CUET-UG Geography Sample Paper-5

Duration: 1 Hour **Maximum Marks: 250**

Instructions

- This paper contains a total of 50 Multiple Choice Questions.
- Each correct answer carries **+5 marks**.
- Each incorrect answer carries **-1 mark**.
- No negative marking for unattempted questions.

Q1. Which of the following demographic transition stages is characterized by a "demographic dividend" where the working-age population is significantly larger than the dependent population?

(A) Stage I

(B) Stage II

(C) Stage III

(D) Stage IV

Q2. The concept of 'Possibilism' in Human Geography, which emphasizes the role of human agency over environmental constraints, was primarily championed by which school of thought?

(A) German School

(B) French School

(C) American School

(D) British School

Q3. In the context of world population distribution, the term 'Ecumen' refers to:

(A) Areas that are permanently inhabited by humans.

(B) Areas with zero population density due to extreme climate.

(C) The ratio between the number of people and the size of land.

(D) The maximum population an ecosystem can support.

Q4. The process of 'Gentrification' in urban settlements is most commonly associated with:

(A) The expansion of slums in the periphery.

(B) The movement of low-income groups to the city center.

(C) The rehabilitation of deteriorated inner-city neighborhoods by middle-class residents.

(D) The conversion of agricultural land into industrial zones.

Q5. Among the following types of farming, which one is specifically known as 'Vanculture' or 'Truck Farming' in the regions of USA and Western Europe?

(A) Mixed Farming

(B) Mediterranean Agriculture

(C) Market Gardening

(D) Extensive Grain Cultivation

Q6. Which of the following ports is known as the 'Gateway to the East' and handles a significant portion of India's trade with South East Asian countries?

(A) Mumbai

(B) Kandla

(C) Kolkata-Haldia

(D) Vishakhapatnam

Q7. The 'Golden Quadrilateral' project, connecting the four major metros of India, is managed by which authority?

(A) Border Roads Organisation

(B) State Public Works Department

(C) National Highways Authority of India

(D) Ministry of Rural Development

Q8. Assertion (A): Mediterranean regions have a high density of population despite having rugged terrain in some parts.
Reason (R): The pleasant climate and the cultivation of citrus fruits and viticulture attract human settlement.

(A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

(B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

(C) (A) is true but (R) is false.

(D) (A) is false but (R) is true.

Q9. Which of the following is a quaternary activity?

(A) Manufacturing of semiconductors

(B) Specialized health care services

(C) Information research and development

(D) International retail trade

Q10. The 'Big Trunk Route' refers to the most busy and important international sea route in the world. It passes through:

(A) The South Atlantic Ocean

(B) The North Atlantic Ocean

(C) The Indian Ocean

(D) The North Pacific Ocean

Q11. Fill in the blank: The _____ index is used by the United Nations to measure the average achievements in a country in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, knowledge, and a decent standard of living.

(A) Gender Empowerment

(B) Human Development

(C) Multi-dimensional Poverty

(D) Happiness

Q12. Fill in the blank: In the 'Concentric Zone Model' of urban land use developed by E.W. Burgess, the innermost circle representing the heart of the city is known as the _____.

(A) Zone of Transition

(B) Commuters' Zone

(C) Central Business District

(D) Workingmen's Homes

Q13. Match the Minerals/Resources in List I with their Major Producing States in List II:

List I	Mineral/Resource	List II	Major Producing State
(i)	Copper	(1)	Odisha
(ii)	Bauxite	(2)	Rajasthan
(iii)	Iron Ore	(3)	Madhya Pradesh
(iv)	Manganese	(4)	Chhattisgarh

(A) i-2, ii-1, iii-4, iv-3

(B) i-3, ii-2, iii-1, iv-4

(C) i-2, ii-3, iii-4, iv-1

(D) i-1, ii-4, iii-2, iv-3

Q14. Which of the following indicators is NOT used to calculate the Human Poverty Index (HPI) in the context of Human Development?

(A) Probability of not surviving to age 40.

(B) Adult illiteracy rate.

(C) Percentage of people without access to clean water.

(D) Real GDP per capita.

Q15. The 'Appiko Movement' in the Western Ghats of India was primarily aimed at:

(A) Protecting wildlife from poaching.

(B) Resisting the construction of large dams.

(C) Preventing deforestation and promoting afforestation.

(D) Cleaning the polluted river systems of Karnataka.

Q16. Statement I: The Bharmaur region in Himachal Pradesh was notified as a tribal area in 1975, inhabited by the Gaddi tribal community.
Statement II: The Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) in Bharmaur successfully increased the literacy rate among females from 1.88% in 1971 to 65% in 2011.

(A) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.

(B) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect.

(C) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect.

(D) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct.

Q17. Assertion (A): High-tech industry, or the 'Technopolis', is primarily concentrated in the periphery of large metropolitan areas.
Reason (R): These industries require large spaces for research and development labs and have low dependence on proximity to raw materials.

(A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

(B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

(C) (A) is true but (R) is false.

(D) (A) is false but (R) is true.

Q18. Arrange the following states of India in descending order of their 'Human Development Index' (HDI) value as per the National Human Development

Report:
(I) Tamil Nadu
(II) Kerala
(III) Punjab
(IV) Uttar Pradesh

(A) II, I, III, IV
(B) II, III, I, IV
(C) I, II, III, IV
(D) III, II, I, IV

Q19. Fill in the blank: The _____ is the longest national highway in India, connecting Srinagar in the North to Kanyakumari in the South.

(A) National Highway 7
(B) National Highway 44
(C) National Highway 2
(D) National Highway 8

Q20. Which of the following is an example of a "Footloose Industry"?

(A) Iron and Steel Industry
(B) Sugar Industry
(C) Electronics Industry
(D) Cement Industry

Q21. The 'Indira Gandhi Canal' (Nahar) project, one of the largest canal systems in India, has significantly transformed the landscape of which district?

(A) Ganganagar
(B) Jaisalmer
(C) Bikaner
(D) All of the above

Q22. What is the primary objective of the 'Digital India' program launched by the Government of India?

(A) To provide high-speed internet in urban areas only.

(B) To transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

(C) To replace all physical currency with digital currency.

(D) To manufacture all electronic goods within India.

Q23. Which type of rural settlement is typically found in the fertile alluvial plains and the valleys of the North-East India?

(A) Dispersed settlements

(B) Clustered or Nucleated settlements

(C) Hamleted settlements

(D) Semi-clustered settlements

Q24. The 'North-South Corridor' of the National Highways Development Project connects:

(A) Srinagar and Kanyakumari

(B) Delhi and Chennai

(C) Amritsar and Kolkata

(D) Mumbai and Silchar

Q25. In the context of secondary activities, 'Agglomeration Economies' refer to:

(A) The decentralization of industries to rural areas.

(B) The benefits derived from the clustering of industries in close proximity.

(C) The process of nationalizing private industries.

(D) The competition between small-scale and large-scale industries.

Q26. Which of the following air routes is the busiest in India in terms of passenger traffic?

(A) Mumbai - Delhi

(B) Kolkata - Chennai

(C) Bangalore - Hyderabad

(D) Delhi - Bangalore

Q27. The 'National Waterway 1' (NW-1) of India extends between which of the following two cities?

(A) Sadiya and Dhubri

(B) Allahabad (Prayagraj) and Haldia

(C) Kottapuram and Kollam

(D) Talcher and Dhamra

Q28. Which of the following minerals is known as 'Brown Diamond'?

(A) Iron Ore

(B) Manganese

(C) Lignite

(D) Mica

Q29. The 'Khetri' belt in Rajasthan is famous for the mining of which mineral?

(A) Gold

(B) Copper

(C) Zinc

(D) Silver

Q30. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of 'Modern High-Tech Manufacturing'?

(A) High proportion of white-collar workers.

(B) Specialized professional workers (quinary).

(C) Reliance on vast assembly lines and huge physical labor.

(D) Use of robotics and computer-aided design.

Q31. The 'Neeranchal' National Watershed Project is supported by which international organization to assist the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana?

(A) International Monetary Fund

(B) World Bank

(C) Asian Development Bank

(D) UNESCO

Q32. Which of the following environmental problems is specifically associated with the 'Tragedy of the Commons' in the context of common property resources?

(A) Over-exploitation and lack of maintenance.

(B) Privatization of resource ownership.

(C) Increase in biodiversity.

(D) Efficient distribution of resources.

Q33. The 'New Determinism' or 'Neo-determinism' (Stop and Go Determinism) was a concept introduced by Griffith Taylor to reflect a middle path between:

(A) Socialism and Capitalism

(B) Environmental Determinism and Possibilism

(C) Rural and Urban development

(D) Primary and Secondary activities

Q34. In the context of the world's mineral distribution, the 'Katanga-Zambia' belt is world-renowned for the deposits of:

(A) Gold and Diamond

(B) Iron and Coal

(C) Copper and Cobalt

(D) Petroleum and Natural Gas

Q35. The 'Aman', 'Aus', and 'Boro' mentioned in the context of Indian agriculture refer to:

(A) Three different crops of Wheat in Punjab.

(B) Three different crops of Rice in West Bengal.

(C) Traditional irrigation methods in Rajasthan.

(D) Land revenue systems during the British era.

Q36. Which of the following is a 'pull factor' for migration?

(A) Natural disasters

(B) Political instability

(C) Better job opportunities

(D) Poor living conditions

Q37. The 'Jhabua' district of Madhya Pradesh is a notable case study for the successful implementation of:

(A) Large scale industrialization

(B) Watershed management and resource conservation

(C) Urban waste treatment plants

(D) International trade corridors

Q38. Which of the following countries has the highest rank in the Gender Inequality Index (GII) as per the latest Global trends?

(A) Switzerland

(B) India

(C) Niger

(D) Afghanistan

Q39. The 'Trans-Siberian Railway', the longest railway line in the world, connects St. Petersburg with:

(A) Moscow

(B) Vladivostok

(C) Novosibirsk

(D) Irkutsk

Q40. Which of the following pollutants is the primary cause of 'Acid Rain'?

(A) Carbon Dioxide and Nitrogen

(B) Oxides of Sulphur and Nitrogen

(C) Methane and Ozone

(D) Chlorofluorocarbons

Passage-Based Questions (41–45):

Read the following passage and answer the questions:

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only international organization dealing with the global rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The goal is to help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business. While WTO is a successor to the GATT, it covers trade in services and intellectual property as well. However, it has been criticized by developing nations for being dominated by powerful economies.

Q41. The WTO was established as the successor to which organization?

(A) IMF

(B) GATT

(C) UNCTAD

(D) World Bank

Q42. What is a primary difference between GATT and WTO as per the passage?

(A) GATT dealt only with services.

(B) WTO covers services and intellectual property.

(C) WTO is a regional body while GATT was global.

(D) There is no difference.

Q43. Where is the headquarters of the WTO located?

(A) Washington D.C.

(B) New York

(C) Geneva

(D) Paris

Q44. According to the passage, why do developing nations criticize the WTO?

(A) It prohibits international trade.

(B) It is dominated by powerful economies.

(C) It only focuses on agriculture.

(D) It has too many members.

Q45. What is the primary goal of WTO agreements?

(A) To increase taxes on imports.

(B) To help producers and traders conduct business smoothly.

(C) To provide loans to poor nations.

(D) To regulate the world's population.

Case Study Questions (46–50):

Case Study: The Ralegan Siddhi Model

Ralegan Siddhi is a village in the Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra. It is a pioneer in environmental conservation. Under the leadership of Anna Hazare, the village transformed from a drought-prone, poverty-stricken area into a model of sustainable development. The villagers carried out watershed development by building nala bunds, contour trenches, and check dams. They banned open grazing and felling of trees. This led to a rise in the water table, making agriculture profitable again.

Q46. In which district of Maharashtra is Ralegan Siddhi located?

(A) Pune

(B) Ahmednagar

(C) Nagpur

(D) Satara

Q47. What was the primary method used to increase the water table in the village?

(A) Deep sea mining

(B) Watershed development through bunds and check dams

(C) Building a large dam on the river

(D) Importing water from other states

Q48. Which social leader is associated with the transformation of Ralegan Siddhi?

(A) Medha Patkar

(B) Anna Hazare

(C) Sunderlal Bahuguna

(D) Baba Amte

Q49. What ecological restriction was placed by the villagers to protect the environment?

(A) Ban on using tractors

(B) Ban on open grazing and felling of trees

(C) Ban on all types of agriculture

(D) Ban on entering the village

Q50. What was the long-term impact of the watershed project in the village?

(A) Migration increased to cities.

(B) Agriculture became profitable due to increased water levels.

(C) The village became an industrial hub for chemicals.

(D) The soil became barren.

Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Concept:

The Demographic Transition Model (DTM) describes how populations change over time in terms of birth and death rates. As a country moves from an agrarian society to an industrial one, it passes through various stages that affect its age structure and the ratio of dependents to workers.

Solution:

(a) The question asks about the stage where the demographic dividend occurs.

(b) In Stage I and II, birth rates are very high, leading to a high child dependency ratio.

(c) In Stage III, birth rates begin to decline significantly while death rates remain low. This causes the "bulge" in the population pyramid to move into the working-age category (15-64 years).

(d) Stage IV represents a stable or declining population with an increasing elderly dependency ratio.

(e) Therefore, the demographic dividend—a period of economic growth potential resulting from shifts in a population's age structure—is characteristic of Stage III.

Final Answer: The demographic dividend occurs in Stage III.

Answer: (C)

Q2.

Solution

Concept:

In the history of geographical thought, the debate between Environmental Determinism (nature dictates human action) and Possibilism (humans have choices) is fundamental. Possibilism suggests that the environment sets certain constraints or limitations, but culture is otherwise determined by social conditions.

Solution:

(a) The German School (e.g., Ratzel) was primarily associated with Environmental Determinism.

(b) The French School, led by Paul Vidal de la Blache and Lucian Febvre, introduced the concept of Possibilism.

(c) They argued that "Nature is never more than an adviser" and that humans can choose from various possibilities offered by the physical environment.

(d) The American and British schools adopted these ideas later, but the origin and primary championship belong to the French geographers.

(e) Hence, the French School is the correct answer.

Final Answer: Possibilism was championed by the French School.

Answer: (B)

Q3.

Solution

Concept:

Population geography distinguishes between land that is suitable for human habitation and land that is not. Understanding these spatial distributions helps in analyzing density and resource pressure.

Solution:

(a) The term 'Ecumen' (or Oecumene) is derived from Greek and refers to the inhabited part of the world.

(b) It encompasses all areas where humans have made their permanent home and where they work and interact.

(c) 'Non-Ecumen' refers to the uninhabited or sparsely populated areas like high mountains, deserts, or ice caps.

(d) It is not a ratio (which would be density) or a maximum limit (which would be carrying capacity).

(e) Therefore, it refers strictly to permanently inhabited areas.

Final Answer: Ecumen refers to areas permanently inhabited by humans.

Answer: (A)

Q4.

Solution

Concept:

Urban morphology and social structure change over time. Gentrification is a specific socio-cultural phenomenon that occurs in mature cities as economic priorities and demographic preferences shift back toward the urban core.

Solution:

(a) Gentrification involves the transformation of a "working-class" or "vacant" area of the central city into a "middle-class" residential and/or commercial use.

(b) It usually results in the displacement of lower-income residents as property values and rents rise.

(c) It is a reversal of the trend of suburbanization (moving out of the city).

(d) Option (A) describes slum expansion, and (D) describes industrialization, which are different processes.

(e) Thus, the rehabilitation of inner-city neighborhoods by middle-class residents is the correct definition.

Final Answer: Gentrification is the rehabilitation of inner-city areas by middle-class residents.

Answer: (C)

Q5.

Solution

Concept:

Commercial farming types are often specialized based on market proximity and product perishability. In highly urbanized regions of the West, farming is tailored to provide fresh produce to city dwellers.

Solution:

(a) Market Gardening is specialized in the cultivation of vegetables, fruits, and flowers.

(b) It is called 'Truck Farming' because the distance that a truck can cover overnight between the farm and the market governs the location of these farms.

(c) Mixed farming involves both crops and livestock; Mediterranean agriculture is known for viticulture.

(d) Extensive grain cultivation occurs in sparsely populated areas with large landholdings.

(e) Therefore, Market Gardening is the type known as Truck Farming.

Final Answer: Market Gardening is known as Truck Farming.

Answer: (C)

Q6.

Solution

Concept:

In the study of Indian geography and transport, ports are categorized based on their location, hinterland (the area they serve), and the specific type of cargo they handle. India has a long coastline with 13 major ports and numerous non-major ports. The strategic positioning of these ports determines their role in international trade, particularly with specific global regions like Southeast Asia, Europe, or the Middle East.

Solution:

(a) The question asks for the port specifically known as the 'Gateway to the East' and its role in trade with Southeast Asia.

(b) Mumbai is located on the west coast and is the largest port of India, primarily serving as the gateway to the West (Europe, Africa, and the Middle East).

(c) Kandla is a tidal port in Gujarat, mainly developed to relieve the pressure on Mumbai and handle petroleum and textile trade.

(d) Vishakhapatnam is a deep, land-locked, and protected port on the east coast, known for exporting iron ore to Japan.

(e) The Kolkata-Haldia port complex is located on the eastern coast in West Bengal. Kolkata is a riverine port situated on the Hugli River. Historically and economically, it has served as the primary trade link between India and the East, including Southeast Asia and China. Due to its location and historical significance in opening trade routes to the eastern markets, it is referred to as the 'Gateway to the East'.

Final Answer: The Kolkata-Haldia port is known as the 'Gateway to the East'.

Answer: (C)

Q7.

Solution

Concept:

Infrastructure development in India is divided among various bodies. The National Highways (NH) are the primary road networks connecting states and major cities. Large-scale expressway and highway projects require specialized management to ensure design standards, funding, and maintenance are met across state borders.

Solution:

(a) The Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) is a massive highway network connecting the four major metropolitan cities of India: Delhi (North), Mumbai (West), Chennai (South), and Kolkata (East).

(b) The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads in the border areas and the North and North-Eastern states, primarily for defense and strategic purposes.

(c) State Public Works Departments (PWD) manage the State Highways and district roads within a specific state.

(d) The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), established by an Act of Parliament in 1988, is the nodal agency under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

(e) The NHAI was specifically entrusted with the implementation of the National Highways Development Project (NHDP), which includes the Golden Quadrilateral and the North-South and East-West Corridors.

Final Answer: The project is managed by the National Highways Authority of India.

Answer: (C)

Q8.

Solution

Concept:

This question focuses on the relationship between environmental factors and human settlement patterns. It tests the ability to analyze whether a physical environment (terrain) is the dominant factor or if other geographic variables (climate, agriculture, economy) can override physical constraints to create high population density.

Solution:

(a) Assertion (A) states that Mediterranean regions have high population density despite rugged terrain. This is a factually correct geographical observation. Regions around the Mediterranean Sea, parts of California, and parts of Chile are well-populated.

(b) Reason (R) mentions the pleasant climate and specialized agriculture (citrus fruits/viticulture). The Mediterranean climate (Csa/Csb) is characterized by mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers.

(c) This climate is highly favorable for human comfort and for the growth of unique crops like grapes, olives, and oranges, which are high-value commercial products.

(d) Because these economic and climatic benefits are so strong, they attract large numbers of people to settle there, effectively "overcoming" the limitations posed by the hilly or rugged terrain of the region.

(e) Since the reason explains *why* the high density exists despite the physical challenge mentioned in the assertion, both are true and (R) is the correct explanation.

Final Answer: Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

Answer: (A)

Q9.

Solution

Concept:

Economic activities are classified into primary (extraction), secondary (manufacturing), tertiary (services), and quaternary/quinary (knowledge-based). Quaternary activities are the "knowledge sector" which focuses on information processing, research, and specialized intellectual services.

Solution:

(a) Manufacturing of semiconductors involves the physical production and assembly of goods, which places it firmly in the Secondary sector.

(b) Retail trade, including international retail, is a service that moves goods from producers to consumers, which is a Tertiary activity.

(c) Specialized health care services (like surgery or advanced diagnostics) are often classified as tertiary, though some very high-level consultation falls into quinary.

(d) Quaternary activities involve the collection, production, and dissemination of information. This includes research and development (RD), financial planning, tax consultancy, and software development.

(e) Information research and development is a classic example of a quaternary activity because it relies on high-level intellectual skills and the creation of new knowledge rather than just providing a standard service.

Final Answer: Information research and development is a quaternary activity.

Answer: (C)

Q10.

Solution

Concept:

World sea routes are the lifelines of international trade. Their importance is measured by the volume of cargo and the value of goods transported. These routes connect major industrial and consumer markets across different continents.

Solution:

(a) The North Pacific route connects the East Coast of Asia (Japan, China) with the West Coast of North America. While busy, it is not the most important in terms of historical volume.

(b) The Indian Ocean route serves the oil-rich Middle East but is often a transit route between other oceans.

(c) The 'Big Trunk Route' is the name given to the North Atlantic Sea Route.

(d) This route connects the two most industrially developed regions of the world: North-Eastern USA/Eastern Canada and North-Western Europe.

(e) Because these two regions are major producers and consumers of manufactured goods and have extremely well-developed port infrastructures, the North Atlantic route handles nearly one-fourth of the world's foreign trade. Its nickname 'Big Trunk Route' signifies its status as the main artery of global shipping.

Final Answer: The route passes through the North Atlantic Ocean.

Answer: (B)

Q11.

Solution

Concept:

Human development is a process of enlarging people's choices. The most well-known measure of this is the index developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which shifted the focus of development from purely economic growth (GDP) to a more holistic view of human well-being. This index evaluates long-term progress in three essential dimensions of human life.

Solution:

(a) The question describes a specific index used by the UN to measure achievement in health, knowledge, and standard of living.

(b) The Gender Empowerment Measure focuses specifically on the participation of women in economic and political life.

(c) The Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) measures acute poverty by looking at several deprivations at the household level, rather than average national achievements.

(d) The Human Development Index (HDI) is the specific composite statistic used to rank countries by their level of human development.

(e) It uses three indicators: Life expectancy at birth (Health), Mean and Expected years of schooling (Knowledge), and GNI per capita at PPP (Standard of Living).

(f) Since its introduction in 1990 by Mahbub ul Haq and Amartya Sen, it has become the gold standard for comparing national performance.

Final Answer: The Human Development Index is the correct measure described.

Answer: (B)

Q12.

Solution

Concept:

Urban models describe the internal social and physical structure of cities. In 1923, sociologist Ernest Burgess proposed the Concentric Zone Model, based on his observations of Chicago. This model suggests that a city grows outward from a central point in a series of rings, each representing a different land-use function or socio-economic group.

Solution:

(a) The Concentric Zone Model consists of five distinct circles or zones.

(b) The "Zone of Transition" is the second ring, usually characterized by light manufacture and deteriorating housing.

(c) The "Workingmen's Homes" (Zone 3) and "Commuters' Zone" (Zone 5) are outer residential rings.

(d) The core of the city, located at the very center (Zone 1), is the Central Business District (CBD).

(e) This area is the focus of commercial, social, and civic life, as well as the hub of the transport network.

(f) It has the highest land values and the highest density of non-residential buildings like offices, department stores, and banks. In Burgess's diagram, this is the starting point of all urban expansion.

Final Answer: The innermost circle is known as the Central Business District.

Answer: (C)

Q13.

Solution

Concept:

The distribution of minerals in India is highly uneven and generally follows the geological structure of the country. Understanding the "mining belts" of India is crucial for identifying which states dominate the production of specific metallic and non-metallic minerals. This question requires matching specific industrial resources with their primary geographic heartlands.

Solution:

(a) Copper: In India, copper deposits are limited. The major producing regions are Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh (which produces about 52 percent of India's copper), the Khetri belt in Rajasthan, and Singhbhum in Jharkhand.

(b) Bauxite: This is the ore used to produce aluminum. Odisha is the largest bauxite-producing state in India, with the Panchpatmali deposits in Koraput district being particularly significant.

(c) Iron Ore: India is rich in high-grade iron ore. The major belts include the Odisha-Jharkhand belt and the Durg-Bastar-Chandrapur belt. Chhattisgarh (specifically the Bailadila mines) is a top producer of high-quality hematite.

(d) Manganese: Used mainly in the manufacture of steel and ferromanganese alloy. While Odisha is a leading producer, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra also contribute significantly to the total output.

(e) Matching these: Copper (Madhya Pradesh - I-c), Bauxite (Odisha - II-a), Iron Ore (Chhattisgarh - III-d), and Manganese (Rajasthan is not the primary lead here, but based on the provided list options, the closest logical fit for the remaining pairs is I-b, II-a, III-d, IV-c). Note: Rajasthan leads in Copper, so I-b is the strongest match.

Final Answer: The correct match is I-b, II-a, III-d, IV-c.

Answer: (A)

Q14.

Solution

Concept:

While the Human Development Index (HDI) measures achievements, the Human Poverty Index (HPI) measures the "shortfall" or deprivations in human development. It was introduced by the UNDP to provide a more nuanced view of poverty than just income-based metrics. It looks at the same three dimensions as the HDI but from the perspective of what is "missing."

Solution:

(a) The dimension of longevity is measured in the HPI by the probability of not surviving to age 40.

(b) The dimension of knowledge is measured by the adult illiteracy rate, representing the percentage of people excluded from the world of reading and communication.

(c) The dimension of a decent standard of living is measured by a combination of two variables: the percentage of people without access to safe water and the percentage of underweight children.

(d) Real GDP per capita is an indicator used in the calculation of the **Human Development Index (HDI)** to measure the standard of living through purchasing power.

(e) Because the HPI is a non-income measure designed to highlight deprivation rather than average economic capacity, GDP per capita is deliberately excluded from its calculation.

Final Answer: Real GDP per capita is NOT used to calculate the HPI.

Answer: (D)

Q15.

Solution

Concept:

Environmental movements in India often arise from the direct dependence of rural communities on natural resources. These movements combine ecological concerns with social justice. The 'Appiko' movement is a famous example of grassroots environmentalism in Southern India, inspired by similar movements in the North.

Solution:

(a) The word 'Appiko' in the Kannada language means "to hug."

(b) This movement was launched in September 1983 by the villagers of Western Ghats in the Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka.

(c) It was deeply inspired by the 'Chipko Movement' of the Himalayas led by Sunderlal Bahuguna.

(d) The primary objective was to protest against the commercial felling of trees and the conversion of natural mixed forests into monoculture plantations (like teak or eucalyptus).

(e) The activists used the technique of hugging trees to prevent them from being cut down by contractors.

(f) It also focused on 'Gubbi' (afforestation on denuded lands) and 'Balake' (rational use of forest produce). Therefore, it was centered on preventing deforestation and promoting sustainable forest management.

Final Answer: The Appiko Movement aimed at preventing deforestation and promoting afforestation.

Answer: (C)

Q16.

Solution

Concept:

Regional planning and development in India often focus on "backward areas" or "tribal areas" to reduce regional disparities. The Bharmaur tribal area case study is a classic example of how targeted government intervention (the ITDP) can lead to socio-economic transformation in harsh geographical conditions.

Solution:

(a) Statement I: The Bharmaur region, located in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh, was indeed notified as a tribal area in 1975. It is primarily inhabited by the 'Gaddis', a transhumant tribal community that practices pastoralism. This statement is factually accurate.

(b) Statement II: The Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) was launched to improve the infrastructure and quality of life in this region. One of its most significant achievements was in education.

(c) Historically, literacy rates in tribal areas were extremely low. In 1971, the female literacy rate was a dismal 1.88

(d) This reflects a successful policy outcome in a challenging mountainous terrain.

(e) Since both specific data points and the historical context are correct, both statements are true.

Final Answer: Both Statement I and Statement II are correct.

Answer: (A)

Q17.

Solution

Concept:

Modern industrial geography emphasizes that high-tech industries have different locational requirements than traditional heavy industries. These "technopolies" prioritize human capital, connectivity, and research environment over physical proximity to weight-losing raw materials.

Solution:

(a) Assertion (A) states that Technopolies (high-tech industrial clusters) are often found in the periphery of large cities. This is true because the core of major cities is often too congested and expensive for the large, planned campus-style layouts required by modern tech parks.

(b) Silicon Valley (California) and Silicon Plateau (Bangalore) are examples of clusters located on the outskirts or specialized corridors.

(c) Reason (R) provides the logic: High-tech manufacturing is the result of intensive research and development (RD). These industries are "footloose" to an extent because they do not depend on heavy minerals; instead, they depend on "brainpower" and clean environments.

(d) Large spaces are needed for laboratory setups, testing grounds, and the lifestyle amenities required to attract highly skilled professionals.

(e) Because the spatial requirements and the independence from raw material sites drive them to the more spacious peripheral urban areas, (R) correctly explains (A).

Final Answer: Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

Answer: (A)

Q18.

Solution

Concept:

The Human Development Index (HDI) at the state level in India reflects the uneven nature of development. It is a composite of health, education, and economic indicators. In the Indian context, there is a clear distinction between the high-performing southern/northern states and the central/eastern states.

Solution:

(a) The question requires arranging Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh in descending order (highest to lowest).

(b) Kerala (II) consistently ranks first in India across all human development parameters, specifically due to its near 100

(c) Tamil Nadu (I) has made significant strides in social security and health, placing it high in the rankings, often just behind Kerala or Himachal Pradesh.

(d) Punjab (III) has a high economic standard due to the Green Revolution, but its social indicators (like gender ratio or literacy growth) lag slightly behind the top southern states.

(e) Uttar Pradesh (IV) has a very large population and historically lower indicators in literacy and per capita income, placing it much lower on the national index.

(f) The descending order is: Kerala (II) > Tamil Nadu (I) > Punjab (III) > Uttar Pradesh (IV).

Final Answer: The correct sequence is II, I, III, IV.

Answer: (A)

Q19.

Solution

Concept:

The National Highway (NH) system is the backbone of India's road transport. Over the last decade, the numbering system of national highways was re-organized for better logic (e.g., even numbers for North-South and odd for East-West). This question tests knowledge of the primary North-South artery of the country.

Solution:

(a) Historically, National Highway 7 (Varanasi to Kanyakumari) was the longest highway in India.

(b) However, following the re-numbering and the expansion of the National Highways Development Project (NHDP), several highways were merged.

(c) The new National Highway 44 (NH 44) was created by merging several older highways (NH 1A, NH 1, NH 2, NH 3, NH 75, NH 7, etc.).

(d) It now runs for approximately 3,745 km, starting from Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir and ending at Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu.

(e) It passes through various states including Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka.

(f) Therefore, in the current system, NH 44 is the correct answer for the longest highway connecting the two extremities of the country.

Final Answer: The longest national highway is National Highway 44.

Answer: (B)

Q20.

Solution

Concept:

The location of industries is traditionally determined by factors like proximity to raw materials, power, and market. However, certain modern industries are less constrained by these traditional factors. These are called "Footloose Industries."

Solution:

(a) Iron and Steel (A) is a weight-losing industry; it must be located near coal and iron ore mines because the raw materials are heavy and lose weight during production.

(b) Sugar (B) is also weight-losing and the raw material (sugarcane) is perishable, so it must be near the fields.

(c) Cement (D) requires heavy limestone and coal, making it resource-dependent.

(d) Footloose industries, such as the Electronics Industry (C) or software, do not depend on any specific raw material that is weight-losing or bulky.

(e) They produce small, high-value components where the cost of transporting the raw material or the finished product is a negligible part of the total cost.

(f) Their primary requirements are a skilled workforce, good transport connectivity, and access to a market. Because they can be "planted" anywhere with infrastructure, they are termed 'Footloose'.

Final Answer: The Electronics Industry is a footloose industry.

Answer: (C)

Q21.

Solution

Concept:

Large-scale irrigation projects in arid regions are designed to provide water for agriculture and domestic use, thereby transforming the local ecology and economy. The Indira Gandhi Canal, originally known as the Rajasthan Canal, is one of the most ambitious irrigation projects in India, aimed at "greening" the Thar Desert.

Solution:

(a) The Indira Gandhi Canal project takes its water from the Harike Barrage at the confluence of the Satluj and Beas rivers in Punjab.

(b) It runs through the northwestern part of Rajasthan, specifically targeting the desert districts where water scarcity was a major hurdle for survival.

(c) Ganganagar (A) was the first to benefit, witnessing a revolutionary change in crop patterns with the introduction of wheat and mustard.

(d) Bikaner (C) and Jaisalmer (B) followed in later stages (Stage II), where the canal provided water for drinking and irrigation in the heart of the desert.

(e) This project has led to an increase in the cultivated area, higher crop yields, and the development of livestock rearing. It has also helped in the control of desertification through massive afforestation and pasture development.

(f) Since the canal network spans and impacts all these arid districts of Rajasthan, "All of the above" is the correct choice.

Final Answer: The canal transformed Ganganagar, Jaisalmer, and Bikaner.

Answer: (D)

Q22.

Solution

Concept:

In the 21st century, the Government of India has focused on leveraging technology to improve governance and bridge the digital divide. This involves not just providing internet, but ensuring that citizens can access government services electronically, thus promoting transparency and efficiency.

Solution:

(a) The 'Digital India' program was launched in 2015 as a flagship program of the Government of India.

(b) While high-speed internet (A) is a component (Digital Infrastructure as a Utility), it is not restricted to urban areas; the goal is to reach every Gram Panchayat.

(c) Replacing physical currency (C) is a goal of the "Digital India" vision regarding a "Cashless Economy," but it is a subset of the broader mission.

(d) The overarching vision is to transform India into a "digitally empowered society and knowledge economy."

(e) This is built on three key vision areas: Infrastructure as a utility to every citizen, Governance and services on demand, and Digital empowerment of citizens.

(f) By integrating various government departments and the people, the program aims to ensure that government services are available to citizens electronically, reducing the need for physical paperwork and face-to-face interaction.

Final Answer: The objective is to transform India into a digitally empowered society.

Answer: (B)

Q23.

Solution

Concept:

Rural settlements are classified based on their shape, size, and the way the houses are spaced. The physical environment (relief, climate, water availability) and social factors (defense, caste) dictate whether people live close together or far apart.

Solution:

(a) Clustered or Nucleated settlements are those where houses are built very close to each other, forming a compact unit.

(b) These are common in fertile areas where the land can support a high density of people and where people need to live together for social or security reasons.

(c) In the fertile alluvial plains of Northern India (the Ganga plains) and the river valleys of North-East India (like the Brahmaputra valley), the productivity of the soil allows for large, compact villages.

(d) Dispersed settlements (A) are found in high hills or deserts where resources are scattered.

(e) Hamleted settlements (C) are fragmented units known by names like Panna or Para, often found in the lower Ganga plains or Chhattisgarh.

(f) Semi-clustered settlements (D) result from the segregation of a large village due to social factors.

(g) Therefore, the characteristic settlement of fertile plains is the Clustered type.

Final Answer: Clustered or Nucleated settlements are typical of fertile alluvial plains.

Answer: (B)

Q24.

Solution

Concept:

The National Highways Development Project (NHDP) was conceived to provide high-speed road connectivity across the length and breadth of India. The project consists of several phases, including the Golden Quadrilateral and two major corridors that intersect at a central point (Jhansi).

Solution:

(a) The North-South and East-West Corridors are designed to link the extreme points of the country with four-to-six lane highways.

(b) The 'East-West Corridor' connects Silchar in Assam to Porbandar in Gujarat.

(c) The 'North-South Corridor' is the longitudinal artery of the country.

(d) It connects Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir (North) to Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu (South).

(e) This corridor spans a distance of approximately 4,000 km and is essential for moving goods from the agricultural North to the industrial and consumption centers of the South.

(f) Option (B) and (C) refer to specific sections of the Golden Quadrilateral or older highway routes, while (D) mixes an EW point (Silchar) with a West coast point (Mumbai).

Final Answer: The North-South Corridor connects Srinagar and Kanyakumari.

Answer: (A)

Q25.

Solution

Concept:

Agglomeration is a key concept in industrial and urban geography. It explains why industries tend to "huddle" together in specific geographic locations, even when they are not directly related by the same production process.

Solution:

(a) 'Agglomeration Economies' refer to the cost savings and efficiencies that firms realize by being located near other firms and infrastructure.

(b) When industries cluster together, they can share common specialized services such as transport, financial institutions, skilled labor pools, and maintenance services.

(c) For example, a small electronics firm benefits from being near a large assembly plant because the transport infrastructure is already developed and there is a ready supply of specialized technicians in the area.

(d) This clustering also fosters innovation through the "spillover" of knowledge between different companies.

(e) This is the opposite of decentralization (A) and has nothing to do with nationalization (C).

(f) Therefore, the term specifically refers to the external benefits derived from the spatial clustering of industries.

Final Answer: Agglomeration Economies refer to benefits from the clustering of industries.

Answer: (B)

Q26.

Solution

Concept:

Air transport is the fastest and most expensive mode of transport, catering primarily to high-value cargo and long-distance passenger travel. In a vast country like India, air connectivity is crucial for economic integration. The intensity of passenger traffic on specific routes reflects the economic and administrative importance of the connected urban centers.

Solution:

(a) Passenger traffic in India is heavily concentrated between major metropolitan hubs, often referred to as the "Golden Quadrilateral" of the skies.

(b) The route between Mumbai (the financial capital) and Delhi (the national capital) is historically and consistently the busiest air route in India.

(c) These two cities are the primary drivers of India's corporate, political, and commercial activities.

(d) The high frequency of flights (often every 15 to 30 minutes during peak hours) is necessitated by the massive movement of business professionals, government officials, and tourists.

(e) While routes like Bangalore-Delhi and Bangalore-Mumbai have seen exponential growth due to the IT sector, they still trail behind the massive volume handled by the Mumbai-Delhi sector.

(f) This route is not only the busiest in India but also ranks among the busiest domestic air routes globally in terms of annual seat capacity.

Final Answer: The Mumbai - Delhi route is the busiest air route in India.

Answer: (A)

Q27.

Solution

Concept:

Inland waterways are a fuel-efficient and environment-friendly mode of transport. To promote this, the Government of India has declared several waterways as "National Waterways" (NW). National Waterway 1 is the most significant of these, passing through the most densely populated heartland of the country.

Solution:

(a) National Waterway 1 (NW-1) was the first waterway to be declared in 1986.

(b) It utilizes the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system.

(c) The waterway extends from Allahabad (now Prayagraj) in Uttar Pradesh to Haldia in West Bengal, covering a total distance of 1,620 km.

(d) It is divided into three parts for developmental purposes: Haldia to Farakka, Farakka to Patna, and Patna to Allahabad.

(e) This route is vital for the movement of heavy cargo like coal, fertilizers, and food grains across the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.

(f) Other options refer to NW-2 (Sadiya-Dhubri on the Brahmaputra), NW-3 (Kottapuram-Kollam), and NW-5 (Talcher-Dhamra).

Final Answer: NW-1 extends between Allahabad (Prayagraj) and Haldia.

Answer: (B)

Q28.

Solution

Concept:

Coal is a vital source of energy and a primary raw material for various industries. It is classified into four types—Anthracite, Bituminous, Lignite, and Peat—based on carbon content and the degree of compression during formation. Each type has distinct physical characteristics and commercial names.

Solution:

(a) Anthracite is the highest quality coal with over 80

(b) Bituminous coal is the most widely used variety, especially in smelting iron.

(c) Lignite is a lower-grade coal that is brown in color, soft, and has a high moisture content.

(d) Because of its distinct brownish hue and its lower energy density compared to black coal, Lignite is popularly known as the 'Brown Diamond'.

(e) In India, the principal deposits of lignite are found in Neyveli in Tamil Nadu. It is primarily used for the generation of electricity in thermal power plants.

(f) Manganese and Mica are metallic and non-metallic minerals, respectively, and are not categorized by the "diamond" nomenclature associated with carbon-based fuels.

Final Answer: Lignite is known as 'Brown Diamond'.

Answer: (C)

Q29.

Solution

Concept:

Copper is an indispensable metal in the electrical industry due to its high ductility and excellent conductivity of electricity. India is critically deficient in the reserve and production of copper. Therefore, the few operational mining belts that exist are of immense strategic and economic importance.

Solution:

(a) The Khetri belt is located in the Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan.

(b) It is the most famous copper-producing region in India and has been a source of copper since ancient times (evidence found in Indus Valley Civilization sites).

(c) The mines in this belt are managed by the public sector undertaking, Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL).

(d) Rajasthan, along with Madhya Pradesh (Balaghat) and Jharkhand (Singhbhum), accounts for the bulk of copper production in India.

(e) While Rajasthan produces other minerals like Zinc and Silver (notably in the Zawar mines), the specific fame of the Khetri belt is tied exclusively to its copper deposits.

(f) Developing these mines is crucial to reducing India's dependence on copper imports from countries like Chile and Zambia.

Final Answer: The Khetri belt is famous for the mining of Copper.

Answer: (B)

Q30.

Solution

Concept:

Modern high-tech manufacturing, often referred to as "High-Tech," represents the latest stage of industrial development. It differs significantly from the traditional "smoke-stack" industries of the Industrial Revolution, which relied on massive physical infrastructure and manual labor.

Solution:

(a) Modern high-tech industries are characterized by the application of intensive Research and Development (RD).

(b) They employ a high proportion of "white-collar" workers (highly skilled professionals) compared to "blue-collar" workers (manual laborers).

(c) These industries utilize advanced technologies such as robotics on the assembly line, Computer-Aided Design (CAD), and electronic controls.

(d) The physical environment of these industries consists of clean, modern, low-rise office-and-lab buildings rather than huge, polluting factories.

(e) Therefore, reliance on "vast assembly lines and huge physical labor" (C) is a characteristic of traditional heavy manufacturing (like old automobile or steel plants), not modern high-tech manufacturing.

(f) In high-tech sectors, the "assembly" is often automated or handled by precision machines, with humans serving as supervisors or designers.

Final Answer: Reliance on huge physical labor is NOT a characteristic of high-tech manufacturing.

Answer: (C)

Q31.

Solution

Concept:

Watershed management is a holistic approach to managing water resources in a specific geographical area to ensure sustainability. In India, several schemes are integrated under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) to improve rural productivity through water harvesting and soil moisture conservation.

Solution:

(a) The 'Neeranchal' National Watershed Project was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development to provide technical and financial assistance to the Watershed Development component of PMKSY.

(b) Large-scale infrastructure and development projects in India often receive technical guidance and funding from global financial institutions to ensure international standards of implementation.

(c) The Neeranchal project is specifically supported by the World Bank.

(d) The goal of this collaboration is to improve incremental productivity of water, enhance livelihoods for farmers, and ensure better outcomes for the Integrated Watershed Management Program (IWMP).

(e) This partnership helps in bringing global best practices in hydrology and community-led water management to Indian villages.

Final Answer: The project is supported by the World Bank.

Answer: (B)

Q32.

Solution

Concept:

Common Property Resources (CPRs) are resources accessible to all members of a community, such as village pastures, community forests, or public water bodies. The 'Tragedy of the Commons' is an economic theory that describes a situation where individual users, acting independently according to their own self-interest, behave contrary to the common good of all users.

Solution:

(a) Because CPRs belong to everyone, often no single individual feels responsible for their maintenance or replenishment.

(b) The "Tragedy" occurs when individuals over-exploit the resource (e.g., overgrazing on a common pasture) to maximize their own benefit.

(c) This leads to the rapid depletion and degradation of the resource because the collective cost of exploitation is shared by all, while the benefit is reaped by the individual.

(d) Common issues associated with this are over-exploitation, lack of maintenance, and the eventual collapse of the resource's productivity.

(e) Privatization (B) is often suggested as a solution to this tragedy, not the problem itself.

Final Answer: The problem is over-exploitation and lack of maintenance.

Answer: (A)

Q33.

Solution

Concept:

In the evolution of geographical thought, the extreme views of 'Environmental Determinism' (Nature dominates man) and 'Possibilism' (Man dominates nature) created a theoretical divide. To bridge this, a middle-path concept was introduced that acknowledged both human choice and natural constraints.

Solution:

(a) Griffith Taylor, an Australian geographer, introduced the concept of 'Neo-determinism' or 'Stop and Go Determinism'.

(b) He used the analogy of a traffic controller: just as a traffic signal can accelerate, slow down, or stop the flow of traffic but not change its final destination, nature acts as a "stop and go" signal for human development.

(c) This concept suggests that humans can conquer nature by obeying it; we have choices (possibilities) but only within the limits set by the environment.

(d) If humans ignore the "red light" of nature (e.g., over-exploiting fragile ecosystems), it leads to environmental disasters.

(e) Therefore, it is a middle path between the rigidity of Determinism and the absolute freedom of Possibilism.

Final Answer: It is a middle path between Environmental Determinism and Possibilism.

Answer: (B)

Q34.

Solution

Concept:

The global distribution of minerals is concentrated in specific "belts" based on geological formations. The African continent is exceptionally rich in metallic minerals, and the Central African region contains one of the world's most significant mineralized zones.

Solution:

(a) The 'Katanga' region in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the adjacent 'Copperbelt' in Zambia form a continuous geological unit.

(b) This belt is historically and economically famous for its massive deposits of high-grade copper.

(c) Along with copper, this region is also the world's primary source of Cobalt, which is essential for modern battery technology (EVs).

(d) While Africa is known for gold and diamonds (South Africa/Ghana), the specific Katanga-Zambia corridor is defined by its Copper-Cobalt output.

(e) The mining activities in this belt have significant implications for global trade and the economy of Central African nations.

Final Answer: The belt is renowned for Copper and Cobalt.

Answer: (C)

Q35.

Solution

Concept:

Agricultural patterns in India are often influenced by the climatic cycles of specific states. In regions with abundant water and favorable temperatures throughout the year, like the eastern coastal plains, farmers can grow multiple crops of the same staple food in a single agricultural year.

Solution:

(a) Rice is the staple crop of West Bengal, which is the leading producer of rice in India.

(b) Due to the presence of fertile alluvial soil and the availability of water from the monsoon and irrigation, West Bengal has three distinct rice-growing seasons.

(c) 'Aus' is the autumn rice, 'Aman' is the winter rice (the most important crop), and 'Boro' is the summer rice.

(d) This triple-cropping system allows the state to maintain a high output and ensures food security for its high population density.

(e) These terms are specific to the rice varieties and their sowing/harvesting periods in this particular geographical region.

Final Answer: These refer to three different crops of Rice in West Bengal.

Answer: (B)

Q36.

Solution

Concept:

Migration is the movement of people from one place to another, driven by a complex interplay of various social, economic, and political factors. Geographers classify these factors into two categories: 'Push Factors', which force people to leave their place of origin due to unfavorable conditions, and 'Pull Factors', which attract people to a new destination because of perceived advantages or better prospects.

Solution:

(a) A 'Pull Factor' is essentially a positive attribute of a destination that motivates an individual to move there voluntarily.

(b) Natural disasters (A), such as floods, droughts, or earthquakes, are classic 'Push Factors' because they make the place of origin unlivable.

(c) Political instability or civil war (B) creates an atmosphere of fear and lack of safety, pushing residents to seek asylum elsewhere.

(d) Poor living conditions (D), including lack of healthcare, education, or sanitation, act as deterrents at the place of origin.

(e) Better job opportunities (C) in urban areas or developed nations act as a magnet for migrants seeking a higher standard of living and economic security.

(f) In the context of India, the "Rural to Urban" migration stream is predominantly driven by the 'Pull' of employment in secondary and tertiary sectors in cities like Mumbai, Delhi, and Bangalore. People are drawn to these hubs by the promise of regular wages and a more modern lifestyle.

Final Answer: Better job opportunities are a primary pull factor for migration.

Answer: (C)

Q37.

Solution

Concept:

Watershed management involves the conservation, regeneration, and judicious use of all resources—natural (like land, water, plants, and animals) and human—within a watershed. It aims to bring about an ecological balance between natural resources on one hand and society on the other. Jhabua serves as a significant example of how community participation can reverse land degradation.

Solution:

(a) Jhabua is a district in Madhya Pradesh characterized by a high tribal population and historically high rates of environmental degradation due to deforestation and soil erosion.

(b) The region suffered from severe water scarcity and poverty until the implementation of integrated watershed management programs by the state government and NGOs.

(c) Through the construction of small structures like check dams, contour trenches, and stone bunds, the community managed to harvest rainwater and increase the soil moisture content.

(d) This process is called "Resource Conservation" because it focuses on preventing the loss of topsoil and retaining water within the local ecosystem.

(e) The success of Jhabua is often cited in NCERT textbooks as a "success story" where the community reclaimed their common property resources, leading to the greening of previously barren hillslopes.

(f) Therefore, it is a notable case study for watershed management and resource conservation, not for large-scale industrialization or international trade.

Final Answer: Jhabua is a case study for watershed management and resource conservation.

Answer: (B)

Q38.

Solution

Concept:

The Gender Inequality Index (GII) was introduced by the UNDP to measure the loss in potential human development due to disparity between female and male achievements. It looks at three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment (parliamentary seats and education), and labor market participation. A higher GII value indicates higher inequality, while a lower value indicates better gender parity.

Solution:

(a) The question asks for the country with the highest "rank" (meaning the best performance or lowest inequality) in the current global trend.

(b) Countries like Niger (C) and Afghanistan (D) historically have very high GII values, meaning women face significant barriers to health and empowerment in these regions.

(c) India (B) has shown improvement over the years but still faces challenges in labor force participation and reproductive health compared to developed nations.

(d) Switzerland (A) consistently ranks at the top of the Human Development Index and the Gender Inequality Index. It has very low maternal mortality, high female representation in its legislative bodies, and high educational attainment for women.

(e) In the 2022-23 UNDP reports, Switzerland was identified as having one of the lowest GII scores globally (0.011), making it the most gender-equal nation among the given options.

(f) Therefore, in a global ranking of gender equality, Switzerland occupies the top position.

Final Answer: Switzerland has the highest rank (lowest inequality) among the options.

Answer: (A)

Q39.

Solution

Concept:

Trans-continental railways are the most important means of long-distance transport across a continent. They facilitate the movement of passengers and heavy freight between distant regions. The Trans-Siberian Railway is the most famous example, playing a vital role in integrating the vast Russian territory from the Atlantic coast in the West to the Pacific coast in the East.

Solution:

(a) The Trans-Siberian Railway is the longest double-tracked and electrified trans-continental railway in the world, covering a distance of approximately 9,289 km.

(b) It begins at St. Petersburg (the European gateway of Russia) in the west.

(c) It passes through major administrative and industrial centers such as Moscow, Novosibirsk (the largest city in Siberia), Irkutsk (near Lake Baikal), and Chita.

(d) The eastern terminus of this railway line is Vladivostok, which is a major Russian port on the Pacific Ocean.

(e) This railway line was built between 1891 and 1916 to open up the resource-rich Siberian region for settlement and industrialization.

(f) It serves as a vital trade link between Europe and Asia, allowing for the transport of timber, coal, and manufactured goods across two continents.

Final Answer: The railway connects St. Petersburg with Vladivostok.

Answer: (B)

Q40.

Solution

Concept:

Acid rain is a broad term that includes any form of precipitation with acidic components, such as sulfuric or nitric acid that fall to the ground from the atmosphere. This environmental phenomenon occurs when certain gases are released into the atmosphere, react with water molecules and oxygen, and form acidic compounds.

Solution:

(a) The primary pollutants responsible for the formation of acid rain are Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2) and Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x).

(b) These gases are largely emitted from human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels in coal-fired power plants, factories, and motor vehicles.

(c) When these oxides are released into the air, they undergo chemical reactions to form sulfuric acid and nitric acid.

(d) These acids then mix with rainwater, snow, or fog. While normal rainwater has a pH of about 5.6, acid rain typically has a pH between 4.2 and 4.4.

(e) Acid rain has devastating effects on the environment: it leaches nutrients from the soil, damages forests, kills aquatic life in lakes and streams, and corrodes historical monuments made of limestone or marble (like the Taj Mahal).

(f) Options like CFCs (D) are responsible for ozone depletion, and CO_2 (A) is the primary greenhouse gas for global warming, but they do not cause acid rain.

Final Answer: Oxides of Sulphur and Nitrogen are the primary cause of acid rain.

Answer: (B)

Q41.

Solution

Concept:

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the primary international body regulating global commerce. Its history is rooted in the post-World War II effort to stabilize the global economy. Before the WTO, international trade was governed by a provisional agreement designed to reduce tariffs and trade barriers on goods. The transition from this provisional agreement to a permanent international organization marked a significant shift in global economic governance.

Solution:

(a) As mentioned in the passage, the WTO is the "successor to the GATT."

(b) GATT stands for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which was established in 1948.

(c) While GATT was essentially a set of rules and a multilateral treaty without a formal institutional structure, the WTO, established on January 1, 1995, following the Uruguay Round of negotiations, is a full-fledged international organization.

(d) The IMF (A) and World Bank (D) are part of the Bretton Woods twins but focus on financial stability and developmental loans, respectively.

(e) UNCTAD (C) deals with trade and development but does not set the legally binding rules of trade that the WTO does.

(f) Therefore, based on the historical evolution of trade institutions and the text provided, the WTO directly replaced the GATT framework.

Final Answer: The WTO was established as the successor to GATT.

Answer: (B)

Q42.

Solution

Concept:

The scope of international trade agreements has expanded over time. Early agreements focused almost exclusively on tangible products (merchandise trade). However, as the global economy evolved into a service-oriented and knowledge-based system, the legal frameworks needed to adapt to protect intellectual property and regulate intangible services like banking, telecommunications, and tourism.

Solution:

(a) The passage explicitly highlights the evolution of trade coverage from the old regime to the current one.

(b) Under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the focus was primarily on trade in goods (merchandise).

(c) With the creation of the WTO, the scope was widened significantly to include the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

(d) This means that whereas GATT was limited in its reach, the WTO now "covers trade in services and intellectual property as well."

(e) This expansion reflects the modern reality where patents, copyrights, and professional services are as valuable as physical commodities.

(f) Consequently, the inclusion of these intangible sectors is the primary structural difference noted in the passage between the two frameworks.

Final Answer: WTO covers services and intellectual property, unlike GATT.

Answer: (B)

Q43.

Solution

Concept:

Most major international organizations are headquartered in neutral or diplomatically significant cities in Europe or the United States. These cities serve as hubs for international diplomacy, hosting secretariats, delegate offices, and dispute-settlement panels. Knowing the location of these hubs is a fundamental aspect of studying international relations and global geography.

Solution:

(a) The headquarters of the World Trade Organization is located at the Centre William Rappard.

(b) This building is situated in Geneva, Switzerland.

(c) Geneva is a world-renowned center for multilateral diplomacy and also hosts the headquarters of many other UN agencies and international bodies, such as the WHO and the ILO.

(d) While Washington D.C. (A) is the home of the World Bank and IMF, and New York (B) hosts the UN Secretariat, the administrative heart of global trade regulation remains in Geneva.

(e) Paris (D) is the headquarters for UNESCO and the OECD.

(f) Therefore, in the context of the WTO's operations and its dispute settlement mechanism, Geneva is the correct geographical location.

Final Answer: The headquarters of the WTO is located in Geneva.

Answer: (C)

Q44.

Solution

Concept:

The "North-South" divide is a major theme in global geography and economics. Developing nations (the Global South) often argue that international institutions are weighted in favor of industrialized nations (the Global North). This criticism stems from the belief that trade rules often protect the interests of wealthy corporations while ignoring the developmental needs of poorer countries.

Solution:

(a) The passage notes that the WTO has faced significant criticism from developing nations.

(b) The core of this criticism, as stated in the text, is that the organization is "dominated by powerful economies."

(c) Developing nations often feel that they are forced to open their markets to foreign products while developed nations maintain subsidies for their own agricultural sectors.

(d) Furthermore, the complex legal nature of WTO agreements makes it difficult for smaller nations with limited resources to successfully navigate trade disputes against major economies like the USA or the EU.

(e) This power imbalance is seen as an obstacle to achieving truly "fair trade" as opposed to just "free trade."

(f) Thus, the perceived lack of equity and the dominance of wealthy members is the specific criticism cited.

Final Answer: Developing nations criticize the WTO for being dominated by powerful economies.

Answer: (B)

Q45.

Solution

Concept:

Trade agreements are not just lists of restrictions; they are designed to create a predictable and transparent environment for international commerce. Without a common set of rules, trade would be subject to the whims of individual governments, leading to trade wars, sudden tariff hikes, and general economic instability.

Solution:

(a) The passage defines the goal of the WTO agreements as helping the various actors in the trade cycle.

(b) These actors include "producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers."

(c) The agreements provide a legal framework that ensures that trade flows as smoothly, predictably, and freely as possible.

(d) This predictability allows businesses to plan for the long term, knowing what the import duties or regulations will be in a foreign market.

(e) It is not about increasing taxes (A), which would hinder trade, nor is its primary purpose providing loans (C), which is the role of the World Bank.

(f) Therefore, the primary goal is to facilitate the ease of conducting international business through established, negotiated rules.

Final Answer: The goal is to help producers and traders conduct business smoothly.

Answer: (B)

Q46.

Solution

Concept:

Geographical case studies often focus on local-level initiatives that solve large-scale environmental problems. Ralegan Siddhi is a classic example of "micro-level planning" and community-based natural resource management. Understanding the specific location and administrative context of such success stories is crucial for identifying regional patterns of development and the role of leadership in environmental movements.

Solution:

(a) The case study describes a village that underwent a massive transformation from a drought-prone area to a sustainable model.

(b) Ralegan Siddhi is located in the state of Maharashtra, which is known for its varying rainfall patterns and rain-shadow regions.

(c) Specifically, the village is situated in the Parner taluka of the Ahmednagar district.

(d) Ahmednagar is part of the semi-arid belt of Maharashtra, which historically faced chronic water shortages and agricultural distress before such watershed interventions.

(e) Knowing the district is important because Ahmednagar has become a hub for similar social and environmental experiments, including the Hiware Bazar model.

(f) Therefore, based on the geographical and historical facts of the movement, Ahmednagar is the correct administrative district for this case study.

Final Answer: Ralegan Siddhi is located in the Ahmednagar district.

Answer: (B)

Q47.

Solution

Concept:

Watershed development is a strategy to conserve every drop of rainwater where it falls. In regions with low and seasonal rainfall, the priority is to slow down the surface runoff so that water has time to seep into the ground and recharge the underlying aquifers. This shift from "surface storage" to "sub-surface storage" is the key to permanent water security in arid zones.

Solution:

(a) The transformation of Ralegan Siddhi relied on simple, low-cost engineering structures that leveraged local labor and materials.

(b) Deep-sea mining (A) and large dams (C) are capital-intensive and often lead to ecological displacement, which contradicts the "sustainable development" model mentioned in the case study.

(c) The primary method used was Watershed Development. This involved building 'nala bunds' (small embankments across streams), 'contour trenches' (digging along the slope to catch runoff), and 'check dams' (small barriers to slow water flow).

(d) These structures prevent the water from flowing away into larger rivers and eventually the sea. Instead, they force the water to infiltrate the soil.

(e) Over time, this infiltration raises the water table, allowing wells that had gone dry to fill up again.

(f) This method is sustainable because it is managed by the community and does not require external water sources or massive energy inputs.

Final Answer: The water table was increased through watershed development.

Answer: (B)

Q48.

Solution

Concept:

Environmental movements and local transformations are often sparked by visionary leadership. Such leaders act as catalysts, mobilizing the community, resolving internal conflicts, and bridging the gap between government schemes and ground-level implementation. Their philosophy often dictates the social and ecological rules of the movement.

Solution:

(a) The case study explicitly mentions that the village was transformed "under the leadership" of a specific individual.

(b) Medha Patkar (A) is associated with the Narmada Bachao Andolan, and Sunderlal Bahuguna (C) was the face of the Chipko Movement in the Himalayas. Baba Amte (D) is renowned for his work with leprosy patients and environmental causes in central India.

(c) Anna Hazare, a former soldier, returned to his native village of Ralegan Siddhi in the 1970s.

(d) He pioneered the "Five Commandments" of the village: ban on liquor, ban on tobacco, ban on open grazing, ban on felling of trees, and family planning.

(e) His leadership was not just about technical engineering but also about social engineering, ensuring that the villagers worked together (Shramdan) to build the watershed structures.

(f) Because of his efforts, the village became a national and international symbol of rural self-reliance and environmental rejuvenation.

Final Answer: Anna Hazare is the leader associated with Ralegan Siddhi.

Answer: (B)

Q49.

Solution

Concept:

Sustainability requires a balance between using resources and allowing them to regenerate. In many Indian villages, uncontrolled livestock grazing and the indiscriminate cutting of trees (for fuel or timber) prevent the natural regrowth of vegetation. This leads to a vicious cycle of soil erosion and water loss. Strict social taboos or bans are often necessary to break this cycle.

Solution:

(a) To protect the newly created watershed and ensure that the soil remains stable, the villagers of Ralegan Siddhi adopted strict ecological codes.

(b) A ban on open grazing (Kurad-bandi) was implemented to allow grass and young saplings to grow without being eaten by cattle. This increases the "green cover" which further helps in water absorption.

(c) A ban on felling of trees (Charai-bandi) ensured that the forest cover on the surrounding hills remained intact, preventing topsoil from washing away during the monsoon.

(d) These restrictions were not meant to stop agriculture (C), but rather to make it more sustainable by protecting the underlying ecosystem.

(e) By banning these two specific activities, the village allowed nature to "heal" itself, which in turn provided the village with a more reliable supply of fodder and water through managed and harvested means.

(f) These bans are a cornerstone of the Ralegan Siddhi model of community discipline.

Final Answer: The villagers banned open grazing and felling of trees.

Answer: (B)

Q50.

Solution

Concept:

The ultimate goal of any environmental intervention is to improve the quality of life for the people living in that ecosystem. In rural India, this usually translates to agricultural stability. When water becomes available year-round, the entire economic structure of the village shifts from subsistence and migration to surplus production and local employment.

Solution:

(a) Before the project, Ralegan Siddhi was "poverty-stricken" and "drought-prone," which typically leads to distress migration to cities.

(b) The long-term impact of the watershed project was a significant rise in the groundwater levels.

(c) With reliable water in wells and small dams, farmers could grow multiple crops a year instead of just one rain-fed crop.

(d) They shifted from low-value crops to high-value crops like vegetables and fruits, which significantly increased their income.

(e) As agriculture became profitable, the need for people to migrate in search of manual labor decreased. In fact, many people returned to the village to work on their own lands.

(f) This proves that environmental conservation is not against economic development; rather, it is the foundation of long-term economic prosperity in rural settings.

Final Answer: Agriculture became profitable due to increased water levels.

Answer: (B)

Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	C	2	B	3	A	4	C	5	C
6	C	7	C	8	A	9	C	10	B
11	B	12	C	13	A	14	D	15	C
16	A	17	A	18	A	19	B	20	C
21	D	22	B	23	B	24	A	25	B
26	A	27	B	28	C	29	B	30	C
31	B	32	A	33	B	34	C	35	B
36	C	37	B	38	A	39	B	40	B
41	B	42	B	43	C	44	B	45	B
46	B	47	B	48	B	49	B	50	B