon III and created the German Empire under Bismarck and Wilhelm I. Prussia was the victor, France the loser.

68. Who among the following introduced compulsory military service in his country?

- (A) Mazzini
- (B) Metternich
- (C) Bismarck
- (D) Lenin

Correct Answer: (C) Bismarck

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify the leader who made military service mandatory to strengthen his nation's army.

Step 2: Detailed explanation:

Otto von Bismarck, as the Minister President of Prussia, was the architect of German unification. A key part of his strategy was to build a powerful and highly disciplined Prussian army. He, along with the War Minister Albrecht von Roon, implemented reforms that included universal military conscription for three years of service for all able-bodied men. This system of compulsory military service created a large, well-trained reserve force that proved crucial in the wars of German unification against Denmark, Austria, and France.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Bismarck introduced compulsory military service in Prussia.

Quick Tip

Bismarck's policy of "Blood and Iron" relied heavily on a strong military. Compulsory military service (conscription) was the cornerstone of building this powerful Prussian army that unified Germany.

69. Which ruling dynasty in France was restored by the Congress of Vienna ?

- (A) Habsburg
- (B) Romanov
- (C) Slavic
- (D) Bourbon

Correct Answer: (D) Bourbon

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The Congress of Vienna (1815) was a conference of European ambassadors held to provide a long-term peace plan for Europe after the defeat of Napoleon. One of its key principles was the restoration of legitimate monarchs to their thrones.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Before the French Revolution and the rise of Napoleon, France was ruled by the **Bourbon dynasty** (e.g., King Louis XVI). The revolution overthrew and executed the monarch. After Napoleon's final defeat, the Congress of Vienna sought to restore the pre-revolutionary order. As part of this principle of legitimacy, they restored the Bourbon monarchy in France by placing Louis XVIII, the brother of Louis XVI, on the French throne.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Bourbon dynasty was restored in France by the Congress of Vienna.

Quick Tip

Remember the major dynasties and their countries: **Bourbon** → France/Spain, **Habsburg** → Austria, **Romanov** → Russia. The Congress of Vienna's goal was to turn back the clock to before Napoleon, which meant restoring the Bourbons in France.

70. Whose contribution is economic planning?

- (A) French Revolution
- (B) Russian Revolution
- (C) American Revolution
- (D) All of these

Correct Answer: (B) Russian Revolution

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

The question asks about the historical origin of the concept of centralized economic planning as a state policy.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The concept of a centrally planned economy, where the government makes all decisions about the production and distribution of goods, was a hallmark of the communist system established in the Soviet Union after the **Russian Revolution** of 1917. The Soviet government, under leaders like Lenin and later Stalin, implemented a series of Five-Year Plans starting in 1928. These plans set ambitious goals for industrialization and collectivization of agriculture, with the state controlling all economic resources. This model of economic planning was a major

contribution of the Soviet experiment and was later adopted by other communist countries.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Economic planning as a system of state control is a contribution of the Russian Revolution.

Quick Tip

Associate the major revolutions with their key ideas: American → Democracy, Liberty; French → Liberty, Equality, Fraternity; Russian → Communism, Centralized Economic Planning.

71. Where was the first modern cotton mill established in India?

- (A) Surat
- (B) Bombay
- (C) Calcutta
- (D) Ahmedabad

Correct Answer: (C) Calcutta

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for the location of the first successful, modern, steam-powered cotton textile mill in India.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

While the first attempt to set up a cotton mill was at Fort Gloster near **Calcutta** in 1818, it was not commercially successful. The first successful modern cotton mill, the "Bombay Spinning and Weaving Company," was established in **Bombay** (now Mumbai) in 1854 by the Parsi entrepreneur Cowasjee Nanabhoy Davar. The city's excellent port facilities for importing machinery and exporting finished goods, along with the availability of capital and the humid climate, made it an ideal location for the industry.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The first successful modern cotton mill was established in Bombay.

Quick Tip

For the textile industry in India, remember these key centers: First modern cotton mill → Bombay. "Manchester of India" (major cotton textile center) → Ahmedabad.

72. Ho Chi Minh was the ruler of which country?

- (A) North Vietnam
- (B) South Vietnam
- (C) Laos
- (D) Cambodia

Correct Answer: (A) North Vietnam

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify the country or region led by the revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Ho Chi Minh was a Vietnamese communist revolutionary leader. He was the key figure in the foundation of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, more commonly known as **North Vietnam**, in 1945. He served as its Prime Minister and later as its President. He led the Viet Minh independence movement against the French and later the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War against South Vietnam and the United States, with the ultimate goal of unifying Vietnam under communist rule.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Ho Chi Minh was the ruler of North Vietnam.

Quick Tip

Associate Ho Chi Minh with communism and the struggle for a unified, independent Vietnam. He was the leader of the North, which was fighting against the anti-communist South, which was backed by France and later the USA.

73. Where was Shetkari organization established ?

- (A) Rajasthan
- (B) Uttar Pradesh
- (C) Bihar
- (D) Maharashtra

Correct Answer: (D) Maharashtra

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for the location where the Shetkari Sanghatana, a major farmers' organization, was established.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Shetkari Sanghatana is a farmers' organization founded by Sharad Joshi in the state of **Maharashtra**. The term "Shetkari" itself means "farmer" in the Marathi language. The organization became prominent in the late 1970s and 1980s, advocating for remunerative prices for agricultural produce and protesting against what it perceived as the government's anti-farmer policies.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Shetkari organization was established in Maharashtra.

Quick Tip

The word "Shetkari" is Marathi for farmer. This linguistic clue directly points to the state of Maharashtra as the origin of the Shetkari Sanghatana.

74. 73rd Constitutional Amendment is related to which of the following ?

- (A) Panchayati Raj
- (B) Municipality
- (C) Supreme Court
- (D) Election of President

Correct Answer: (A) Panchayati Raj

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

The question asks about the subject matter of the 73rd Amendment to the Indian Constitution.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 is a landmark amendment that gave constitutional status and protection to **Panchayati Raj Institutions** (PRIs). It added a new Part IX to the Constitution titled "The Panchayats" and a new Eleventh Schedule containing 29 functional items for the Panchayats. The amendment aimed to strengthen democratic decentralization by making the three-tier system of local self-government in rural areas a constitutional mandate.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment is related to Panchayati Raj.

Quick Tip

Remember the pair of local government amendments:

- **73rd Amendment** → **Panchayats** (Rural Local Bodies).
- **74th Amendment** → **Municipalities** (Urban Local Bodies).

These two are always asked together.

75. Under whose Chairmanship was the State Reorganization Commission formed in 1953?

- (A) Fazal Ali
- (B) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- (C) Morarji Desai
- (D) Lal Bahadur Shastri

Correct Answer: (A) Fazal Ali

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify the chairman of the commission set up by the Government of India in 1953 to recommend the reorganization of state boundaries.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In December 1953, the Government of India appointed the States Reorganisation Commission (SRC) to examine the issue of reorganizing states on a linguistic basis. The commission was chaired by **Fazal Ali**, a retired Supreme Court judge. Its other two members were H. N. Kunzru and K. M. Panikkar. The commission submitted its report in 1955, and its recommendations were largely implemented through the States Reorganisation Act of 1956. Because of its chairman, the commission is popularly known as the **Fazal Ali Commission**.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The State Reorganization Commission was formed under the chairmanship of Fazal Ali.

Quick Tip

Associate the States Reorganisation Commission (SRC) of 1953 directly with its chairman, Fazal Ali. It is very often referred to as the Fazal Ali Commission.

76. In which of the following cities has municipal corporation been already established ?

- (A) Bhagalpur
- (B) Gopalganj
- (C) Sitamarhi
- (D) Rohtas

Correct Answer: (A) Bhagalpur

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify which of the given cities in Bihar is governed by a Municipal Corporation. Municipal Corporations are the highest form of urban local government, typically established for large urban areas.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In Bihar, Municipal Corporations are established for major cities that meet certain population and revenue criteria.

- **Bhagalpur** is a major city in Bihar and has had a Municipal Corporation for a long time. It is one of the oldest cities in the state to be granted this status.
- Gopalganj, Sitamarhi, and Rohtas (the district, with Sasaram as its headquarters) are smaller urban areas and are typically governed by lower tiers of urban local bodies like Municipal Councils (Nagar Parishad) or Nagar Panchayats.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Among the given options, Bhagalpur has a Municipal Corporation.

Quick Tip

For questions about Bihar, remember that the major, old, and large cities like Patna, Gaya, Bhagalpur, Muzaffarpur, and Darbhanga are the ones that have Municipal Corporations.

77. Which of the following does not have a federal system of government ?

- (A) India
- (B) China
- (C) Spain
- (D) United States of America

Correct Answer: (B) China

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

A federal system is a system of government where power is constitutionally divided between a central authority and constituent political units (like states or provinces). A unitary system is one where the central government is supreme.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **India**, the **United States of America**, and **Spain** are all examples of countries with federal systems. The USA is a classic federation. India is described as a 'quasi-federal' state, but it has a clear constitutional division of powers between the Union and the States. Spain is also a highly decentralized state, functioning as a federation.
- **China** has a **unitary** system of government. All power is concentrated in the hands of the central government in Beijing, which is controlled by the Communist Party of China. While it has provinces and autonomous regions, their powers are delegated by the central government and are not constitutionally protected in the same way as in a federal system.

Step 3: Final Answer:

China does not have a federal system of government; it has a unitary system.

Quick Tip

Remember that large, diverse countries like the USA and India typically adopt a federal structure to manage diversity. In contrast, countries ruled by a single, dominant political party, like China, almost always have a unitary system to maintain central control.

78. Which of the following subjects has been placed in the State List ?

- (A) Agriculture
- (B) Police
- (C) Irrigation
- (D) All of these

Correct Answer: (D) All of these

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution divides the legislative powers between the Union and the States into three lists: the Union List, the State List, and the Concurrent List. The question asks to identify subjects from the State List.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The State List contains subjects on which only the State Legislatures can make laws. Let's examine the options:

- **Agriculture** (Entry 14) is a key subject under the State List.
- **Police** and Public Order (Entries 1 and 2) are exclusive domains of the state government.
- Water, including **Irrigation** and canals (Entry 17), is also a State List subject.

Since Agriculture, Police, and Irrigation are all subjects placed in the State List, the correct answer is "All of these".

Step 3: Final Answer:

All of the given subjects - Agriculture, Police, and Irrigation - are in the State List.

Quick Tip

For exams, remember the most important subjects in each list. **Union List:** Defence, Foreign Affairs, Currency. **State List:** Police, Agriculture, Public Health. **Concurrent List:** Education, Forests, Criminal Law.

79. How many languages are included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India?

- (A) 15
- (B) 22
- (C) 25
- (D) 21

Correct Answer: (B) 22

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India lists the official languages of the Republic of India. The question asks for the current number of languages on this list.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Initially, when the Constitution was adopted, the Eighth Schedule included 14 languages. Over the years, several amendments have been made to add more languages:

- Sindhi was added by the 21st Amendment in 1967.
- Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali were added by the 71st Amendment in 1992.
- Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali were added by the 92nd Amendment in 2003.

This brings the total number of languages currently listed in the Eighth Schedule to **22**.

Step 3: Final Answer:

There are 22 languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Quick Tip

The number 22 is a crucial figure to remember regarding the official languages in the Eighth Schedule. Also, note that English is not one of the 22 languages in this schedule.

80. Who allots election symbols to political parties ?

- (A) Government of India
- (B) Constitution of India
- (C) Election Commission
- (D) President

Correct Answer: (C) Election Commission

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks which authority is responsible for the allocation of symbols to political parties for the purpose of contesting elections in India.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is an autonomous constitutional body responsible for administering election processes in India. One of its key functions, as defined under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, is to grant recognition to national and state political parties and to allot election symbols to them. The ECI decides which symbol is "reserved" for a recognized party and which symbols are available as "free" symbols for other candidates. It also adjudicates disputes related to party symbols.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Election Commission allots election symbols to political parties.

Quick Tip

Remember that the Election Commission of India is the supreme authority on all matters related to the conduct of elections, from preparing electoral rolls and announcing election dates to allotting symbols and declaring results.

Section - A

History

1. What do you understand by Historical Materialism ?

Solution:

Historical materialism is a theory of history and society developed by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. It is the cornerstone of Marxist thought.

- **Core Idea:** The theory posits that the material conditions of a society's mode of production—that is, the way humans collectively produce the means of subsistence—fundamentally determine its social, political, and intellectual structure (its "superstructure").
- **Driving Force of History:** According to this view, the primary driver of historical change is not ideas or great individuals, but the class struggle that arises from the economic base. Each stage of history (e.g., feudalism, capitalism) is characterized by a specific mode of production and the class relations it entails (e.g., lords and serfs, bourgeoisie and proletariat).
- **Dialectical Change:** Marx applied Hegel's dialectic to this material base. He argued that the contradictions within an economic system (e.g., the conflict between the interests of capitalists and workers) would inevitably lead to a social revolution and the emergence of a new mode of production (e.g., socialism).
- **In essence:** It is a methodology that seeks to explain history and social phenomena by analyzing the underlying economic and material factors.

Quick Tip

To simplify, think of historical materialism as "economics drives history". Marx argued that who owns the means of production (land, factories) and how people work determines everything else in society, from laws and government to culture and ideas.

2. What was the initial objective of France to colonize Indo-China?

Solution:

France's initial objective to colonize Indo-China (modern-day Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos) in the 19th century was driven by a combination of economic, strategic, and nationalistic motives.

1. **Economic Interests:** This was the primary driver. France, like other European powers, sought colonies to secure raw materials (such as rubber, coal, and rice) for its industries and to create captive markets for its manufactured goods. The region was seen as a source of immense natural wealth.
2. **Strategic Competition:** France was in competition with Great Britain for global influence. Britain had already established a strong presence in India and Burma. By colonizing Indo-China, France aimed to counter British power in Southeast Asia and gain a strategic foothold to access the vast markets of Southern China.
3. **National Prestige and "Civilizing Mission":** There was a strong sense of national pride and a belief in the "mission civilisatrice" or "civilizing mission." The French believed it was their duty to bring European culture, Christianity, and modern administration to what they considered "backward" societies. This ideology served as a justification for colonial expansion.

Quick Tip

For European colonization, remember the "Three Gs": **G**old (economic wealth), **G**lory (national prestige and competition), and **G**od (the "civilizing mission" and spreading Christianity). These motives applied to France in Indo-China as well.

3. What impact did British economic policies have on Indian agriculture ?

Solution:

British economic policies had a profoundly negative impact on Indian agriculture, transforming it from a subsistence-based system to a colonial one geared towards serving British interests. The key impacts were:

1. **Commercialization of Agriculture:** The British forced farmers to shift from growing food crops (like rice and wheat) for local consumption to growing cash crops (like cotton, indigo, jute, and opium) which were needed as raw materials for British industries. This often led to food shortages and famines.
2. **High Land Revenue Demand:** The British introduced new land revenue systems like the Permanent Settlement, Ryotwari System, and Mahalwari System. These systems fixed extremely high rates of land revenue, which had to be paid in cash, regardless of crop failure. This pushed farmers into deep debt.

3. **Impoverishment of Peasantry:** Unable to pay the high revenue, farmers were forced to borrow from moneylenders at exorbitant interest rates. This led to widespread indebtedness and the eventual loss of their land to the moneylenders, landlords, or the government, turning them into landless labourers.
4. **Stagnation and Decline in Productivity:** The British government invested very little in improving Indian agriculture, such as in irrigation facilities or modern farming techniques. The focus was solely on extracting revenue, which led to the stagnation and deterioration of agricultural productivity.

Quick Tip

Summarize the impact of British policies on Indian agriculture with three key points: **1. Commercialization** (cash crops over food crops), **2. High Taxes** (new land revenue systems), and **3. Indebtedness** (farmers losing land to moneylenders).

4. Under what circumstances was the Indian National Congress established ?

Solution:

The Indian National Congress (INC) was established in December 1885 under a specific set of circumstances arising from the political, economic, and social climate of British India in the late 19th century.

1. **Growing Political Consciousness:** A new, educated Indian middle class had emerged, which was well-versed in Western political ideas of liberty, democracy, and nationalism. They felt the need for a national platform to voice their grievances and aspirations.
2. **Economic Exploitation:** The economic policies of the British, which led to the drain of wealth, de-industrialization, and rural poverty, created widespread discontent among all sections of Indian society.
3. **Reactionary Policies of the British:** Policies of viceroys like Lord Lytton, such as the Vernacular Press Act (1878) which curbed the freedom of the Indian press, and the Arms Act (1878) which disarmed Indians, caused deep resentment. The controversy over the Ilbert Bill (1883), which exposed the racial arrogance of the British, further fueled the need for an organized national body.
4. **Need for a Pan-India Organization:** Various regional political associations had already been formed, but there was a growing realization that a pan-India organization was necessary to effectively represent Indian interests to the British government.

5. **The 'Safety Valve' Theory:** One view is that the British themselves, particularly the retired civil servant Allan Octavian (A.O.) Hume, encouraged the formation of the INC to provide a peaceful and constitutional outlet (a "safety valve") for the rising discontent among Indians, thereby preventing another major uprising like the Revolt of 1857.

Quick Tip

Think of the founding of the INC as a result of a "perfect storm": a rising educated class, economic hardship, repressive British policies, and the desire for a unified national voice, all facilitated by A.O. Hume's initiative.

5. Who adopted the 'golden middle class' policy and why ?

Solution:

The term 'golden middle class' policy is not a standard, widely recognized term in history or political science. It seems to be a specific or possibly mistranslated phrase. However, it likely refers to policies aimed at favouring or developing the middle class. One historical figure who strongly pursued policies that benefited the middle class (bourgeoisie) was **Louis Philippe** of France, who reigned from 1830 to 1848.

Who and Why:

- **Who:** Louis Philippe, often called the "Bourgeois Monarch" or the "Citizen King."
- **Why:** His regime, known as the July Monarchy, came to power through the July Revolution of 1830, which was largely a middle-class revolt against the absolutist policies of King Charles X. To secure his rule and promote economic progress, Louis Philippe's policies were deliberately designed to support the interests of the wealthy middle class—the bankers, industrialists, and merchants.
- **Policies:** His government focused on industrialization, financial growth, and maintaining a political system where voting rights were restricted to property owners. This ensured that the middle class dominated political and economic life. The aim was to create a stable and prosperous France based on the leadership of this "golden middle class," rather than the old aristocracy or the radical working class.

Quick Tip

If you encounter the term 'golden middle class' policy, think of the "Bourgeois Monarch," Louis Philippe of France (1830-1848), whose entire regime was built on the support and promotion of the wealthy middle class.

6. What was the purpose of the Vienna Congress ?

Solution:

The Vienna Congress (1814-1815) was a conference of European ambassadors held after the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte. Its main purpose was to create a long-term peace plan for Europe by settling critical issues arising from the French Revolutionary Wars and the Napoleonic Wars. The primary objectives were:

1. **To Establish a New Balance of Power:** The main goal was to prevent any single nation, particularly France, from dominating Europe again. The Congress redrew the map of Europe, strengthening the states surrounding France (like the Netherlands and Prussia) to act as buffers.
2. **To Restore Legitimate Monarchies:** Led by the Austrian Chancellor Metternich, the Congress sought to restore the ruling families who had been deposed by Napoleon. This was the "principle of legitimacy," which saw the restoration of the Bourbons in France, Spain, and Naples.
3. **To Suppress Revolutionary Ideas:** The Congress was a conservative reaction against the revolutionary ideals of liberty, equality, and nationalism spread by the French Revolution. It aimed to crush liberalism and nationalism and re-establish the old conservative order.
4. **To Provide a Framework for Peace:** The Congress established a system of diplomacy known as the Concert of Europe, where the major powers would meet periodically to resolve disputes and maintain stability.

Quick Tip

Think of the Vienna Congress as an attempt to "turn back the clock" on Europe to the time before the French Revolution. Its keywords are: **Balance of Power**, **Restoration** of monarchies, and **Conservatism** (suppressing revolution).

7. How nationalism is the result of political awakening in the modern world? Discuss.**Solution:**

Nationalism, the feeling of collective identity and unity among a group of people based on shared language, culture, history, and territory, is fundamentally a product of the political awakening that characterized the modern world. This awakening was spurred by several key historical developments.

1. **The Rise of the Modern State:** The decline of feudalism and the rise of centralized monarchies created clearly defined territorial states. People living within these borders began to develop a shared identity separate from their local or religious affiliations.
2. **The French Revolution (1789):** This was a pivotal moment. It replaced the idea of a kingdom being the private property of a monarch with the concept of the "nation-state,"

where sovereignty resides with the people (the citizens). The ideals of "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity" and the concept of a "nation of citizens" inspired people across Europe to see themselves as part of a national community with the right to self-determination.

3. **The Napoleonic Wars:** Napoleon's conquests, while spreading French revolutionary ideas, also provoked a powerful nationalist backlash. People in Spain, Germany, and Italy united to resist French domination, fostering a strong sense of their own national identity in the process.
4. **Spread of Education and Print Culture:** The rise of literacy and the printing press allowed for the widespread dissemination of ideas. Newspapers, pamphlets, and books in vernacular languages helped create a shared public sphere and standardized languages, which were crucial in forging a common national consciousness.
5. **Economic Unification:** The Industrial Revolution led to the creation of national economies with integrated markets, railways, and communication networks. This economic interdependence helped break down regional barriers and fostered a sense of national unity.

In conclusion, the shift from subjects of a monarch to citizens of a nation, fueled by revolutionary ideas, resistance to foreign rule, and modern communication, constituted the political awakening that gave birth to modern nationalism.

Quick Tip

When discussing the link between nationalism and political awakening, focus on the French Revolution. It was the catalyst that transformed the idea of the state from a king's domain to a nation of citizens, laying the ideological foundation for modern nationalism.

8. Explain the role of Gandhiji in the Indian National movement.

Solution:

Mahatma Gandhi was the pre-eminent leader of the Indian National Movement from 1919 until India's independence in 1947. His role was transformative, as he converted the movement from a limited, middle-class struggle into a mass movement that mobilized millions of ordinary Indians.

His key contributions include:

1. **Introduction of Satyagraha:** Gandhi introduced the powerful new methods of Satyagraha (insistence on truth) and Ahimsa (non-violence) as tools for political struggle. He demonstrated their effectiveness in his early campaigns at Champaran (1917), Kheda (1918), and Ahmedabad (1918).
2. **Mass Mobilization:** He had an unparalleled ability to connect with the masses—peasants, workers, women, and students. He transformed the Indian National Congress from an elite body into a mass-based organization with a presence in villages across the country.

3. **Leadership of Major National Movements:** He led three major pan-India movements that shook the foundations of the British Raj:

- **The Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22):** He called for a boycott of British institutions—schools, courts, and councils—and the promotion of Swadeshi (indigenous goods).
- **The Civil Disobedience Movement (1930-34):** Launched with the iconic Dandi Salt March, this movement involved the widespread and peaceful defiance of unjust British laws.
- **The Quit India Movement (1942):** He gave the call of "Do or Die," demanding an immediate end to British rule. This was the most powerful mass movement for India's freedom.

4. **Emphasis on Social Reforms:** Gandhi did not see independence merely as a political goal. He worked tirelessly for Hindu-Muslim unity, the upliftment of untouchables (whom he called Harijans), and the empowerment of women, believing that social reform was essential for a truly free India.

In essence, Gandhiji's leadership, unique methods, and inclusive vision were the central force that ultimately led to India's independence.

Quick Tip

To explain Gandhi's role, focus on his three key contributions: **1. Unique Method** (Satyagraha/Non-violence), **2. Mass Mobilization** (making it a movement for everyone), and **3. Leadership** of the three major national campaigns (Non-Cooperation, Civil Disobedience, Quit India).

Political Science

9. What is the main function of State Finance Commission ?

Solution:

The main function of the State Finance Commission (SFC) is to review the financial position of the Panchayats and the Municipalities in a state and to make recommendations to the Governor about the principles that should govern the distribution of financial resources between the state government and these local bodies.

Specifically, the SFC makes recommendations on:

1. **Distribution of Taxes:** The principles for the division and distribution of the net proceeds of taxes, duties, tolls, and fees levied by the state which are to be shared between the state and the local bodies.
2. **Assignment of Taxes:** The determination of the taxes, duties, tolls, and fees which may be assigned to, or appropriated by, the Panchayats and Municipalities.

3. **Grants-in-Aid:** The principles for providing grants-in-aid to the Panchayats and Municipalities from the Consolidated Fund of the State.
4. **Improving Financial Position:** Measures needed to improve the financial position of the local bodies.

In essence, the State Finance Commission's primary role is to ensure the financial viability and autonomy of local self-government institutions, as mandated by the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments.

Quick Tip

Think of the State Finance Commission as the "Finance Commission for the local bodies". Just as the Union Finance Commission decides the financial resource sharing between the Centre and the States, the State Finance Commission does the same between the State and its local bodies (Panchayats and Municipalities).

10. How is the Right to Information beneficial for accountable democracy ?

Solution:

The Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, is a powerful tool that promotes accountability and transparency in a democracy in several ways:

1. **Promotes Transparency:** RTI allows citizens to access information held by public authorities. This transparency in the functioning of the government reduces the scope for secrecy and arbitrary decision-making. Citizens can find out how and why decisions are made.
2. **Ensures Accountability:** When government officials know that their actions are subject to public scrutiny through RTI, they are more likely to act in a responsible and accountable manner. Citizens can hold the government and its functionaries accountable for their performance and decisions.
3. **Combats Corruption:** RTI is a potent weapon against corruption. Citizens can demand information on the utilization of funds in public projects, the awarding of contracts, and the implementation of schemes. This exposes corruption and acts as a deterrent.
4. **Empowers Citizens:** The Act empowers ordinary citizens by giving them the right to question the government. It shifts the power dynamic from the rulers to the ruled, making democracy more participatory and citizen-centric.
5. **Improves Governance:** By allowing citizens to monitor government activities, RTI helps in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of governance. It encourages better record-keeping and a more systematic approach to administration.

In summary, RTI strengthens democracy by making the government more answerable to the people it serves, thereby fostering an accountable and transparent political culture.

Quick Tip

The key benefits of RTI for an accountable democracy can be remembered with the acronym **T-A-C-E**: **T**ransparency, **A**ccountability, **C**ombating Corruption, and **C**itizen **E**mpowerment.

11. What do you understand by dual governance system ?

Solution:

A dual governance system, also known as dyarchy, is a system of administration where government functions are divided into two distinct categories, which are administered by two different sets of authorities.

The most famous historical example of this system in the Indian context was introduced by the **Government of India Act of 1919** in the provinces.

- **Division of Subjects:** Under this system, the subjects of provincial administration were divided into two lists:
 1. **Reserved Subjects:** These were the more important subjects like finance, law and order, and irrigation. They were administered by the Governor and his Executive Council, who were not responsible to the provincial legislature.
 2. **Transferred Subjects:** These were subjects of lesser importance like education, health, and local government. They were administered by the Governor acting with Indian ministers who were responsible to the provincial legislature.
 3. **Purpose and Flaw:** The system was intended to be a step towards responsible government, but it was fundamentally flawed. The ministers had responsibility but lacked financial power (as finance was a reserved subject), making the system unworkable and unpopular. It was eventually abolished by the Government of India Act of 1935.

Quick Tip

When you see "dual governance" or "dyarchy" in the context of British India, immediately think of the Government of India Act, 1919. Remember it as the system that "divided" provincial power between an accountable (Transferred) part and an unaccountable (Reserved) part.

12. What is meant by horizontal distribution of power ?

Solution:

Horizontal distribution of power is a system of governance where power is shared among different organs of the government that are placed at the same level. This system is a core feature of most modern democracies and is also known as the principle of **separation of powers**.

- **The Three Organs:** In this arrangement, the power of the government is divided among three main branches:
 1. **The Legislature:** Responsible for making laws (e.g., Parliament in India).
 2. **The Executive:** Responsible for implementing and enforcing laws (e.g., the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister).
 3. **The Judiciary:** Responsible for interpreting laws and administering justice (e.g., the Supreme Court and other courts).
- **Purpose:** The purpose of this horizontal distribution is to ensure that no single organ can exercise unlimited power. Each organ acts as a check on the others, creating a **system of checks and balances**. For example, the judiciary can strike down laws made by the legislature if they are unconstitutional, and the legislature can impeach judges or the head of the executive.
- **Outcome:** This separation ensures the protection of individual liberties and prevents the abuse of authority, which is essential for a democracy.

Quick Tip

Think of "horizontal" as a flat line with three points: Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary. They are all at the same level of authority, each with its own job, and they keep each other in check. This is different from "vertical" distribution, which is the sharing of power between different levels of government (e.g., central, state, and local).

13. Explain the main organs of Municipal Corporation.**Solution:**

A Municipal Corporation is the highest form of urban local government in India, typically for cities with a large population. Its governance structure consists of three main organs or authorities:

1. The Council (Legislative Wing):

- This is the deliberative and legislative wing of the corporation.
- It consists of Councillors who are directly elected by the people from different wards of the city.
- The Council is headed by the **Mayor**, who is usually elected by the councillors from among themselves and is the ceremonial first citizen of the city.

- Its main function is to make policies, approve budgets, and pass by-laws for the city's governance.

2. The Standing Committees (Executive Wing):

- To facilitate the work of the large Council, a number of Standing Committees are created to deal with specific areas like public works, health, education, taxation, etc.
- They exercise executive powers and are the main points of decision-making in their respective fields.

3. The Municipal Commissioner (Administrative Wing):

- The Municipal Commissioner is the chief executive officer of the corporation and is responsible for the day-to-day administration.
- He/she is usually an officer from the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and is appointed by the state government.
- The Commissioner's role is to implement the decisions taken by the Council and its Standing Committees.

Quick Tip

To remember the organs of a Municipal Corporation, think of a parallel with a national government:

- **The Council** is like the Parliament (makes policies).
- **The Mayor** is like the Speaker or a ceremonial President.
- **The Standing Committees** are like the Cabinet (makes key decisions).
- **The Municipal Commissioner** is like the head of the Civil Service (implements decisions).

14. What are the challenges of democracy in current Indian politics ? Discuss.

Solution:

While India is the world's largest democracy, it faces several persistent challenges that test its democratic fabric. Some of the key challenges in current Indian politics include:

1. **Corruption and Criminalization of Politics:** The presence of corruption in public life erodes trust in democratic institutions. Furthermore, the increasing number of elected representatives with criminal records poses a serious threat to the integrity of the political system.
2. **Role of Money and Muscle Power:** The high cost of fighting elections often leads to a reliance on wealthy candidates or illicit funding, creating an uneven playing field. The use of muscle power to intimidate voters and rivals undermines the principle of free and fair elections.

3. **Communalism and Casteism:** The use of religious and caste identities for political mobilization is a major challenge. It divides society, leads to conflict, and diverts attention from genuine issues of development and governance.
4. **Dynastic Politics:** The tendency of political parties to be dominated by a single family or dynasty is a challenge to internal party democracy. It limits opportunities for deserving leaders from non-political backgrounds to rise.
5. **Challenge of Deepening Democracy:** While India has a successful record of holding elections, the challenge is to deepen democracy by strengthening local self-government institutions (Panchayats and Municipalities) and ensuring that the benefits of democracy reach the most marginalized sections of society.
6. **Erosion of Democratic Institutions:** Concerns are often raised about the weakening of autonomous institutions like the judiciary, the Election Commission, and the media, which are crucial for maintaining checks and balances in a democracy.

Quick Tip

For questions on challenges to Indian democracy, remember the "4 Cs": **C**orruption, **C**riminalization, **C**ommunalism, and **C**asteism. Also, consider issues like money power and dynastic politics.

Economics

15. What is meant by Human Development Index ?

Solution:

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite statistical tool used to measure a country's overall achievement in its social and economic dimensions. It provides a broader and more comprehensive measure of a country's development than just economic indicators like GDP.

The HDI was created by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and is published annually in the Human Development Report.

It is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development:

1. **A long and healthy life:** This is measured by **life expectancy at birth**.
2. **Knowledge:** This is measured by two indicators:
 - **Mean years of schooling** (for adults aged 25 years and more).
 - **Expected years of schooling** (for children of school entering age).
3. **A decent standard of living:** This is measured by **Gross National Income (GNI) per capita**, adjusted for purchasing power parity (PPP).

The HDI ranks countries into four tiers of human development: very high, high, medium, and low. It emphasizes that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth alone.

Quick Tip

Remember the three pillars of HDI: **Health** (Life Expectancy), **Education** (Years of Schooling), and **Standard of Living** (GNI per capita). It's a measure of people's well-being, not just the country's wealth.

16. What is economic activity ?

Solution:

An economic activity is any action that involves the production, distribution, exchange, or consumption of goods and services. It is an activity undertaken to earn a livelihood or to satisfy human wants.

The key characteristics of an economic activity are:

- It involves the use of scarce resources (like land, labor, capital).
- It is undertaken with an economic motive, i.e., to generate income or wealth.
- It results in the creation of goods or services that have value and can satisfy human needs.

Economic activities are broadly classified into three sectors:

1. **Primary Sector:** Activities that involve the direct extraction of natural resources. Examples include farming, mining, fishing, and forestry.
2. **Secondary Sector:** Activities that transform raw materials into finished goods. Examples include manufacturing, construction, and food processing.
3. **Tertiary Sector:** Activities that involve providing services. Examples include transportation, banking, teaching, and healthcare.

Quick Tip

The simplest way to identify an economic activity is to ask: "Is someone getting paid for this?" or "Is a good or service being produced to satisfy a want?". If yes, it's an economic activity. Activities done out of love or for personal satisfaction (e.g., a hobby) are non-economic activities.

17. What was the purpose of the formation of World Trade Organization ?

Solution:

The World Trade Organization (WTO) was formed in 1995 as the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Its primary purpose is to ensure that global trade flows as smoothly, predictably, and freely as possible.

The main objectives and purposes of the WTO are:

1. **To Promote Free Trade:** The core purpose is to lower trade barriers (like tariffs and quotas) and encourage free trade among member countries. The underlying principle is that free trade boosts economic growth and raises living standards.
2. **To Provide a Forum for Negotiations:** The WTO serves as a platform for member governments to negotiate trade agreements and resolve trade problems.
3. **To Administer Trade Agreements:** It oversees the implementation and administration of the various trade agreements that have been negotiated by its members.
4. **To Settle Trade Disputes:** The WTO has a dispute settlement mechanism, which acts like an international trade court. It provides a rule-based process for resolving trade disputes between member countries, preventing them from escalating into political or military conflicts.
5. **To Assist Developing Countries:** The WTO aims to help developing countries benefit more from the global trading system by providing them with technical assistance and capacity building.

Quick Tip

Think of the WTO as the "rule-maker and referee" for international trade. Its main goals are to **promote free trade** by lowering barriers and to **settle disputes** peacefully when trade disagreements arise.

18. What do you understand by double counting ?**Solution:**

Double counting is an error that can occur when calculating a country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It refers to the problem of counting the value of the same good or service more than once in the national income accounts.

- **The Problem:** This error happens when the value of **intermediate goods** is included in the GDP calculation along with the value of the final good. Intermediate goods are goods used as inputs in the production of other goods.
- **Example:** Consider the production of bread. A farmer sells wheat to a miller. The miller sells flour to a baker. The baker sells bread to a consumer.
 - If we simply add the value of the wheat, the flour, and the bread, we would be counting the value of the wheat three times (once as wheat, once as part of the flour's value,

and once as part of the bread's value) and the value of the miller's service twice. This is double counting.

- **The Solution:** To avoid double counting, economists use one of two methods:
 1. **Final Goods Method:** Only the market value of the final goods and services (the bread sold to the consumer) is included in GDP.
 2. **Value Added Method:** The value added at each stage of production is summed up. (Value added = Value of output - Value of intermediate inputs). In the example, we would add the value added by the farmer, the miller, and the baker.

Quick Tip

The key to understanding double counting is "intermediate goods". To avoid this error when calculating GDP, you must **only count the value of final goods** or, alternatively, **sum up the value added at each stage**.

19. Discuss the role of infrastructure in the economic development of the country.

Solution:

Infrastructure refers to the fundamental physical and organizational structures and facilities needed for the operation of a society and its economy. It plays a pivotal role in the economic development of a country by enhancing productivity, improving the quality of life, and attracting investment.

The role of infrastructure can be discussed under two main categories:

1. **Economic Infrastructure:** This directly supports economic activity.
 - **Energy:** A reliable supply of electricity is crucial for running industries, farms, and services. Without adequate power, production comes to a halt.
 - **Transportation:** Efficient road, rail, port, and air networks are essential for moving raw materials to factories and finished goods to markets, both domestic and international. It reduces the cost of production and trade.
 - **Communication:** Telecommunication and internet services are vital for modern business operations, facilitating the flow of information, e-commerce, and financial transactions.
 - **Finance:** A well-developed banking and financial system provides the capital necessary for investment and economic growth.
2. **Social Infrastructure:** This contributes indirectly by improving human capital.
 - **Education:** Schools and colleges produce a skilled and knowledgeable workforce, which is more productive and innovative.
 - **Health:** Hospitals and healthcare facilities ensure a healthy workforce, reducing loss of workdays due to illness and increasing overall efficiency.

- **Sanitation and Water Supply:** Clean water and sanitation reduce disease, improve public health, and enhance the quality of life.

In conclusion, well-developed infrastructure is the backbone of an economy. It increases the efficiency of production, lowers the costs of business, creates employment, and makes a country an attractive destination for foreign investment, thereby driving overall economic development.

Quick Tip

When discussing the role of infrastructure, structure your answer around its two types: **Economic Infrastructure** (Energy, Transport, Communication) which acts as the 'hardware' for the economy, and **Social Infrastructure** (Health, Education) which acts as the 'software' by developing human resources. Both are essential for growth.

20. Describe the judicial system set up by the government for consumer protection.

Solution:

The government of India, under the Consumer Protection Act, has set up a three-tier quasi-judicial machinery for the speedy and inexpensive redressal of consumer disputes. This system functions at the district, state, and national levels.

The three tiers are:

1. District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (District Commission):

- **Jurisdiction:** This is the lowest level, established in each district. It entertains complaints where the value of the goods or services paid as consideration does not exceed Rs. 50 lakh (as per the 2019 Act).
- **Composition:** It consists of a President and at least two other members.
- **Appeal:** An appeal against the order of the District Commission can be made to the State Commission.

2. State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (State Commission):

- **Jurisdiction:** This is the middle tier, established in each state capital. It hears cases where the value of goods or services is more than Rs. 50 lakh but does not exceed Rs. 2 crore. It also hears appeals from the District Commissions.
- **Composition:** It consists of a President (who is or has been a High Court Judge) and at least four other members.
- **Appeal:** An appeal against the order of the State Commission can be made to the National Commission.

3. National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (National Commission):

- **Jurisdiction:** This is the apex body, located in New Delhi. It has jurisdiction over cases where the value of goods or services exceeds Rs. 2 crore. It also hears appeals from the State Commissions.

- **Composition:** It consists of a President (who is or has been a Supreme Court Judge) and at least four other members.
- **Appeal:** An appeal against the order of the National Commission can be made to the Supreme Court of India.

Quick Tip

Remember the three-tier structure and its hierarchy: **District** → **State** → **National**. The main difference between them is their pecuniary (monetary) jurisdiction. Be aware that these monetary limits were significantly changed by the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

Geography

21. What is the need for water conservation and management ?

Solution:

Water is an indispensable resource for life and development, but it is finite. The need for water conservation and management arises from several critical factors:

1. **Growing Demand:** With a rapidly increasing population, urbanization, and industrialization, the demand for water for drinking, sanitation, agriculture, and industries is rising continuously.
2. **Limited Freshwater Supply:** While the Earth is covered with water, only about 2.5% of it is freshwater. Much of this is locked in glaciers and ice caps, making the available freshwater a very small fraction of the total.
3. **Uneven Distribution:** The availability of water is highly uneven across different regions and seasons. Some areas face floods, while others suffer from severe droughts. Proper management is needed to address this disparity.
4. **Water Pollution:** The quality of available water is deteriorating due to pollution from industrial effluents, agricultural runoff (pesticides, fertilizers), and untreated domestic sewage, further reducing the amount of usable water.
5. **Depletion of Groundwater:** Over-extraction of groundwater for agriculture and urban needs is causing a rapid decline in water tables in many regions, which is unsustainable.
6. **Climate Change:** Climate change is altering rainfall patterns, leading to more extreme weather events like prolonged droughts and intense floods, which makes water management even more crucial.

In summary, conserving and managing water is essential to ensure a sustainable supply of water for present and future generations, maintain ecological balance, and support continued

economic and social development.

Quick Tip

To explain the need for water conservation, focus on the imbalance between a **growing demand** (due to population and development) and a **shrinking or threatened supply** (due to pollution, overuse, and climate change).

22. Define plantation agriculture with an example.

Solution:

Definition:

Plantation agriculture is a form of large-scale commercial farming characterized by the cultivation of a single cash crop on a vast estate or "plantation". It is a capital-intensive and labor-intensive system, primarily found in tropical and subtropical regions. The produce is mainly intended for export and industrial processing.

Key features of plantation agriculture include:

- Large farm size.
- Cultivation of a single crop (monoculture).
- High capital investment in machinery, fertilizers, and infrastructure.
- Requirement of a large number of laborers.
- Scientific methods of cultivation.
- A well-developed network of transport and communication connecting the plantation to factories and markets.

Example:

A classic example of plantation agriculture is the cultivation of **Tea**. In countries like India and Sri Lanka, tea is grown on large estates, often on hill slopes. It requires huge capital investment for setting up gardens and processing factories, and a large supply of skilled and unskilled labor for plucking the tea leaves. The final processed tea is then packaged and sold in national and international markets. Other examples include coffee, rubber, sugarcane, and bananas.

Quick Tip

When defining plantation agriculture, remember these four keywords: **Large area**, **Single crop**, **Commercial purpose** (for profit), and **Capital intensive**. Tea, coffee, and rubber are the perfect examples to cite.

23. Mention any two measures for soil conservation.

Solution:

Soil conservation refers to the methods and practices used to protect soil from erosion and degradation. Two important measures for soil conservation are:

1. Afforestation and Planting Shelter Belts:

- **Afforestation:** Planting trees on a large scale is one of the most effective ways to prevent soil erosion. The roots of trees bind the soil particles together, preventing them from being washed away by water or blown away by wind.
- **Shelter Belts:** In arid and coastal regions, planting rows of trees or shrubs (known as shelter belts or windbreaks) across the direction of the wind helps to reduce wind speed and protect the topsoil from wind erosion.

2. Contour Ploughing and Terrace Farming:

- **Contour Ploughing:** This is the practice of ploughing along the contours of a hill slope instead of up and down. The furrows act like small dams, slowing down the flow of water and preventing the formation of gullies.
- **Terrace Farming:** On steep slopes, wide steps or terraces are cut to create flat land for cultivation. This slows down the surface runoff of water, preventing soil erosion and allowing water to percolate into the soil.

Quick Tip

For soil conservation measures, think about the two main agents of erosion: wind and water. To fight wind erosion, plant trees (Afforestation, Shelter Belts). To fight water erosion on slopes, use techniques that slow down water flow (Contour Ploughing, Terrace Farming, building Check Dams).

24. What is meant by resource planning ?

Solution:

Resource planning is a strategy or technique for the judicious and systematic use of resources. It is essential for the sustainable development of a country, especially one like India which has immense diversity in the availability of resources.

The process of resource planning typically involves three main stages:

1. **Identification and Inventory of Resources:** This involves surveying, mapping, and making a qualitative and quantitative estimation of the resources across the regions of a country.
2. **Developing a Planning Structure:** This involves creating a suitable planning framework equipped with appropriate technology, skills, and institutional setup for implementing resource development plans.

3. **Matching Resource Development Plans with National Development Plans:** This involves aligning the resource development plans with the overall national development goals and objectives.

In simple terms, resource planning means deciding how to use a country's resources in the best possible way to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Quick Tip

Think of resource planning like managing your monthly pocket money. First, you **identify** how much you have (inventory). Second, you **plan** how to spend it with the tools you have (planning structure). Third, you ensure your spending aligns with your overall goals (matching with national plans).

25. What do you mean by organic minerals ?

Solution:

The term "organic minerals" is not a standard geological term. The definition of a mineral is a naturally occurring, **inorganic** solid with a definite chemical composition and a crystalline structure. Therefore, by definition, minerals are inorganic.

However, the question likely refers to minerals that are derived from organic processes or are found in association with organic matter. In this context, the term can refer to:

1. **Mineral Fuels (Fossil Fuels):** These are energy resources that are formed from the remains of ancient living organisms (plants and animals). They are organic in origin. The main examples are:
 - Coal
 - Petroleum (Crude Oil)
 - Natural Gas
2. **Biominerals:** These are minerals produced by living organisms. For example, the calcite and aragonite in seashells and corals, or the apatite in bones and teeth. While they are produced by organic processes, the resulting substances themselves are crystalline inorganic compounds.

Given the general context of geography and resources, the question most likely refers to fossil fuels like coal and petroleum, which are minerals of organic origin.

Quick Tip

While the term "organic mineral" is a contradiction, in a social studies context, it almost always refers to **fossil fuels** (coal, oil, natural gas) because they come from the remains of living things.

26. What is meant by density of population ?

Solution:

Density of population is a measurement of population concentration in a specific geographical area.

- **Definition:** It is defined as the number of persons living per unit of area. It shows the relationship between a population and the size of the area it occupies.
- **Calculation:** It is calculated by dividing the total population of a region by the total land area of that region.

$$\text{Population Density} = \frac{\text{Total Population}}{\text{Total Area}}$$

- **Unit:** It is usually expressed as the number of persons per square kilometer (persons/km²) or per square mile.
- **Significance:** Population density is a key demographic indicator. A high density may indicate pressure on resources like land, water, and social amenities, while a low density might suggest a sparse population or underutilization of resources.

Quick Tip

The key formula to remember is: **Density = Population / Area**. It's a simple way to understand how crowded or sparsely populated a place is.

27. Explain the major National waterways of India.

Solution:

National Waterways are inland water transport routes declared by the Government of India for the movement of vessels. They are crucial for promoting a cheaper and more eco-friendly mode of transportation. Some of the major National Waterways are:

1. National Waterway 1 (NW-1):

- **Route:** Runs along the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system.
- **Stretch:** Connects Prayagraj (Allahabad) in Uttar Pradesh to Haldia in West Bengal.
- **Length:** 1620 km, making it the longest National Waterway in India.

2. National Waterway 2 (NW-2):

- **Route:** Runs along the Brahmaputra River.

- **Stretch:** Connects Sadiya to Dhubri in the state of Assam.
- **Length:** 891 km.

3. National Waterway 3 (NW-3):

- **Route:** Runs along the West Coast Canal system.
- **Stretch:** Connects Kollam to Kottapuram in the state of Kerala. It also includes the Champakara and Udyogmandal canals.
- **Length:** 205 km.

4. National Waterway 4 (NW-4):

- **Route:** Connects river systems of Godavari and Krishna along with the Kakinada-Puducherry canals.
- **Stretch:** Connects Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh to Puducherry.
- **Length:** 1078 km.

Quick Tip

For exams, it's most important to remember the river and the start/end points for the first two or three waterways:

- **NW-1:** Ganga River (Prayagraj-Haldia)
- **NW-2:** Brahmaputra River (Sadiya-Dhubri)
- **NW-3:** West Coast Canal (Kollam-Kottapuram)

28. Write a note on the environmental importance of forests.

Solution:

Forests are vital ecosystems that play a crucial role in maintaining the environmental balance and supporting life on Earth. Their environmental importance is immense:

1. **Regulators of Climate:** Forests help in regulating the global and local climate. They influence rainfall patterns through transpiration and help moderate temperatures. They also act as major carbon sinks, absorbing a large amount of atmospheric carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) through photosynthesis, thereby mitigating climate change.
2. **Producers of Oxygen:** Through the process of photosynthesis, forests release vast amounts of oxygen, which is essential for the survival of most living organisms. They are often called the "lungs of the Earth."
3. **Conservation of Soil:** The root systems of trees and plants in a forest bind the soil particles together, preventing soil erosion by wind and water. The forest canopy also intercepts heavy rainfall, reducing its erosive impact on the ground.

4. **Hubs of Biodiversity:** Forests are home to a vast majority of the world's terrestrial biodiversity. They provide habitat, food, and protection to countless species of plants, animals, insects, and microorganisms.
5. **Regulation of Water Cycle:** Forests act like giant sponges. They absorb rainwater, facilitate its percolation into the ground to recharge groundwater tables, and regulate the flow of water in rivers and streams, thus helping in flood control.

Quick Tip

To remember the environmental importance of forests, think about their role in regulating the major natural cycles: they regulate the **carbon cycle** (climate), produce **oxygen**, regulate the **water cycle** (rainfall, floods), and protect the **soil cycle** (prevent erosion). Plus, they are a 'bank' of **biodiversity**.

29. Suggest measures to reduce the incidence of flood.

Solution:

Floods are a natural disaster that can be managed and their impact can be reduced through a combination of structural and non-structural measures.

Structural Measures (Engineering Solutions):

1. **Construction of Dams and Reservoirs:** Building dams on rivers helps to store excess water during heavy rainfall and release it gradually, thereby controlling the flow downstream and preventing floods.
2. **Building Embankments and Levees:** Constructing raised embankments or floodwalls along river banks can contain the river within its channel and prevent it from spilling over into adjacent floodplains.
3. **Improving River Channels:** Deepening and widening river channels (dredging) and removing obstructions can increase their water-carrying capacity.

Non-Structural Measures (Management and Ecological Solutions):

1. **Afforestation and Watershed Management:** Planting trees in the river's catchment area helps to increase water infiltration into the soil and reduces surface runoff, which is the primary cause of floods.
2. **Floodplain Zoning:** Regulating and restricting construction and development in natural floodplains allows these areas to act as natural buffers during high water levels.
3. **Flood Forecasting and Warning Systems:** Developing advanced systems to monitor rainfall and river levels can provide early warnings to people in flood-prone areas, allowing them to evacuate and take necessary precautions.
4. **Public Awareness and Education:** Educating communities about flood risks and preparedness measures can significantly reduce the loss of life and property.

Quick Tip

For flood control measures, categorize your answer into two types: **Structural** (physical constructions like dams and embankments) and **Non-structural** (policy and nature-based solutions like afforestation, floodplain zoning, and warning systems).

30. What are the factors responsible for drought ?

Solution:

Drought is a prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall, leading to a shortage of water. It is a complex phenomenon caused by a combination of natural and human-induced factors.

Natural Factors (Meteorological):

1. **Deficient Rainfall:** The primary cause is a lack of precipitation over an extended period. This can be due to delayed or failed monsoons, or shifts in large-scale weather patterns like El Niño.
2. **High Temperatures and Evaporation:** Unusually high temperatures, strong winds, and low humidity increase the rate of evaporation from soil and water bodies, and transpiration from plants, thus depleting water resources faster.
3. **Climatic Variability:** Natural climate cycles can lead to periods of below-average rainfall in certain regions.

Human-Induced Factors (Hydrological and Agricultural):

1. **Deforestation:** The large-scale cutting of forests reduces the soil's ability to hold water and disrupts the water cycle, often leading to reduced rainfall in the long term.
2. **Over-exploitation of Water Resources:** Excessive withdrawal of groundwater for irrigation and urban use leads to the depletion of aquifers. Poor management of surface water in reservoirs and canals also contributes to water scarcity.
3. **Unsustainable Agricultural Practices:** The cultivation of water-intensive crops (like sugarcane or rice) in drought-prone areas puts immense stress on water resources.
4. **Climate Change:** Human-induced global warming is altering weather patterns, making droughts more frequent and severe in many parts of the world.

Quick Tip

When explaining the causes of drought, divide them into **Natural** causes (mainly lack of rain, high temperatures) and **Human** causes (deforestation, overuse of water, climate change). This provides a clear and comprehensive structure to your answer.

31. What are the alternative communication mediums used during natural disaster?

Solution:

During natural disasters, conventional communication networks like telephone lines and mobile networks often fail due to damage to infrastructure or network congestion. In such situations, alternative communication mediums are crucial for rescue and relief operations. Some of the main alternative mediums are:

1. **Satellite Phones (Satphones):** These phones connect directly to orbiting satellites instead of terrestrial cell towers. This makes them highly reliable in disaster zones where local infrastructure is destroyed, as long as they have a clear line of sight to the sky. They are a primary tool for disaster management agencies.
2. **Amateur Radio (HAM Radio):** Operated by licensed amateur radio operators, HAM radio is a powerful and reliable mode of communication that does not depend on the internet or cellular networks. It can be used for long-distance communication and is a vital resource for coordinating relief efforts when all else fails.
3. **Radio (AM/FM/Shortwave):** Public and private radio broadcasts are essential for disseminating one-way information, warnings, and instructions to the general public over a wide area. Battery-operated radios are a lifeline for people in affected areas to receive official updates.
4. **Wireless Local Loop (WLL) and Walkie-Talkies:** For short-range communication within a specific area (like a single rescue site), walkie-talkies (hand-held transceivers) are extremely useful for coordinating teams on the ground.

Quick Tip

For alternative communication in disasters, think of technologies that don't rely on local ground infrastructure. The most important ones to remember are **Satellite Phones** (for global connectivity) and **HAM Radio** (for reliable, independent networks).

32. Which areas are more affected by earthquake and tsunami ?

Solution:

The areas most affected by earthquakes and tsunamis are directly related to the Earth's tectonic plate boundaries.

Areas More Affected by Earthquakes:

Earthquakes can occur anywhere, but they are most frequent and powerful in specific zones:

1. **Tectonic Plate Boundaries:** The vast majority of earthquakes occur along the boundaries where tectonic plates collide, separate, or slide past each other. The most famous example is the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, an area around the Pacific Ocean basin where numerous earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur. Countries like Japan, Indonesia, Chile, and the west coast of the USA are on this ring.
2. **Young Fold Mountains:** Regions with young fold mountains, like the Himalayas and the Alps, are also highly prone to earthquakes. The Himalayan region is seismically active because the Indian plate is continuously colliding with the Eurasian plate.

Areas More Affected by Tsunamis:

Tsunamis are giant sea waves most often caused by large undersea earthquakes at tectonic plate boundaries. Therefore, the areas most at risk are:

1. **Coastal Regions Bordering Subduction Zones:** Tsunamis are most common in the **Pacific Ocean** due to the numerous subduction zones in the Ring of Fire. Coastal areas of countries like **Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Chile** are highly vulnerable.
2. **Indian Ocean Coasts:** The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami demonstrated that the coastlines of countries like **Indonesia, Thailand, India, and Sri Lanka** are also at high risk from undersea earthquakes in the region.

In general, low-lying coastal areas situated near active tectonic plate boundaries under the sea are the most vulnerable to tsunamis.

Quick Tip

The key to this answer is **tectonic plate boundaries**. For earthquakes, the most affected areas are along these boundaries on land and sea (e.g., Pacific Ring of Fire, Himalayas). For tsunamis, the most affected areas are the **coasts** facing these boundaries under the sea (especially the Pacific and Indian Oceans).