CUET-UG Geography Sample Paper-9

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. The concept of "Neo-Determinism" or "Stop and Go Determinism" proposed by Griffith Taylor serves as a conceptual middle ground. Which of the following best reflects its core philosophy?

(A) Humans are absolute masters of the environment and can conquer any natural constraint.

(B) Nature dictates all human actions and possibilities without exception.

(C) Nature provides possibilities, but humans must obey nature's limits to avoid environmental crises.

(D) Geography should only focus on the description of "Areal Differentiation" rather than laws.

Q2. Which school of thought in human geography emerged in the 1970s to emphasize the "lived experience" and social categories like ethnicity, religion, and race?

(A) Quantitative Revolution

(B) Welfare or Humanistic School

(C) Radical School

(D) Behavioral School

Q3. Match the following Geographical Perspectives with their primary focus:

Welfare School	i. Use of Marxian theory to explain poverty
Radical School	ii. Focus on social well-being (housing, health)
Behavioral School	iii. Emphasis on individual perception of space

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

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

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

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

Q4. In the Demographic Transition Model, a "tapering top" and a "wide base" in a population pyramid typically indicate which stage?

(A) Stage I: High birth and death rates.

(B) Stage II: High fertility and declining mortality.

(C) Stage III: Low fertility and low mortality.

(D) Stage V: Negative growth.

Q5. Which of the following is NOT a component of the Human Development Index (HDI) as calculated by the UNDP?

(A) Mean years of schooling.

(B) Life expectancy at birth.

(C) Gross National Income (GNI) per capita.

(D) Total Fertility Rate (TFR).

Q6. The "Age-Sex Pyramid" of a developed nation like Japan is characterized by:

(A) A broad base and a narrow top.

(B) A bell-shaped pyramid tapering towards the top.

(C) A narrow base and a broader top, indicating an aging population.

(D) A rectangular shape indicating high birth rates.

Q7. Thomas Malthus's theory on population growth (1798) stated that while population grows geometrically, food supply grows:

(A) Exponentially.

(B) Arithmetically.

(C) Proportionally.

(D) Randomly.

Q8. Which region of the world has the highest density of population despite being in a non-tropical zone?

(A) The Nile River Valley.

(B) North-Western Europe.

(C) The Amazon Basin.

(D) The Great Lakes of North America.

Q9. According to Dr. Mahbub-ul-Haq, "Development" is essentially about:

(A) Increasing the GDP of a nation.

(B) Expanding the range of human choices.

(C) Industrializing rural areas.

(D) Increasing the export-import ratio.

Q10. In "Market Gardening" and "Horticulture," proximity to urban centers is crucial because:

(A) Of the high cost of chemical fertilizers.

(B) The products are highly perishable and require quick transport.

(C) Labor is cheaper in urban fringes.

(D) It requires large tracts of land unavailable in rural areas.

Q11. Which of the following is a characteristic of "Viticulture"?

(A) It is the specialized cultivation of citrus fruits in the Savanna.

(B) It is the mainstay of Mediterranean agriculture.

(C) It involves the rearing of silkworms for silk production.

(D) It is a form of primitive subsistence agriculture in Southeast Asia.

Q12. The "Ruhr Coalfield" in Germany has shifted its economic base from heavy engineering to new industries. This process is known as:

(A) De-industrialization.

(B) Agglomeration.

(C) Re-industrialization / Structural change.

(D) Suburbanization.

Q13. Which of the following is classified as a "Quaternary Activity"?

(A) Working in a call center (BPO).

(B) Information research and development (R&D).

(C) Manufacturing specialized high-tech medical equipment.

(D) Teaching in a primary school.

Q14. The "Great Lakes" region of North America is often called the 'Rust Belt' because:

(A) Of the prevalence of iron-rich soil.

(B) The decline of the traditional heavy iron and steel industry.

(C) It is the largest producer of copper in the world.

(D) Of the high humidity causing equipment to rust.

Q15. Truck Farming is a term specifically used for which type of agricultural practice?

(A) Grain farming in the Prairies.

(B) Vegetable cultivation in the outskirts of cities.

(C) Plantation of rubber in Malaysia.

(D) Collective farming in the former Soviet Union.

Q16. "Footloose Industries" are those that:

(A) Must be located near the source of raw materials.

(B) Are heavily dependent on water transport.

(C) Can be located in a wide variety of places as they are not tied to specific raw materials.

(D) Deal specifically with the manufacturing of footwear.

Q17. The "Big Trunk Route" refers to the maritime trade route that connects:

(A) The Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean via Suez Canal.

(B) North Atlantic Ocean connecting North-Eastern USA to Western Europe.

(C) The Pacific Ocean connecting Japan to the USA.

(D) The Cape of Good Hope route.

Q18. Which of the following serves as a "Port of Call" on the route between Western Europe and East Asia?

(A) Aden.

(B) London.

(C) New York.

(D) Durban.

Q19. What is the primary function of "Entrepôt Ports"?

(A) They are used exclusively for refueling naval ships.

(B) They are collection centers where goods are brought from different countries for export.

(C) They deal only with the export of perishable agricultural goods.

(D) They are specialized ports for the handling of oil tankers.

Q20. The "Cyberspace" or the Internet is often described as the "World Wide Web." From a geographical perspective, it has:

(A) Created new physical boundaries between nations.

(B) Erased the importance of "physical distance" in communication.

(C) Increased the cost of international trade significantly.

(D) Only benefited landlocked countries.

Q21. Identify the correct sequence of major ports along the Suez Canal from North (Mediterranean) to South (Red Sea):

(A) Port Said → Lake Timsah → Great Bitter Lake → Port Suez

(B) Port Suez → Great Bitter Lake → Lake Timsah → Port Said

(C) Alexandria → Port Said → Port Suez → Cairo

(D) Port Said → Cairo → Port Suez → Aden

Q22. The "Trans-Siberian Railway," the longest in the world, connects which two terminal stations?

(A) Moscow and Vladivostok.

(B) St. Petersburg and Irkutsk.

(C) Vancouver and Halifax.

(D) Perth and Sydney.

Q23. Which of the following inland waterways is the most heavily used and commercially significant in the world?

(A) The Rhine Waterway.

(B) The Volga Waterway.

(C) The Mississippi Waterway.

(D) The Danube Waterway.

Q24. On a world map, the "Pampas" grasslands, known for commercial grain farming, are located in:

(A) North America.

(B) South America (Argentina).

(C) South Africa.

(D) Australia.

Q25. The "Panama Canal" connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific Ocean. Which of the following statements is correct?

(A) It is a sea-level canal like the Suez Canal.

(B) It uses a lock system to manage the difference in water levels.

(C) It is owned and operated by the United States today.

(D) It has reduced the distance between London and Mumbai.

Q26. According to the 2011 Census, which of the following states has the highest percentage of its population living in rural areas, contrary to the national trend of rapid urbanization?

(A) Himachal Pradesh

(B) Bihar

(C) Odisha

(D) Uttar Pradesh

Q27. The "Main Worker" as per the Census of India is a person who works for at least:

(A) 100 days in a year

(B) 183 days in a year

(C) 200 days in a year

(D) 6 months with at least 8 hours a day

Q28. Which of the following age-group cohorts is considered to represent the "Youth Bulge" and the potential "Demographic Dividend" for India's economy?

(A) 0–14 years

(B) 15–34 years

(C) 15–59 years

(D) 60 years and above

Q29. In terms of religious composition, which of the following states/UTs has the highest concentration of the Christian population in India?

(A) Kerala

(B) Goa

(C) Nagaland

(D) Mizoram

Q30. The "Linguistic Survey of India" was historically conducted by whom to classify the diverse language families in the subcontinent?

(A) Sir George Grierson

(B) Lord Risley

(C) M.N. Srinivas

(D) B.S. Guha

Q31. Which type of rural settlement is most likely to be found in fragmented and physically uplifted regions of the Himalayas or the hills of Northeast India?

(A) Clustered or Agglomerated

(B) Semi-clustered or Fragmented

(C) Hamleted (Panna, Para, Nagla)

(D) Dispersed or Isolated

Q32. A city that performs a "Administrative" function and was specifically planned as a capital in post-independence India is:

(A) Varanasi

(B) Chandigarh

(C) Jamshedpur

(D) Vishakhapatnam

Q33. In the functional classification of Indian towns, "Mughalsarai" and "Itarsi" are best categorized as:

(A) Mining Towns

(B) Transport Towns (Railway Junctions)

(C) Garrison Towns

(D) Commercial Towns

Q34. The "Command Area Development Program" was specifically launched in India to improve the efficiency of:

(A) Groundwater extraction in the Deccan.

(B) Water utilization in irrigation projects.

(C) Dryland farming in Rajasthan.

(D) Hydro-electric power generation in the North-East.

Q35. Which of the following is a "Non-conventional" energy source that India has the highest potential for along the coastlines of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu?

(A) Geothermal Energy

(B) Biomass Energy

(C) Wind Energy

(D) Nuclear Energy

Q36. The "Rat-hole Mining" technique is a controversial method of mineral extraction primarily practiced in which Indian state?

(A) Jharkhand

(B) Meghalaya

(C) Chhattisgarh

(D) Odisha

Q37. Identify the correct match of the Aluminum Smelter plant and its location:

(A) BALCO – Korba

(B) NALCO – Renukoot

(C) HINDALCO – Koraput

(D) MALCO – Ratnagiri

Q38. Which specific variety of coffee is India world-renowned for, originally brought from Yemen?

(A) Robusta

(B) Arabica

(C) Liberica

(D) Excelsa

Q39. The "Integrated Watershed Management Program" (IWMP) aims at preventing soil erosion and recharging groundwater. Its success in the village of 'Ralegan Siddhi' is attributed to:

(A) Anna Hazare

(B) Medha Patkar

(C) Sundarlal Bahuguna

(D) Rajendra Singh

Q40. In which year was the "National Water Policy" formulated to provide a framework for water resource management in India?

(A) 1987

(B) 2002

(C) 2012

(D) All of the above (revised in these years)

Passage I

Read the passage below carefully. The questions that follow (Questions 41 to 45) are based on the information provided in this text. Choose the one best answer for each question.

International trade is the result of specialization in production and the uneven distribution of natural resources. In the contemporary era, the volume of trade has

shifted from primary products to manufactured goods and high-value services. The World Trade Organization (WTO), the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), serves as the sole international body dealing with the global rules of trade between nations. However, critics argue that the WTO's "Free Trade" policies often disadvantage developing nations, who face "Dumping" from industrialized economies and "Technical Barriers to Trade." Furthermore, the emergence of Regional Trade Blocs, like ASEAN or SAFTA, suggests a move toward "Regionalism" where countries seek to protect their domestic markets while liberalizing trade with immediate neighbors to reduce transport costs and political friction.

Q41. The passage states that international trade arises from "specialization." Which of the following principles of trade, proposed by David Ricardo, best explains why a country would export goods it can produce at a lower opportunity cost?

(A) Absolute Advantage

(B) Comparative Advantage

(C) Mercantilism

(D) Import Substitution

Q42. What is the primary difference between GATT and the WTO as mentioned or inferred from the passage?

(A) GATT was a permanent organization, while WTO is a provisional agreement.

(B) WTO has a legally binding dispute settlement mechanism and covers trade in services and intellectual property, unlike the original GATT.

(C) GATT promoted "Dumping," while the WTO encourages strictly protective tariffs.

(D) WTO only deals with trade between developed nations of the Global North.

Q43. The passage mentions "Dumping" as a concern for developing nations. In the context of international trade, what does "Dumping" specifically mean?

(A) The practice of shipping toxic industrial waste to developing countries for disposal.

(B) Exporting a product at a price lower than its cost of production or lower than its domestic market price to gain market share.

(C) Overloading cargo ships beyond their legal weight capacity to save on freight costs.

(D) The sudden withdrawal of all foreign direct investment (FDI) from a country's stock market.

Q44. Assertion (A): Regional Trade Blocs like ASEAN and SAFTA are becoming more prominent in global trade.
Reason (R): They allow member nations to bypass global trade barriers while reducing transport costs and leveraging geographic proximity.

(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.

Q45. Which of the following would be categorized as a "High-value Service" that has seen a surge in international trade as mentioned in the text?

(A) Export of unrefined iron ore and manganese.

(B) Bulk transport of food grains like wheat and rice.

(C) Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO) and legal consultancy services.

(D) Traditional artisanal handicraft production in rural areas.

Passage II

Read the passage below carefully. The questions that follow (Questions 46 to 50) are based on the information provided in this text. Choose the one best answer for each question.

Water is a cyclical resource, but its spatial distribution is highly uneven, leading to localized "Water Stress." In India, the per capita availability of water is declining due to population pressure and the over-extraction of groundwater for "Green Revolution" crops like paddy and sugarcane. This has resulted in

high concentrations of fluoride and arsenic in the groundwater of Rajasthan and West Bengal, respectively. To combat this, the Government of India launched the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan,' emphasizing Watershed Management. Successful community-led projects like 'Ralegan Siddhi' in Maharashtra demonstrate that social fencing and the conservation of every drop of rainwater can reverse ecological degradation. However, the success of such projects depends on the "Equity" pillar of human development—ensuring that marginalized farmers and landless laborers also benefit from the increased water table, rather than just the landed elite.

Q46. The passage mentions the presence of "Arsenic" in the groundwater of West Bengal. Which of the following is the primary geographical reason for this contamination?

(A) Excessive use of nitrogenous fertilizers in the tea gardens of North Bengal.

(B) Over-extraction of groundwater leading to the leaching of minerals from the underlying geological strata.

(C) Direct discharge of untreated industrial effluents from the jute mills along the Hooghly.

(D) Infiltration of saline seawater into the deltaic aquifers.

Q47. Which concept from "Human Geography: Nature and Scope" is best illustrated by the transformation of Ralegan Siddhi from a degraded village to a self-sufficient one?

(A) Environmental Determinism, as the villagers remained victims of their arid climate.

(B) Possibilism, as human agency and social organization overcame the constraints of a water-scarce environment.

(C) Stop-and-go Determinism, as it proves that nature cannot be modified at all.

(D) Radical Geography, as the project was funded entirely by international corporate giants.

Q48. The passage emphasizes the "Equity" pillar of human development in the context

of watershed management. What does this imply for the distribution of resources?

(A) Water should be allocated solely to those who own the most land for maximum productivity.

(B) Access to conserved water resources must be provided to all members of the community, regardless of their socio-economic status.

(C) Conserved water should be exported to neighboring states to generate revenue.

(D) The benefits of the project should be restricted to the "Gold-collar" professionals managing the technical data.

Q49. Assertion (A): The cultivation of crops like paddy and sugarcane in semi-arid regions of India is ecologically unsustainable.
Reason (R): These crops are water-intensive and lead to the rapid depletion of aquifers, causing land degradation through salinization.

(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.

Q50. Which of the following "Watershed Management" programs is specifically a Central Government initiative aimed at enabling the rural population to conserve water for drinking, irrigation, and afforestation?

(A) Haryali

(B) Neeru-Meeru (Water and You)

(C) Arvary Pani Sansad

(D) Namami Gange

Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Concept: Neo-Determinism, proposed by Griffith Taylor, is also known as "Stop and Go Determinism." It represents a balanced approach between environmental determinism and possibilism. According to this idea, nature does not completely control human actions, but it sets definite limits within which humans can operate. Human activities are possible only when they respect environmental constraints, making sustainable development essential to avoid ecological imbalance and crises.

Solution: The question is about the core philosophy of Neo-Determinism. Earlier geographical thought was divided mainly into environmental determinism, which argued that nature fully controls humans, and possibilism, which emphasized human freedom to modify nature. Griffith Taylor rejected both extremes and proposed a middle path. In Neo-Determinism, nature acts as a regulator rather than a dictator. Humans are free to make choices, but only within environmental limits; if these limits are ignored, environmental crises may occur. Hence, it is called "stop and go determinism," where "stop" indicates restrictions imposed by nature and "go" indicates human freedom within those restrictions. Option (C) correctly reflects this balance. Option (A) is extreme human dominance, (B) is strict determinism, and (D) is unrelated to the concept.

Final Answer: Nature sets limits; humans act within them

Answer: (C)

Q2.

Solution

Concept: In the 1970s, human geography experienced a major shift away from purely quantitative approaches toward more people-centered perspectives. This led to the rise of humanistic geography, which emphasizes lived experience, perception, meaning, and human values. It focuses on how individuals understand and experience space, and it also considers social categories such as ethnicity, religion, and race as important factors shaping spatial behavior and identity.

Solution: The question asks which school of thought emphasized lived experience and social categories in human geography during the 1970s. The Quantitative Revolution focused on statistical methods and spatial modeling, so it is not correct. The Behavioral School studied decision-making processes but did not fully address social identity and lived experience. The Radical School focused on Marxist ideas, inequality, and power structures, mainly in economic and class contexts. The Welfare or Humanistic School, however, emerged as a response to the limitations of quantitative geography and emphasized human experience, perception, meaning, and subjective understanding of space. It also incorporated how social identities like ethnicity, religion, and race shape human interaction with space. Therefore, the correct answer is the Humanistic School.

Final Answer: Welfare or Humanistic School

Answer: (B)

Q3.

Solution

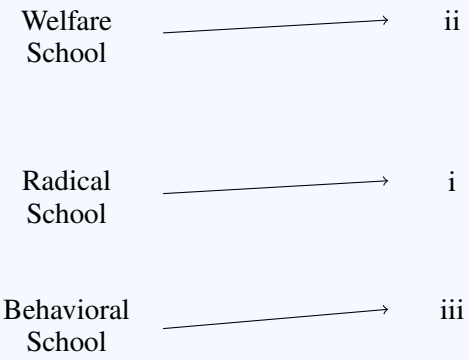
Concept: In Human Geography, different schools of thought focus on different ways of understanding space and society.

- **Welfare School** focuses on social well-being such as housing, health, education, and quality of life.
- **Radical School** uses Marxian theory to explain inequality, poverty, and exploitation.
- **Behavioral School** emphasizes how individuals perceive and interpret geographical space.

Matching:

- Welfare School $\rightarrow$ ii (social well-being)
- Radical School $\rightarrow$ i (Marxian theory)
- Behavioral School $\rightarrow$ iii (individual perception)

Visual Representation:



Final Answer: $\boxed{1\text{-}ii,\ 2\text{-}i,\ 3\text{-}iii}$

Answer: (A)

Q4.

Solution

Concept: The Demographic Transition Model (DTM) explains population change through stages based on birth and death rates. A population pyramid with a wide base and a tapering top indicates high fertility and declining mortality, leading to rapid population growth. This pattern is typical of early transitional phases where improved healthcare reduces death rates, but birth rates remain high, causing a youthful population structure.

Solution: The question describes a population pyramid with a wide base and a narrowing top. Such a structure reflects a high proportion of young population due to high birth rates. At the same time, improvements in healthcare, sanitation, and food supply reduce death rates significantly. This mismatch creates rapid population growth. In the Demographic Transition Model, this condition corresponds to Stage II, also known as the "early expanding stage." Stage I has both high birth and death rates with slow growth. Stage III shows declining fertility, and Stage V represents negative growth or population decline. Therefore, the correct stage is Stage II, where mortality declines but fertility remains high, resulting in population explosion.

Final Answer: Stage II: High fertility and declining mortality

Answer: (B)

Q5.

Solution

Concept: The Human Development Index (HDI) developed by UNDP is a composite measure of development based on health, education, and income indicators. It includes life expectancy at birth, mean years of schooling, expected years of schooling, and Gross National Income (GNI) per capita. It does not include demographic indicators such as fertility rates, which are not part of the HDI framework.

Solution: The question asks which option is NOT included in HDI. The HDI is designed to measure human well-being beyond income alone. It uses three key dimensions: a health indicator (life expectancy at birth), an education indicator (mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling), and an income indicator (GNI per capita). Among the options, life expectancy, schooling, and GNI are all core HDI components. However, Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is not included in HDI calculations, as it is a demographic measure rather than a development indicator. Therefore, TFR does not form part of the HDI structure and is the correct answer.

Final Answer: Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

Answer: (D)

Q6.

Solution

Concept: Population pyramids represent the age-sex structure of a population. Developed countries typically show low birth rates and high life expectancy, resulting in a narrow base and wider upper sections. This reflects an aging population with low fertility levels and a higher proportion of elderly people, indicating demographic stability or decline.

Solution: The question refers to the age-sex pyramid of a developed nation like Japan. Such countries experience low birth rates due to urbanization, education, and lifestyle changes, while improved healthcare increases life expectancy. This leads to fewer young people and more elderly individuals. As a result, the base of the pyramid becomes narrow, while the upper portion remains relatively broader, indicating population aging. This shape is often described as constrictive or inverted structure. Option (A) represents expanding populations, (B) represents transitional forms, and (D) indicates high fertility, none of which apply to Japan. Therefore, the correct description is a narrow base with a broader top.

Final Answer: A narrow base and a broader top, indicating an aging population

Answer: (C)

Q7.

Solution

Concept: Thomas Malthus proposed a population theory in 1798 stating that population grows geometrically (exponentially), while food supply increases arithmetically. This imbalance leads to pressure on resources, resulting in poverty, famine, and other checks on population growth such as disease, war, and starvation.

Solution: The question focuses on Malthus's explanation of food supply growth. According to his theory, human population increases at a much faster rate in a geometric progression (1, 2, 4, 8...), whereas food production increases slowly in an arithmetic progression (1, 2, 3, 4...). This difference creates a gap between population demand and food availability, leading to scarcity and crises. Malthus argued that this imbalance would eventually be controlled by natural checks like famine and disease. Therefore, while population grows geometrically, food supply grows arithmetically, making option (B) correct.

Final Answer: Arithmetically

Answer: (B)

Q8.

Solution

Concept: Population density varies across regions depending on physical, economic, and historical factors. Temperate regions with favorable climate, fertile land, and advanced economic development often support high population densities. North-Western Europe is a classic example of a densely populated non-tropical region due to industrialization and urbanization.

Solution: The question asks which non-tropical region has the highest population density. The Nile River Valley is dense but located in a tropical-to-subtropical zone. The Amazon Basin is tropical but sparsely populated due to dense forests and poor accessibility. The Great Lakes region of North America is moderately populated but not the highest. North-Western Europe, including countries like the UK, Germany, and the Netherlands, has very high population density despite being in a temperate non-tropical zone. This is due to early industrial development, urban growth, and favorable living conditions. Hence, the correct answer is North-Western Europe.

Final Answer: North-Western Europe

Answer: (B)

Q9.

Solution

Concept: Dr. Mahbub-ul-Haq, a leading economist and founder of the Human Development Index, redefined development as a people-centered concept. He emphasized that development should not be measured only by income or GDP, but by the expansion of human choices, freedoms, and capabilities in health, education, and living standards.

Solution: The question refers to Mahbub-ul-Haq's definition of development. Traditional approaches focused mainly on economic growth indicators like GDP and industrial output. However, Mahbub-ul-Haq introduced a broader perspective where development is about enhancing human well-being and freedom. According to him, the real goal of development is to expand the range of choices available to people, such as access to education, healthcare, and a dignified life. This approach forms the foundation of the Human Development Index. Therefore, development is not just economic expansion but improvement in human capabilities, making option (B) correct.

Final Answer: Expanding the range of human choices

Answer: (B)

Q10.

Solution

Concept: Market Gardening and Horticulture are intensive agricultural practices focused on the cultivation of fruits, vegetables, and flowers for urban markets. These products are highly perishable and lose quality quickly after harvesting. Therefore, such farming is usually located near urban centers to ensure fast transportation, reduced spoilage, and quick access to consumers with high demand for fresh produce.

Solution: The question asks why proximity to urban centers is important in Market Gardening and Horticulture. These agricultural systems are characterized by intensive use of land, labor, and capital to produce high-value crops such as vegetables, fruits, and flowers. The key feature of these products is their perishability; they deteriorate rapidly after harvesting and must reach consumers quickly to maintain freshness and market value. Urban areas provide a large, concentrated market, ensuring steady demand. Therefore, farmers locate these activities near cities to minimize transport time and cost. While factors like labor and land availability may influence agriculture, the primary reason in this context is the need for rapid transport of perishable goods. Hence, option (B) is correct.

Final Answer: The products are highly perishable and require quick transport

Answer: (B)

Q11.

Solution

Concept: Viticulture is a specialized branch of agriculture concerned with the cultivation of grapes. It is strongly associated with Mediterranean climate regions, which provide ideal conditions such as warm dry summers and mild wet winters. Viticulture is an important commercial activity supporting wine production, which forms a key part of the agricultural economy in Mediterranean countries.

Solution: The question asks about the characteristic of viticulture. Viticulture specifically refers to the cultivation of grapes for wine production, table consumption, and dried fruits. It is most prominently practiced in Mediterranean climatic regions such as southern Europe (France, Italy, Spain), California, and parts of Australia. These regions provide the ideal combination of temperature and rainfall needed for high-quality grape production. Option (A) is incorrect because citrus cultivation is unrelated. Option (C) refers to sericulture, which involves silkworm rearing. Option (D) describes shifting cultivation, not viticulture. Therefore, viticulture is correctly identified as a major agricultural activity of the Mediterranean region, making option (B) correct.

Final Answer: It is the mainstay of Mediterranean agriculture

Answer: (B)

Q12.

Solution

Concept: The Ruhr region in Germany was historically one of the world's largest industrial areas, dominated by coal mining, iron, and steel industries. With global industrial restructuring, many traditional industries declined, and the region transitioned toward diversified, high-tech, and service-based industries. This shift is known as structural change in industrial geography.

Solution: The question describes the Ruhr Coalfield shifting from heavy engineering industries to new modern sectors. This transformation reflects changes in global economic structure, where traditional manufacturing regions adapt to new technologies and service industries. De-industrialization refers to the decline of industrial activity, but here the emphasis is on transformation rather than complete decline. Agglomeration refers to clustering of industries, suburbanization relates to urban expansion, and re-industrialization or structural change best describes the shift from old heavy industries to advanced and diversified economic activities. The Ruhr region has moved toward chemical industries, services, and technology-based sectors, making it a classic example of structural economic transformation.

Final Answer: Re-industrialization / Structural change

Answer: (C)

Q13.

Solution

Concept: Economic activities are classified into primary, secondary, tertiary, quaternary, and quinary sectors. Quaternary activities involve knowledge-based services such as research, information processing, and intellectual services. These activities rely on data analysis, innovation, and specialized expertise rather than physical production or routine services.

Solution: The question asks which activity belongs to the quaternary sector. Working in a call center (BPO) falls under tertiary services. Manufacturing medical equipment is secondary activity as it involves production. Teaching in a primary school is also considered a tertiary service. However, research and development (R&D) involves knowledge creation, innovation, and advanced information processing, which are core features of quaternary activities. These activities are typically associated with scientists, analysts, and highly skilled professionals working in information-driven environments. Therefore, R&D represents quaternary activity.

Final Answer: Information research and development (R&D)

Answer: (B)

Q14.

Solution

Concept: The Great Lakes region of North America, historically known as the industrial heartland, was once dominated by iron and steel industries. Due to industrial decline, globalization, and relocation of manufacturing to other regions, this area experienced economic downturn and factory closures. This led to its nickname, the "Rust Belt," symbolizing abandoned industrial infrastructure and declining heavy industry.

Solution: The question asks why the Great Lakes region is called the Rust Belt. This region includes major cities such as Detroit, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh, which were once centers of automobile, steel, and heavy manufacturing industries. However, in the late 20th century, many industries declined due to global competition, automation, and shifting production to cheaper locations. As factories closed, unemployment increased and infrastructure deteriorated, giving rise to rusted industrial landscapes. The term "Rust Belt" does not refer to soil, copper production, or humidity, but specifically to the decline of iron and steel-based industries. Therefore, option (B) correctly explains the reason.

Final Answer: The decline of the traditional heavy iron and steel industry

Answer: (B)

“

Q15.

Solution

Concept: Truck farming is a type of commercial agricultural practice focused on the intensive cultivation of vegetables and fruits for urban markets. The term “truck” historically refers to trade or exchange. These farms are usually located near cities to ensure quick transport of perishable goods and to meet the continuous demand of urban populations.

Solution: The question asks about the meaning of truck farming. Truck farming is a specialized form of market-oriented agriculture in which farmers grow vegetables, fruits, and other perishable crops for sale in nearby urban markets. The term “truck” is derived from the old usage meaning trade or barter, not transportation vehicles. Since these crops are highly perishable, they must reach consumers quickly to maintain freshness and market value. Therefore, truck farming is typically practiced in the outskirts of cities where transportation time is minimal and access to urban consumers is easy. Grain farming in prairies, plantation agriculture in Malaysia, and collective farming in the Soviet Union are unrelated concepts. Hence, the correct answer is vegetable cultivation near cities.

Final Answer: Vegetable cultivation in the outskirts of cities

Answer: (B)

Q16.

Solution

Concept: Footloose industries are industries that are not strongly dependent on location-specific factors such as raw materials, water, or transport routes. They can be established in various locations because they rely more on skilled labor, technology, and connectivity rather than physical inputs, making them highly flexible in terms of location.

Solution: The question asks about the defining feature of footloose industries. These industries are characterized by their freedom from location constraints. Unlike heavy industries that depend on raw materials or transportation routes, footloose industries such as electronics, software development, and precision instruments can be located almost anywhere. They depend more on skilled manpower, infrastructure, and communication facilities rather than bulky raw materials. Option (A) and (B) describe location-dependent industries, while (D) is incorrect as it misinterprets the term. Therefore, the correct explanation is that footloose industries can be located in a wide variety of places because they are not tied to specific raw materials.

Final Answer: Not tied to specific raw materials; can be located anywhere

Answer: (C)

Q17.

Solution

Concept: The Big Trunk Route is one of the most important maritime trade corridors of the world. It connects major industrial and commercial regions, particularly linking Western Europe with East Asia through key sea routes and strategic chokepoints like the Suez Canal, enabling efficient global trade movement.

Solution: The question refers to the Big Trunk Route, which is a major global shipping corridor used for international trade. It is one of the busiest maritime routes in the world, connecting the industrialized economies of Western Europe with the rapidly developing economies of East and Southeast Asia. The route passes through the Mediterranean Sea, Suez Canal, Indian Ocean, and reaches East Asia. This makes option (A) the correct answer, as it specifically mentions the Suez Canal connection between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean. The other options refer to different trade routes such as the North Atlantic route or Pacific route, which are not identified as the Big Trunk Route.

Final Answer: The Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean via Suez Canal

Answer: (A)

Q18.

Solution

Concept: Port of Call refers to intermediate ports where ships stop during long-distance sea voyages for refueling, cargo handling, or resupply. These ports play a crucial role in global maritime trade by facilitating efficient movement of goods between major trading regions.

Solution: The question asks which port serves as a Port of Call on the route between Western Europe and East Asia. Major shipping routes between these regions pass through the Suez Canal and Indian Ocean, with several strategic stopover ports. Aden, located in Yemen, is one such important port situated near the entrance of the Red Sea and is a key refueling and resupply point for ships traveling between Europe and Asia. London is a major European port but not a mid-route stop, New York is on the Atlantic route, and Durban serves southern African routes. Therefore, Aden is correctly identified as a Port of Call on this intercontinental trade route.

Final Answer: Aden

Answer: (A)

Q19.

Solution

Concept: Entrepôt ports are specialized ports that function as intermediate storage and redistribution centers in global trade networks. They import goods from various countries, store them, and then re-export them to other destinations. These ports play a crucial role in international trade by facilitating transshipment and reducing logistical costs.

Solution: The question asks about the primary function of entrepôt ports. These ports act as major commercial hubs where goods from different countries are collected, stored, and redistributed to other markets. They do not primarily produce goods but serve as intermediaries in global trade. This function helps in efficient cargo handling and global distribution of commodities. Option (A) is incorrect as it refers to naval refueling bases. Option (C) is too narrow, and (D) is specific to oil terminals. Therefore, the correct answer is that entrepôt ports are collection centers where goods are brought from different countries for export.

Final Answer: Collection and redistribution centers for international trade

Answer: (B)

Q20.

Solution

Concept: Cyberspace refers to the virtual digital environment created by computer networks, especially the internet. From a geographical perspective, it reduces the significance of physical distance in communication and interaction. Information can be transmitted instantly across the world, making spatial barriers less relevant in social, economic, and political exchanges.

Solution: The question asks about the geographical impact of cyberspace or the Internet. Cyberspace has transformed traditional spatial relationships by enabling instant communication across long distances. Earlier, geographical distance was a major constraint in interaction, trade, and information exchange. However, with the rise of the Internet, communication has become nearly instantaneous, reducing the importance of physical distance. This does not mean that physical geography has disappeared, but its role in communication has significantly diminished. Option (A) is incorrect because cyberspace does not create physical boundaries; instead, it reduces them. Option (C) is also incorrect as the internet generally reduces transaction and communication costs. Option (D) is too narrow and incorrect. Therefore, the correct answer is that cyberspace has erased the importance of physical distance in communication.

Final Answer: Erased the importance of "physical distance" in communication

Answer: (B)

Q21.

Solution

Concept: The Suez Canal is one of the most important artificial waterways in the world, connecting the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea. Key geographical features along the canal include Port Said at the northern entrance, Lake Timsah in the central section, the Great Bitter Lake in the middle stretch, and Port Suez at the southern end.

Solution: The question asks for the correct sequence of major locations along the Suez Canal from north to south. The canal begins at Port Said on the Mediterranean coast. Moving southward, ships pass through Lake Timsah and then the Great Bitter Lake, which are important widened sections of the canal used for navigation and waiting zones. Finally, the canal ends at Port Suez on the Red Sea. This sequence correctly reflects the geographical layout of the canal. Options involving reverse order or unrelated cities like Cairo and Aden are incorrect. Therefore, the correct sequence is Port Said $\rightarrow$ Lake Timsah $\rightarrow$ Great Bitter Lake $\rightarrow$ Port Suez.

Final Answer: Port Said $\rightarrow$ Lake Timsah $\rightarrow$ Great Bitter Lake $\rightarrow$ Port Suez

Answer: (A)

Q22.

Solution

Concept: The Trans-Siberian Railway is the longest railway network in the world, spanning across Russia from west to east. It serves as a major transportation link connecting the European part of Russia with the Far East, facilitating movement of passengers and goods across vast distances.

Solution: The question asks about the terminal stations of the Trans-Siberian Railway. This railway network starts from Moscow, the capital city of Russia, and extends across Siberia to Vladivostok, a major port city on the Pacific Ocean. It covers thousands of kilometers and passes through diverse climatic and geographic regions. It is not connected to cities like St. Petersburg, Irkutsk (which is an intermediate station), Vancouver, or Australian cities. Therefore, the correct terminal points are Moscow and Vladivostok, making option (A) correct.

Final Answer: Moscow and Vladivostok

Answer: (A)

Q23.

Solution

Concept: Inland waterways are navigable rivers and canals used for transport of goods and passengers. Among them, some systems are highly developed due to industrialization, connectivity, and economic integration. The Rhine Waterway in Europe is considered the most important inland waterway due to its heavy industrial belt and high volume of cargo transport.

Solution: The question asks which inland waterway is the most heavily used and commercially significant in the world. The Rhine Waterway, flowing through countries like Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands, is one of the busiest inland navigation routes globally. It connects major industrial regions and ports, facilitating large-scale movement of coal, iron, chemicals, and manufactured goods. Although the Mississippi, Volga, and Danube are also important rivers, they do not match the Rhine in terms of commercial intensity and international integration. Therefore, the Rhine Waterway is correctly identified as the most significant inland waterway.

Final Answer: The Rhine Waterway

Answer: (A)

Q24.

Solution

Concept: The Pampas are extensive fertile grasslands located in South America, primarily in Argentina. They are known for commercial agriculture, especially wheat and maize cultivation, along with livestock rearing. The region benefits from fertile soil, flat terrain, and favorable climate conditions, making it one of the world's major grain-producing areas.

Solution: The question asks about the geographical location of the Pampas grasslands. The Pampas are situated in the southeastern part of South America, mainly covering Argentina and extending into Uruguay. These grasslands are famous for large-scale commercial grain farming due to their rich fertile soil and temperate climate. They support extensive agriculture, particularly wheat and corn production, along with cattle ranching. They are not located in North America, Africa, or Australia. Therefore, the correct answer is South America (Argentina), making option (B) correct.

Final Answer: South America (Argentina)

Answer: (B)

Q25.

Solution

Concept: The Panama Canal is a major artificial waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Unlike sea-level canals, it operates using a system of locks to raise and lower ships due to differences in sea levels and terrain elevation. It is one of the most important maritime shortcuts in global trade, significantly reducing travel distance and time.

Solution: The question asks about the correct statement regarding the Panama Canal. The canal is located in Panama and serves as a crucial link between the Atlantic Ocean (via the Caribbean Sea) and the Pacific Ocean. Unlike the Suez Canal, it is not a sea-level canal because there is a significant difference in elevation between the two oceans and the land terrain. To manage this, the canal uses a system of locks that lift ships to Gatun Lake and then lower them to the opposite ocean side. Option (A) is incorrect because it is not sea-level. Option (C) is incorrect because the canal is currently operated by the Panama Canal Authority after being transferred from the United States in 1999. Option (D) is partially misleading as it affects global trade routes but is not specifically about London and Mumbai. Therefore, the correct statement is that it uses a lock system.

Final Answer: It uses a lock system to manage the difference in water levels

Answer: (B)

Q26.

Solution

Concept: India's population distribution shows a strong rural dominance, although urbanization is increasing. Different states vary in their rural-urban composition based on levels of industrialization, economic development, and infrastructure. States with lower industrial development tend to have higher rural population percentages compared to more urbanized states.

Solution: The question refers to Census 2011 data and asks which state has the highest percentage of rural population. Bihar is one of the least urbanized states in India, with a very high proportion of its population residing in rural areas. This is due to limited industrialization, lower urban infrastructure development, and dependence on agriculture. Himachal Pradesh also has a high rural population but is smaller in scale and less than Bihar proportionally. Odisha and Uttar Pradesh also have significant rural populations but not the highest percentage. Therefore, Bihar stands out as the state with the highest rural population share, reflecting its predominantly agrarian structure and slower urban growth compared to national trends.

Final Answer: Bihar

Answer: (B)

Q27.

Solution

Concept: In the Census of India, workers are classified based on the duration of work performed during a reference period of one year.

- A **Main Worker** is defined as a person who has worked for **at least 183 days in a year**.
- Those working for less than 183 days are classified as Marginal Workers.

Visual Representation:

183 days → Main Worker

Explanation:

- 183 days is the standard threshold used in Census classification.
- Other options are incorrect as they do not match official definition.

Final Answer: 183 days in a year

Answer: (B)

Q28.

Solution

Concept: The demographic dividend refers to a situation where a large proportion of the population is in the working-age group, leading to potential economic growth.

- India's **youth bulge** and productive workforce is mainly in the **15–59 years** age group.
- This group contributes directly to economic productivity and growth.

Visual Representation:

Explanation:

- 0–14 years: dependent population.
- 15–59 years: working-age population (demographic dividend).
- 60+ years: elderly dependent population.

Final Answer: 15–59 years

Answer: (C)

Q29.

Solution

Concept: In India, religious composition varies widely across states due to historical, cultural, and regional factors. Christianity is concentrated mainly in the northeastern states and parts of southern India. States like Nagaland and Mizoram have very high proportions of Christian population due to historical missionary influence and tribal conversions.

Solution: The question asks which state or union territory has the highest concentration of Christians in India. Although Kerala and Goa have significant Christian populations, their proportions are lower compared to some northeastern states. Nagaland has the highest percentage of Christians in India, with Christianity being the dominant religion among most Naga tribes. This is largely due to extensive missionary activities during the colonial period. Mizoram also has a very high Christian population, but Nagaland slightly leads in proportion. Kerala has a large absolute number of Christians but not the highest percentage, while Goa has a mixed religious composition. Therefore, Nagaland is the correct answer as it has the highest concentration of Christian population in India.

Final Answer: Nagaland

Answer: (C)

Q30.

Solution

Concept: The Linguistic Survey of India was a major colonial-era scholarly project aimed at documenting and classifying the vast linguistic diversity of the Indian subcontinent. It systematically studied languages, dialects, and their families, providing a foundational classification of Indo-Aryan, Dravidian, Tibeto-Burman, and other language groups.

Solution: The question asks who conducted the Linguistic Survey of India. This monumental work was carried out by Sir George Abraham Grierson during the British colonial period. The survey spanned several decades and resulted in detailed documentation of hundreds of languages and dialects spoken across India. It remains one of the most important linguistic studies in South Asia. Lord Risley was associated with anthropological classification of castes, M.N. Srinivas contributed to sociology and caste studies, and B.S. Guha worked in physical anthropology. Therefore, the correct answer is Sir George Grierson.

Final Answer: Sir George Grierson

Answer: (A)

Q31.

Solution

Concept: Rural settlements in India vary based on physical geography, relief, and accessibility. In mountainous and hilly regions, settlements are often fragmented due to uneven terrain, leading to dispersed habitation patterns where houses are spread out or grouped into small hamlets.

Solution: The question asks about the type of rural settlement found in the Himalayas and Northeast India. These regions are characterized by rugged terrain, steep slopes, and limited flat land, which restricts large clustered settlements. As a result, people live in small, scattered units or hamlets separated by physical barriers. This pattern is known as hamleted or fragmented settlement. Clustered settlements are common in fertile plains, while dispersed settlements are typical in deserts or large farms. Semi-clustered settlements represent transitional forms. Therefore, in mountainous regions like the Himalayas, the hamleted or fragmented pattern is most common.

Final Answer: Hamleted (Panna, Para, Nagla)

Answer: (C)

Q32.

Solution

Concept: Administrative towns are urban centers that function as seats of government administration. In post-independence India, some cities were specially planned and developed to serve as capitals of states or union territories, reflecting modern urban planning and governance structures.
Solution: The question asks which city was specifically planned as an administrative capital after independence. Chandigarh is a planned city designed by Le Corbusier and serves as the capital of both Punjab and Haryana. It is one of the earliest examples of modern planned cities in India, built to function primarily as an administrative center. Varanasi is an ancient religious city, Jamshedpur is an industrial town developed by the Tata group, and Visakhapatnam is a major port and industrial city. None of these were planned as post-independence administrative capitals. Therefore, Chandigarh is the correct answer.
Final Answer: Chandigarh

Answer: (B)

Q33.

Solution

Concept: Functional classification of towns is based on the primary economic or administrative activity that dominates the urban center. Transport towns are those that develop around major transportation hubs such as railway junctions, where movement of goods and passengers is the key function.
Solution: The question refers to Mughalsarai and Itarsi, which are important railway junction towns in India. These towns developed due to their strategic location on major railway lines, facilitating connectivity between different regions. Their primary function is transportation and logistics rather than mining, military, or purely commercial activities. Mining towns are based on mineral extraction, garrison towns serve military purposes, and commercial towns focus on trade. Since Mughalsarai (now Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction) and Itarsi are major railway hubs, they are best classified as transport towns. Therefore, the correct answer is Railway Junction towns.
Final Answer: Transport Towns (Railway Junctions)

Answer: (B)

Q34.

Solution

Concept: The Command Area Development Programme (CADP) was introduced in India to improve the efficiency of irrigation water use in command areas of major and medium irrigation projects. It focuses on reducing water loss, ensuring equitable distribution, and increasing agricultural productivity through better management of irrigation infrastructure.

Solution: The question asks about the objective of the Command Area Development Programme. This programme was launched to address inefficiencies in irrigation systems, especially in large canal-irrigated regions. In many areas, water distribution was uneven, leading to waterlogging in some regions and scarcity in others. CADP aims to improve on-farm water management, strengthen canal maintenance, and promote efficient use of irrigation water. It also encourages proper cropping patterns suited to water availability. Option (A) is incorrect because groundwater extraction is not its focus. Option (C) relates to dryland farming, which is rain-fed agriculture. Option (D) refers to power generation, which is unrelated. Therefore, the correct objective is improving water utilization in irrigation projects.

Final Answer: Water utilization in irrigation projects

Answer: (B)

Q35.

Solution

Concept: Non-conventional energy sources are renewable and sustainable energy forms such as wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal energy. India has significant potential for wind energy generation, especially along its long coastline regions, where strong and consistent wind patterns are ideal for wind farms.

Solution: The question asks which non-conventional energy source has the highest potential along the coastlines of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. These coastal regions experience strong monsoon winds and steady air currents, making them highly suitable for wind energy generation. India has already developed major wind energy farms in these states, contributing significantly to renewable energy production. Geothermal energy is limited to specific tectonic regions, biomass depends on agricultural waste, and nuclear energy is not a renewable coastal resource. Therefore, wind energy is the correct answer due to its strong coastal potential and established infrastructure in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

Final Answer: Wind Energy

Answer: (C)

Q36.

Solution

Concept: Rat-hole mining is a traditional and small-scale method of coal extraction involving narrow tunnels dug manually. It is widely criticized for being unsafe, environmentally damaging, and unregulated. This method is primarily associated with coal mining in the northeastern state of Meghalaya.

Solution: The question asks where rat-hole mining is primarily practiced. This method involves digging small horizontal tunnels into hillsides, where miners extract coal manually. It is most commonly found in Meghalaya due to its geological structure and tribal land ownership patterns. Despite being economically important for local communities, it is associated with severe environmental degradation and safety hazards, including frequent accidents and poor working conditions. Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha use more mechanized mining methods and do not primarily rely on rat-hole mining. Therefore, Meghalaya is the correct answer.

Final Answer: Meghalaya

Answer: (B)

Q37.

Solution

Concept: Aluminium smelters are energy-intensive industries that require abundant electricity and are usually located near power sources. India has several major aluminium production companies, including BALCO, NALCO, and HINDALCO, each associated with specific industrial locations.

Solution: The question asks for the correct match between aluminium smelter plants and their locations. BALCO (Bharat Aluminium Company) is correctly located in Korba, Chhattisgarh, which is rich in coal-based power supply. NALCO is located in Angul and Damanjodi in Odisha, not Renukoot. HINDALCO is associated with Renukoot in Uttar Pradesh and other locations, not Koraput. MALCO is located in Mettur, Tamil Nadu, not Ratnagiri. Therefore, only the pair BALCO – Korba is correctly matched. Aluminium smelting requires high electricity consumption, so industries are located near power-rich regions like Korba.

Final Answer: BALCO – Korba

Answer: (A)

Q38.

Solution

Concept: Coffee cultivation in India was introduced during the colonial period. The Arabica variety is the most famous and high-quality coffee type, originally brought from Yemen. It is widely cultivated in the southern hill regions of India, especially Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.

Solution: The question asks which coffee variety India is world-renowned for that was originally brought from Yemen. Arabica coffee is considered the finest quality coffee and is known for its mild flavor and aroma. It was introduced into India by Baba Budan in the 17th century when he brought coffee beans from Yemen and planted them in the hills of Karnataka. This variety thrives in high-altitude regions with cool climates. Robusta is another variety grown in India but is of lower quality and higher caffeine content. Liberica and Excelsa are not significant in Indian coffee production. Therefore, Arabica is the correct answer.

Final Answer: Arabica

Answer: (B)

Q39.

Solution

Concept: The Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) focuses on soil conservation, water harvesting, and groundwater recharge through community participation. Ralegan Siddhi in Maharashtra is a model village where watershed development transformed drought-prone conditions into sustainable agriculture through social reform and collective action led by a key social activist.

Solution: The question asks about the person associated with the success of IWMP in Ralegan Siddhi. This village in Maharashtra became a globally recognized model of watershed management and rural development. The transformation was achieved through community participation, water conservation structures like check dams, and strict social reforms such as banning alcohol and promoting collective responsibility. The key figure behind this success was Anna Hazare, a social activist who mobilized villagers for sustainable development. Other options like Medha Patkar, Sundarlal Bahuguna, and Rajendra Singh are also notable environmental activists, but Rajendra Singh is mainly associated with water conservation in Rajasthan, not Ralegan Siddhi. Therefore, Anna Hazare is correctly linked to this model village.

Final Answer: Anna Hazare

Answer: (A)

Q40.

Solution

Concept: The National Water Policy in India provides a framework for sustainable development, allocation, and management of water resources. It has been revised multiple times to address emerging challenges like water scarcity, climate change, and increasing demand from agriculture, industry, and domestic use.

Solution: The question asks about the year in which the National Water Policy was formulated. India first formulated its National Water Policy in 1987 to guide water resource planning and management. It was later revised in 2002 and again in 2012 to incorporate new challenges such as environmental sustainability, water pricing, and integrated water resource management. Since the question refers to the original formulation, the correct year is 1987. The later years represent revisions rather than the initial formulation. Therefore, option (A) is correct.

Final Answer: 1987

Answer: (A)

Q41.

Solution

Concept: David Ricardo's theory of Comparative Advantage explains the basis of international trade through specialization. According to this principle, countries should specialize in producing goods they can manufacture at a lower opportunity cost compared to other nations. Even if one country is more efficient in producing all goods, trade remains beneficial when each country focuses on goods where it has the greatest relative efficiency.

Solution: The question asks which principle explains why a country exports goods it can produce at a lower opportunity cost. Absolute advantage refers to producing goods more efficiently in absolute terms, but Ricardo emphasized relative efficiency. Mercantilism focused on accumulating wealth through exports, while import substitution encourages domestic production to reduce imports. Comparative advantage specifically explains that nations benefit by specializing in products with lower opportunity costs and trading for others. This principle forms the foundation of modern international trade theory. Therefore, the correct answer is Comparative Advantage.

Final Answer: Comparative Advantage

Answer: (B)

Q42.

Solution

Concept: The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was established to reduce trade barriers after World War II. Later, the World Trade Organization (WTO) replaced GATT as a stronger institutional framework for global trade governance. The WTO expanded trade regulation beyond goods to include services, intellectual property rights, and a legally binding dispute settlement system.

Solution: The question asks the primary difference between GATT and the WTO. GATT was not a permanent organization like the WTO, making option (A) incorrect. WTO does not encourage protective tariffs or deal only with developed nations. The key distinction is that WTO has a formal legal structure with an effective dispute settlement mechanism and broader jurisdiction covering services and intellectual property rights under agreements such as GATS and TRIPS. GATT mainly dealt with trade in goods and lacked strong enforcement mechanisms. Therefore, the correct answer is the legally binding and expanded scope of the WTO.

Final Answer: WTO has binding dispute settlement and wider trade coverage

Answer: (B)

Q43.

Solution

Concept: Dumping is an unfair trade practice in international commerce where goods are exported at prices lower than their normal value, often below production cost or below domestic market price. This strategy is used to capture foreign markets, eliminate competition, and establish dominance, which can negatively affect domestic industries in importing countries.

Solution: The question asks what "dumping" means in international trade. Shipping toxic waste or overloading ships are unrelated concepts, and sudden withdrawal of investment refers to capital flight. Dumping specifically refers to the export of products at artificially low prices in foreign markets. Such pricing allows exporting firms to gain market share and weaken local industries in importing nations. Developing countries often view dumping as harmful because domestic producers struggle to compete with extremely low-priced imports. Therefore, the correct answer is exporting products below production cost or domestic market price.

Final Answer: Selling goods below cost to gain market share

Answer: (B)

Q44.

Solution

Concept: Regional trade blocs are agreements between geographically close countries to promote trade and economic cooperation by reducing tariffs and trade barriers. Examples include ASEAN and SAFTA. Geographic proximity lowers transport costs and strengthens regional integration, making trade more efficient among member countries.

Solution: The assertion states that regional trade blocs are becoming increasingly important in global trade. This is true because countries benefit from economic cooperation and easier market access within regional groups. The reason explains that such blocs reduce trade barriers, lower transport costs, and utilize geographic proximity, which is also true. These advantages directly explain the growing importance of regional trade organizations in the global economy. Therefore, both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason correctly explains the assertion.

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

Answer: (A)

Q45.

Solution

Concept: High-value services are advanced service-sector activities requiring specialized knowledge, technical expertise, and professional skills. In the modern global economy, international trade increasingly includes services such as finance, software development, research, legal consultancy, and Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO), which belong to quaternary and quinary economic activities.

Solution: The question asks which option represents a high-value service involved in international trade. Exporting minerals and transporting food grains are traditional commodity-based activities, while handicrafts are small-scale traditional industries. Knowledge Process Outsourcing and legal consultancy, however, involve highly specialized intellectual services provided across international borders through digital communication and global business networks. These sectors have grown rapidly with globalization and technological advancement. Therefore, the correct answer is KPO and legal consultancy services.

Final Answer: Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO) and legal consultancy services

Answer: (C)

Q46.

Solution

Concept: Arsenic contamination in groundwater is a major environmental issue in the Gangetic plains, especially in West Bengal and Bangladesh. Excessive extraction of groundwater disturbs the natural geochemical balance of aquifers and causes arsenic-bearing minerals in underground geological layers to dissolve into groundwater, making it unsafe for human consumption.

Solution: The question asks the primary geographical reason for arsenic contamination in West Bengal groundwater. Fertilizer use in tea gardens and industrial pollution from jute mills are not the main causes of widespread arsenic contamination. Saline water intrusion mainly affects coastal aquifers. The major reason is over-extraction of groundwater through tube wells, which changes underground chemical conditions and leads to the release of arsenic from geological strata into aquifers. This contaminated water then enters drinking and irrigation systems, causing severe health problems. Therefore, the correct answer is over-extraction leading to mineral leaching.

Final Answer: Groundwater over-extraction causing mineral leaching

Answer: (B)

Q47.

Solution

Concept: Possibilism in human geography emphasizes that while the environment provides certain limitations, humans can modify and adapt their surroundings through technology, planning, and social organization. Human beings are not passive victims of nature but active agents capable of transforming environmental conditions for development and sustainability.

Solution: The question asks which geographical concept is illustrated by the transformation of Ralegan Siddhi into a self-sufficient village. Environmental determinism would suggest people are completely controlled by climate, which is not the case here. Stop-and-go determinism does not deny environmental modification, and radical geography is unrelated to corporate funding. The success of Ralegan Siddhi came from watershed management, community participation, afforestation, and water conservation measures that overcame environmental constraints. This demonstrates human capability to improve living conditions despite a water-scarce environment. Therefore, the correct answer is Possibilism.

Final Answer: Possibilism through human adaptation

Answer: (B)

Q48.

Solution

Concept: Equity is one of the major pillars of human development. It means ensuring fair access to opportunities and resources for all people regardless of social or economic status. In watershed management, equity ensures that the benefits of conserved water and environmental resources are shared equally among all community members.

Solution: The question asks what the equity pillar implies in watershed management. Restricting water access to wealthy landowners or technical professionals would violate the principle of fairness. Exporting conserved water for profit also ignores community welfare. Equity emphasizes that all people, including marginalized groups and small farmers, should receive fair access to conserved water resources for drinking, irrigation, and livelihood improvement. This ensures inclusive and sustainable development within the community. Therefore, the correct answer is equal access to water resources regardless of socio-economic status.

Final Answer: Equal access to conserved water resources

Answer: (B)

Q49.

Solution

Concept: Water-intensive crops such as paddy and sugarcane require large quantities of irrigation water. Cultivating these crops in semi-arid regions creates ecological stress because groundwater is extracted faster than it can be naturally replenished. Excessive irrigation can also cause salinization and waterlogging, leading to long-term land degradation.

Solution: The assertion states that growing paddy and sugarcane in semi-arid regions is ecologically unsustainable. This is true because these crops consume enormous quantities of water. The reason explains that such cultivation depletes aquifers and contributes to salinization and land degradation, which is also true. Excessive groundwater withdrawal lowers water tables, while improper irrigation causes salts to accumulate in the soil, reducing agricultural productivity. Thus, the reason directly explains why cultivation of water-intensive crops in dry regions is unsustainable. Therefore, both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason correctly explains the assertion.

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

Answer: (A)

Q50.

Solution

Concept: Watershed management programs in India aim to conserve water, improve groundwater recharge, support afforestation, and promote sustainable rural development. The Central Government launched several initiatives encouraging community participation in water conservation and resource management to address drought and ecological degradation.

Solution: The question asks which watershed management program is specifically a Central Government initiative. Neeru-Meeru is associated with Andhra Pradesh, while Arvary Pani Sansad is a community-based initiative in Rajasthan. Namami Gange focuses mainly on river conservation and cleaning. Haryali is the Central Government program designed to involve rural communities in conserving water resources for drinking, irrigation, and afforestation through integrated watershed management. Therefore, the correct answer is Haryali.

Final Answer: Haryali

Answer: (A)

Answer Key

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