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EPFO

Solved PYQs

Enforcement Officer / Accounts Officer · Assistant Provident Fund Commissioner

Subject-wise | Year-wise | Detailed Explanations

7

QUESTION PAPERS

820

QUESTIONS SOLVED

2012–2025

YEARS COVERED

Answers as per UPSC final answer keys · Update notes on laws changed till 2026

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About this Book

This book brings together every question asked in the UPSC recruitment tests for **EPFO Enforcement Officer / Accounts Officer (EO/AO)** and **Assistant Provident Fund Commissioner (APFC)** from 2012 to 2025 — arranged **subject-wise**, then **year-wise**, with a clear explanation for every question.

Year	Examination	Date of test	Questions	Answers based on
2025	EO/AO & APFC Common Test	30 November 2025	120	Verified expert solution*
2023	EO/AO	2 July 2023	120	UPSC final answer key
2023	APFC	2 July 2023	120	UPSC final answer key
2021	EO/AO	5 September 2021	120 (1 dropped)	UPSC final answer key
2017	EO/AO	26 February 2017	120	UPSC final answer key
2016	APFC	10 January 2016	120 (1 dropped)	UPSC final answer key
2012	APFC	23 September 2012	100 (1 dropped)	UPSC final answer key

* UPSC's final answer key for the 30 November 2025 test was not available when this edition was prepared. Each 2025 answer was solved independently by two subject experts and cross-checked; any debatable item carries a note.

How to use this book

Subject → Year. Questions are grouped into 23 chapters. Inside each chapter they run from the latest paper to the oldest, under a band such as **EXAMINATION YEAR 2023 · EO/AO**

Original reference. The grey tag after every question (e.g. [EO/AO 2023 · Q21]) gives the paper and the original question number, so you can also attempt full papers from the answer key at the end.

Answers. The answer line always follows UPSC's final answer key. Where a key is debatable, a **NOTE** box explains the other view — the answer is never silently changed.

Laws that changed. Answers are correct as on the date of the exam. **UPDATE 2026** boxes tell you the present position — for example, the four Labour Codes that came into force on 21 November 2025.

English section. Questions on the English language are printed exactly as in the original paper (English only), including their deliberate errors.

Exam pattern at a glance

One objective paper (General Ability Test / General Studies), 120 questions, 2 hours, one-third negative marking for wrong answers. Short-listed candidates are called for interview; final selection is on combined merit.

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1.1

Spotting Errors & Sentence Correction

EXAMINATION YEAR 2023 · EO/AO

1. **Directions :** In the following five items, each item has a sentence with three underlined parts labelled as (a), (b), and (c). Read each sentence and identify any error in any underlined part, and indicate your response on the Answer Sheet against the corresponding letter, i.e. (a) (b) or (c). If you find no error, your response should be indicated as (d).

Ramesh liked (a) / his friend's music player (b) / to his own. (c) / No error (d)

[EO/AO 2023 · Q6]

Explanation :

- When one thing is chosen over another with **to**, the correct verb is **prefer** (prefer X to Y); 'like ... to' is not idiomatic.
- Correct sentence: Ramesh **preferred** his friend's music player to his own.
- Value addition:** *prefer* takes 'to', not 'than' – 'I prefer tea to coffee'; but 'I would rather have tea than coffee'.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (a).

2. **Given the complex of the problem (a) / the committee is not expected (b) / to arrive at a decision any time soon. (c) / No error (d)**

[EO/AO 2023 · Q7]

Explanation :

- After the article 'the' and before 'of', an abstract **noun** is needed. The noun meaning 'the quality of being complicated' is **complexity**, not *complex*.
- (A *complex* as a noun means a group of buildings or a psychological fixation, which does not fit the sense.)
- Correct sentence: Given the **complexity** of the problem, the committee is not expected to arrive at a decision any time soon.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (a).

3. **The group of students (a) / on a visit to Srinagar (b) / circumnavigated around the Dal Lake. (c) / No error (d)**

[EO/AO 2023 · Q8]

Explanation :

- Circumnavigate** already means 'to travel all the way around' (Latin *circum* = around), so adding **around** is **redundant** (tautology).
- Correct sentence: The group of students on a visit to Srinagar **circumnavigated the Dal Lake**.

- Similar redundancies: 'return back', 'revert back', 'repeat again', 'cooperate together'.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

4. **Jitender was the smartest (a) / of the two (b) / children in the room. (c) / No error (d)**

[EO/AO 2023 · Q9]

Explanation :

- When only **two** persons or things are compared, the **comparative degree** is used; the superlative is used for three or more.
- 'Of the two children' requires **smarter**, not 'smartest'.
- Correct sentence: Jitender was the **smarter** of the two children in the room.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (a).

5. **He asked me if I would be (a) / interested in signing up (b) / as a member of the group. (c) / No error (d)**

[EO/AO 2023 · Q10]

Explanation :

- A reported yes/no question is introduced by **if/whether** and takes statement word order: 'asked me if I would be' is correct, with *will* backshifted to **would** after the past-tense 'asked'.
- Interested in** is followed by a gerund – 'signing up' is correct.
- As a member of** the group is idiomatic. The sentence has **no error**.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

EXAMINATION YEAR 2021 · EO/AO

6. **Directions :** Each item in this section has a sentence with three underlined parts labelled (a), (b) and (c). Read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in any underlined part and indicate your response in the Answer Sheet against the corresponding letter i.e., (a) or (b) or (c). If you find no error, your response should be indicated as (d).

Neither the servants (a) / nor the clerk (b) / has done this. (c) / No error (d)

[EO/AO 2021 · Q16]

Explanation :

- Rule: with **neither...nor / either...or**, the verb agrees with the **nearer subject** (rule of proximity).
- The subject nearer to the verb is 'the clerk' (singular), so the singular verb **has** is correct.
- The sentence has no error. (Style tip: placing the plural subject last — 'Neither the clerk nor the

3. S1 : Contemporary history is necessary, but it is at best a tentative record.

S6 : Some portentous events can be seen to be so from the moment of their occurrence, like the discovery of the New World; others of comparable momentousness are hidden in obscurity.

P : The relevance of the issue of proportion is significant.

Q : It possesses, indeed, a massive supply of public record, but it necessarily lacks the inner knowledge of politicians' minds, of planners' proposals, of scientists' discoveries, of technicians' break-throughs.

R : It also lacks perspective since it is bereft of a sense of proportion.

S : It is impossible, over just a few years of observation, to estimate accurately the significance of various events.

[EO/AO 2023 · Q3]

- (a) QPSR (b) SRPQ
(c) QSRP (d) PRSQ

Explanation :

- Q ('It possesses, indeed...') explains why contemporary history is only a tentative record: it has public records but lacks inner knowledge.
- S adds a second limitation – significance cannot be judged over just a few years.
- R ('It *also* lacks perspective... a sense of proportion') introduces the idea of proportion, which P then takes up ('the issue of proportion').
- S6 illustrates proportion with examples of events whose importance is obvious or hidden. Sequence: QSRP.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

4. S1 : Income inequality in less-developed countries is worse than most estimates.

S6 : The tax regime in these countries needs to be progressive and futuristic.

P : There is a staggering level of difference between the income metrics and the actual income of the prosperous in such countries.

Q : The effective tax rates are not really progressive with regard to income.

R : They need to be reengineered to bring into the tax net the enormous sums of 'missing' income.

S : They are even less so with regard to wealth.

[EO/AO 2023 · Q4]

- (a) PQSR (b) QSPR
(c) QSRP (d) SRPQ

Explanation :

- Q and S form a fixed pair: Q says effective tax rates are not progressive on income; S ('They are even *less so* with regard to wealth') cannot stand without Q.
- P then points out the staggering gap between recorded income metrics and the *actual* income of the prosperous.
- R follows P: the gap described in P is the 'missing' income that tax systems must be reengineered to capture.
- R leads into S6, which calls for a progressive and futuristic tax regime. Sequence: QSPR.

NOTE The sequence PQSR (option a) is also defensible, since P elaborates S1's claim that inequality is worse than estimates and 'They' in R can refer to the tax rates in Q–S. The accepted answer is QSPR (option b), which rests on the P–R link between 'actual income' and 'missing income'.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (b).

5. S1 : The history of English literature is usually divided into different periods.

S6 : This is the real danger of periodization, which tends to give the impression of distinct categories where there are none.

P : However there are important discontinuities to be kept in mind.

Q : Each period has unique features that produce certain family resemblances between the writers of a particular period.

R : Scholars often specialize in periods such as Medieval, Renaissance, Romantic, Victorian, and Modern literature.

S : Failure to detect these discontinuities often produce a false sense of uniformity and consensus within a period.

[EO/AO 2023 · Q5]

- (a) PQRS (b) RQPS
(c) PSQR (d) RSPQ

Explanation :

- R gives examples of the periods mentioned in S1 (Medieval, Renaissance, Romantic, Victorian, Modern).
- Q explains what unites a period – shared features and 'family resemblances' among its writers.
- P ('However') introduces the contrast: there are important **discontinuities**; S refers to *these discontinuities* and the false sense of uniformity they create.

5. Which one of the following phrasal verbs may be used in the blank space in the sentence, “He is fond of art and seems _____ (suited) to be an artist”?

[EO/AO 2017 · Q14]

- (a) fit out (b) bring out
(c) cut out (d) suit out

Explanation :

- **Be cut out to be / cut out for** = to have the natural qualities that suit a person for a role, which matches '(suited)'.
- Correct sentence: *He is fond of art and seems cut out to be an artist.*
- **Fit out** = to equip (a ship, room, etc.); **bring out** = to publish or reveal a quality; **suit out** is not an English phrasal verb.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

6. Which one of the following phrasal verbs may be used in the blank space in the sentence, “We were happy in the beginning, but now all the troubles have _____ (appeared)”?

[EO/AO 2017 · Q15]

- (a) cropped up (b) come about
(c) come out (d) rushed in

Explanation :

- **Crop up** = to *appear or arise suddenly and unexpectedly*, typically used for problems or difficulties.
- Correct sentence: *...but now all the troubles have cropped up.*
- **Come about** = to happen; **come out** = to be published or to become known; **rush in** = to enter hurriedly or act without thinking.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (a).

7. Which one of the following phrasal verbs may be used in the blank space in the sentence, “No one knows how it all _____ (happened)”?

[EO/AO 2017 · Q16]

- (a) came across (b) came about
(c) came into (d) came forward

Explanation :

- **Come about** = *to happen or take place*, especially in a way not fully understood.
- Correct sentence: *No one knows how it all came about.*
- **Come across** = to find or meet by chance; **come into** = to inherit (money/property); **come forward** = to volunteer or offer help/information.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (b).

8. Which one of the following phrasal verbs may be used in the blank space in the sentence, “I have to _____ (finish) this work before I leave tomorrow morning”?

[EO/AO 2017 · Q17]

- (a) clear up (b) clean up
(c) finish up (d) do away with

Explanation :

- **Clear up** (work, arrears, a backlog) = *to finish or deal with pending work completely*, which matches '(finish)'.
- Correct sentence: *I have to clear up this work before I leave tomorrow morning.*
- **Clean up** = to make a place clean and tidy; **finish up** commonly means to end up in a place or situation (*we finished up in Goa*); **do away with** = to abolish or get rid of.

NOTE In informal usage 'finish up' can also mean 'complete'. Since the bracketed clue already gives 'finish', the item is designed to test a different phrasal verb with that meaning, which is 'clear up'.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (a).

■ ■ ■

18. Which of the following statements relating to the recent steps taken by the "Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)" is/are correct ?

1. EPFO has enhanced member services by increasing the auto-settlement limit for advance claims from the existing ₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 3 lakh.
2. EPFO first introduced auto-settlement of advance claims during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Select the answer using the codes given below :

[Common Test 2025 · Q118]

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation :

- Statement 1 is incorrect: in **June 2025**, EPFO raised the **auto-settlement limit for advance claims from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh**, not to ₹3 lakh. Claims up to that amount are settled automatically, with no manual processing.
- Statement 2 is correct: EPFO **first introduced auto-mode settlement** of advance claims in **April 2020**, during the **COVID-19 pandemic**. The limit was later raised from ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh in 2024, and education, marriage and housing advances were added to illness advances.
- Hence only statement 2 is correct.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (b).

19. Which of the following statements relating to the recent steps taken by the Government of India under the 'Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme' is/are correct ?

1. ELI Scheme has an outlay of about ₹ 1 lakh crore.
2. Establishments registered with the EPFO are required to hire at least two additional employees (with fewer than 50 employees) or five additional employees (with 50 or more employees), on a sustained basis for at least six months, to avail benefits under the ELI Scheme.

Select the answer using the codes given below :

[Common Test 2025 · Q119]

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation :

- Statement 1 is correct: the Union Cabinet approved the **ELI Scheme** on **1 July 2025** with an outlay of

₹99,446 crore (about ₹1 lakh crore). It aims to help create over **3.5 crore jobs** over two years.

- Statement 2 is correct: under **Part B** (support to employers), EPFO-registered establishments must add **at least 2 employees (if they have fewer than 50) or 5 employees (if 50 or more)**, retained for **at least six months**. Employers get up to **₹3,000 a month** per extra employee.
- **Part A** gives first-time employees one month's EPF wage, up to **₹15,000**, in two instalments.
- **Value addition:** the scheme was launched as the **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY)** on 15 August 2025, for jobs created between 1 August 2025 and 31 July 2027.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

EXAMINATION YEAR 2023 · EO/AO

20. An employee shall be covered under the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, should the employee be drawing a maximum monthly wage of :

[EO/AO 2023 · Q26]

- (a) Rupees fifteen thousand
- (b) Rupees eighteen thousand
- (c) Rupees twenty-one thousand
- (d) Rupees twenty-four thousand

Explanation :

- Under **Section 1(6) of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936**, the Act applies to wages payable to an employed person whose wages for a wage period do not exceed the ceiling notified by the Central Government.
- The ceiling was raised from **₹18,000 to ₹24,000 per month** by notification S.O. 2806(E) dated 28 August 2017.
- Hence employees drawing up to **₹24,000 per month** were covered.

UPDATE 2026 The Payment of Wages Act, 1936 has been repealed and subsumed in the Code on Wages, 2019, which came into force on 21 November 2025; the Code's provisions on timely payment of wages are not tied to this wage ceiling.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

31. An 'out-worker' is expressly excluded from the definition of 'workman' under which one of the following legislations ?

[EO/AO 2023 · Q67]

- (a) The Factories Act, 1948
- (b) The Plantations Labour Act, 1951
- (c) The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970
- (d) The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979

Explanation :

- **Section 2(1)(i) of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970** defines 'workman' and expressly excludes: (A) persons employed mainly in a managerial or administrative capacity; (B) supervisory staff drawing wages above the prescribed limit or exercising managerial functions; and (C) an out-worker.
- An **out-worker** is a person to whom articles or materials are given out by the principal employer to be made up, cleaned, repaired, finished or otherwise processed **in his own home or other premises not under the control of the principal employer**.
- The other Acts listed do not carry this express out-worker exclusion in their definition of workman/worker.

UPDATE 2026 The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 has been subsumed in the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, brought into force on 21 November 2025.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

32. Which one of the following nature of work shall not be taken into account while the Appropriate Government considers prohibiting employment of contract labour in an establishment under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 ?

[EO/AO 2023 · Q68]

- (a) The process, operation or other work is incidental to or necessary for the industry
- (b) The work is of a permanent nature
- (c) The work is done ordinarily through regular workmen
- (d) The work is of intermittent nature

Explanation :

- **Section 10(2) of the CLRA Act, 1970** lists factors the appropriate Government must consider, along with conditions of work and benefits, before prohibiting contract labour in any process, operation or work:

- (a) whether the work is **incidental to or necessary** for the industry, trade or business; (b) whether it is of a **perennial nature** (of sufficient duration); (c) whether it is **done ordinarily through regular workmen** in that or a similar establishment; (d) whether it is **sufficient to employ a considerable number of whole-time workmen**.
- Work of an **intermittent nature** is not a ground for prohibition – such work is typically suited to contract labour.

UPDATE 2026 The CLRA Act, 1970 has been subsumed in the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, brought into force on 21 November 2025.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

33. Which of the statements relating to the Grievance Redressal Committee under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 is not correct ?

[EO/AO 2023 · Q69]

- (a) It shall consist of equal number of members from among employer and workmen.
- (b) It shall be constituted in an industrial establishment employing twenty or more workmen.
- (c) The Chairperson of the Committee shall be nominated by the Appropriate Government.
- (d) The total members of the Committee shall not be more than six.

Explanation :

- **Section 9C of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947** (inserted in 2010) requires every industrial establishment employing **20 or more workmen** to have one or more **Grievance Redressal Committees** – so (b) is correct.
- The committee has an **equal number of members from the employer and the workmen** (a is correct), and its **total membership cannot exceed six** (d is correct).
- (c) is incorrect: the **Chairperson is selected alternately from the employer's side and from among the workmen, by rotation every year** – not nominated by the appropriate Government.
- **Value addition:** the committee should complete proceedings within **45 days** of a written application.

UPDATE 2026 The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 has been subsumed in the Industrial Relations Code, 2020 (in force from 21 November 2025). Under Section 4 of the Code, a Grievance Redressal Committee is required in establishments with 20 or more workers, may have up to

95. Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 covers factors like

1. Factories and establishments with 10 or more employees.
2. Provision of comprehensive medical care to employees and their families.
3. Provision of cash benefits during sickness and maternity.
4. Monthly payments in case of death or disablement.

Which of the above statements are correct ?

[APFC 2016 · Q114]

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation :

- Statement 1 is correct: the Act applies to non-seasonal **factories employing 10 or more persons**, and has been extended to shops, hotels, restaurants, cinemas, educational and medical institutions, etc. employing 10 or more persons.
- Statement 2 is correct: **medical benefit** (full medical care) is provided to insured employees and their family members (**Section 46 of the ESI Act, 1948**).
- Statement 3 is correct: cash **sickness benefit** and **maternity benefit** are paid during certified sickness and confinement.
- Statement 4 is correct: **disablement benefit** and **dependants' benefit** (on death due to employment injury) are paid as periodical/monthly payments.
- **Value addition:** funeral expenses and unemployment allowance (Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana) are other ESI benefits.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

96. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana :

1. It is applicable to all adults above the age group of 18 years.
2. The premium is deducted from the account holder's bank account through 'auto debit facility'.
3. The life insurance worth is decided by the account holder and he has to pay the annual premium accordingly.
4. The life insurance amount is given to the family after the death of the subscriber.

Which of the above statements are correct ?

[APFC 2016 · Q115]

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

Explanation :

- Statement 1 is incorrect: PMJJBY is for savings bank account holders aged **18 to 50 years** (cover continues up to 55), not all adults above 18.
- Statement 2 is correct: the annual premium is recovered through **auto-debit** from the subscriber's bank account.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: the life cover is a **fixed ₹2 lakh** with a fixed premium; the subscriber cannot choose the sum assured.
- Statement 4 is correct: ₹2 lakh is paid to the **nominee/family on the death** of the subscriber due to any cause.

UPDATE 2026 The annual premium of PMJJBY, originally ₹330, was revised to ₹436 with effect from 1 June 2022.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

- (c) Incorrect: the Act **abolished the Council of India** and reduced the Secretary of State's control; in provincial matters under responsible ministers his authority was largely curtailed.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

7. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the code given below the Lists :

List I (Congress Session)	List II (President)
A. Lahore Session, 1909	1. Madan Mohan Malaviya
B. Calcutta Session, 1911	2. Raghunath Narasinha Mudholkar
C. Bankipore Session, 1912	3. Bishan Narayan Dar
D. Madras Session, 1914	4. Bhupendra Nath Bose

[EO/AO 2023 · Q23]

- (a) A-1 B-3 C-2 D-4
- (b) A-1 B-2 C-3 D-4
- (c) A-4 B-2 C-3 D-1
- (d) A-4 B-3 C-2 D-1

Explanation :

- **Lahore, 1909** – Madan Mohan Malaviya (A-1).
- **Calcutta, 1911** – Bishan Narayan Dar (B-3); 'Jana Gana Mana' was first sung at this session.
- **Bankipore (Patna), 1912** – Raghunath Narasinha Mudholkar (C-2).
- **Madras, 1914** – Bhupendra Nath Bose (D-4). Code: **A-1, B-3, C-2, D-4**.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (a).

8. Who among the following started the Bhonsala Military School at Nashik ?

[EO/AO 2023 · Q24]

- (a) V.D. Savarkar
- (b) M.R. Jayakar
- (c) N.C. Kelkar
- (d) B.S. Moonje

Explanation :

- **Dr. B.S. Moonje**, a Hindu Mahasabha leader, founded the **Central Hindu Military Education Society** (1935), which set up the **Bhonsala Military School** at Nashik in **1937**.
- He aimed to prepare Indian youth for commissions in the armed forces.
- V.D. Savarkar led the Hindu Mahasabha; M.R. Jayakar was a Liberal lawyer-politician; N.C. Kelkar was a Tilakite journalist (editor of *Kesari*).

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

9. Arrange the following events associated with Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya in chronological order, starting with the earliest :

1. Founding of the Banaras Hindu University
2. Formation of the Congress Nationalist Party
3. Founding of the English newspaper 'The Leader'
4. Founding of the Hindu Boarding House at Allahabad

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

[EO/AO 2023 · Q25]

- (a) 3-4-1-2
- (b) 4-3-1-2
- (c) 4-3-2-1
- (d) 3-4-2-1

Explanation :

- **Hindu Boarding House, Allahabad** – set up in the early 1900s (c. 1901–03).
- **The Leader** (English daily, Allahabad) – 1909.
- **Banaras Hindu University** – 1916 (under the BHU Act, 1915).
- **Congress Nationalist Party** – 1934, formed with M.S. Aney over Congress's stand on the Communal Award. Order: **4-3-1-2**.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (b).

10. Who among the following was a companion of freedom fighter Rani Chennamma of Kittur and continued the fight against the British after the Rani's capture by the British in 1824 ?

[EO/AO 2023 · Q61]

- (a) Rayanna
- (b) Tipu Garo
- (c) Jagbandhu
- (d) Dukaribala Devi

Explanation :

- **Sangolli Rayanna** was a close lieutenant of **Rani Chennamma of Kittur** (Karnataka), who took up arms in 1824 when the British refused to recognise her adopted son and tried to take over Kittur.
- After the Rani was captured in 1824, Rayanna carried on **guerrilla warfare** against the British until he was betrayed, captured and **hanged in 1831**.
- Others: **Tipu (Garo)** – Pagal Panthi movement in Mymensingh (Bengal); **Bakshi Jagabandhu** – Paika Rebellion, Odisha (1817); **Dukaribala Devi** – Bengal revolutionary, first woman convicted under the Arms Act.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (a).

opposed Council entry and stressed Gandhi's constructive programme.

- Hence Motilal Nehru was not a no-changer.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

28. Who among the following was not a member of the Cabinet Mission ?

[EO/AO 2021 · Q95]

- (a) Pethick-Lawrence
- (b) Stafford Cripps
- (c) A.V. Alexander
- (d) Lord Wavell

Explanation :

- The **Cabinet Mission** (arrived March 1946) had three British Cabinet ministers:
- **Lord Pethick-Lawrence** (Secretary of State for India, leader), **Sir Stafford Cripps** (President of the Board of Trade) and **A.V. Alexander** (First Lord of the Admiralty).
- **Lord Wavell**, the Viceroy, took part in the negotiations but was **not a member** of the Mission.
- **Value addition:** the Mission's plan of **16 May 1946** proposed a three-tier federation and a Constituent Assembly.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

EXAMINATION YEAR 2017 · EO/AO

29. Who is the author of the work, The Evolution of Provincial Finance in British India : A Study in the Provincial Decentralization of Imperial Finance?

[EO/AO 2017 · Q21]

- (a) Dadabhai Naoroji
- (b) Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
- (c) M. N. Roy
- (d) Jawaharlal Nehru

Explanation :

- *The Evolution of Provincial Finance in British India* is **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's** doctoral thesis for **Columbia University**. It was published in London in 1925.
- It traces how imperial finance was gradually decentralised to the provinces between 1833 and 1921.
- Other works by Ambedkar: *The Problem of the Rupee* (1923), *Annihilation of Caste* (1936), *Who Were the Shudras?* (1946).

- **Value addition:** **Dadabhai Naoroji** wrote *Poverty and Un-British Rule in India* (1901), which set out the **Drain Theory**.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (b).

30. In the context of international affairs, which one of the following is correct about Lord Curzon?

[EO/AO 2017 · Q22]

- (a) He advocated a pacifist policy.
- (b) He wanted to establish a British sphere of influence over the Persian Gulf and Seistan.
- (c) He wanted England and Russia to become friends against China.
- (d) He wanted to lead a flag-waving mission to the USA.

Explanation :

- **Lord Curzon** (Viceroy, 1899–1905) followed an aggressive **forward policy** to shield India from **Russian expansion**. He was no pacifist.
- He sought a **British sphere of influence over the Persian Gulf and Seistan** (eastern Persia) and made a show-of-strength tour of the Gulf in 1903.
- He also sent the **Younghusband expedition to Tibet (1903–04)** to counter suspected Russian influence there.
- Options (c) and (d) have no historical basis.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (b).

31. Which one of the following is correct about Assam in British India?

[EO/AO 2017 · Q23]

- (a) It was a part of the North-East Frontier Agency.
- (b) It was made a province in 1865.
- (c) It was separated from Bengal in 1874, and along with Sylhet made into a Chief Commissioner's province.
- (d) It was a Princely State ruled by Ahom kings.

Explanation :

- In **1874**, Assam was **separated from the Bengal Presidency** and made a **Chief Commissioner's province** with its capital at **Shillong**; the Bengali-speaking district of **Sylhet** was attached to it.
- (a) is wrong: **NEFA** was created only in 1954, after Independence. (d) is wrong: the Ahom kingdom came under British control after the **Treaty of Yandabo (1826)**.
- **Value addition:** Assam was merged into **Eastern Bengal and Assam** in 1905, became a Chief

16. Which of the following statements regarding the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme are correct ?

1. The nodal ministry for the scheme is the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
2. Funds released under the scheme are non-lapsable.
3. The role of the Member of Parliament is limited to recommending works.
4. The scheme is confined to the State from which the Member of Parliament is elected (Lok Sabha). However, a Member of Parliament from Rajya Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the country.

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

[EO/AO 2023 · Q58]

- (a) 1 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation :

- Statement 1 is correct: MPLADS is administered by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.
- Statement 2 is correct: funds released under the scheme are **non-lapsable**; unspent amounts are carried forward.
- Statement 3 is correct: the MP only **recommends works**; sanction, execution and monitoring are done by the **District Authority**.
- Statement 4 is incorrect: Lok Sabha MPs recommend works within their **constituency** and **elected Rajya Sabha MPs** within the **State** of election; only **nominated members** can choose works anywhere in the country (now only in the Rajya Sabha, since Anglo-Indian nominations to the Lok Sabha ended in 2020).
- **Value addition:** annual entitlement is **₹5 crore per MP**.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (b).

17. Which one of the following was not recommended by the Dinesh Goswami Committee (1990) ?

[EO/AO 2023 · Q60]

- (a) The appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner should be made by the President of India in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition.
- (b) The members of the Election Commission should be appointed by the President of India on the advice of a Committee, consisting of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.
- (c) The consultation process should have a statutory backing.
- (d) The appointment of the other Election Commissioners should be made in consultation with the Chief Election Commissioner, the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition.

Explanation :

- The **Dinesh Goswami Committee on Electoral Reforms (1990)** recommended that the **Chief Election Commissioner** be appointed by the President in consultation with the **Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition** (a).
- For **other Election Commissioners**, consultation was to include the **CJI, the Leader of the Opposition and the CEC** (d), and this consultation process was to have **statutory backing** (c).
- A committee of only the **Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition** (b) was not its recommendation.
- **Value addition:** the **CEC and Other ECs (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023** provides a selection committee of the PM, Leader of the Opposition and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the PM.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (b).

18. Which one of the following is not a constitutional body in India ?

[EO/AO 2023 · Q91]

- (a) National Human Rights Commission
- (b) National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
- (c) National Commission for Backward Classes
- (d) National Commission for Scheduled Castes

Explanation :

- **National Human Rights Commission** is a **statutory body** set up in 1993 under the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993**. It is not a constitutional body.
- **National Commission for Scheduled Castes – Article 338.**

- It has two variants: **eSanjeevani AB-HWC** – doctor-to-doctor (hub-and-spoke) consultation linking Health and Wellness Centres with specialists; and **eSanjeevani OPD** – patient-to-doctor online consultation, launched in April 2020 during COVID-19.
- It is not a COVID database, a clinical registry or a health-advisory platform.
- **Value addition:** it is regarded as one of the world's largest government-run telemedicine platforms.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (b).

25. Which of the following statements about recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission is/are correct?

1. Basic (untied) grants can be used by rural local bodies for location-specific felt needs under the 29 subjects enshrined in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution of India except for salaries and other establishment costs.
2. Tied grants can be used for basic services of sanitation and maintenance of ODF status, management and treatment of household waste and human excreta.
3. It recommended 'Health Grants' to create diagnostic infrastructure in primary health care facilities.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

[APFC 2023 · Q94]

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 2 and 3 only |
| (c) 1 and 3 only | (d) 1, 2 and 3 |

Explanation :

- Statement 1 is correct: **basic (untied) grants** may be used by rural local bodies for **location-specific felt needs** under the **29 subjects of the Eleventh Schedule**, but **not for salaries or establishment costs**.
- Statement 2 is correct: **tied grants** are for (i) **sanitation and maintenance of ODF status**, including management and treatment of household waste, human excreta and faecal sludge, and (ii) drinking water, rainwater harvesting and water recycling.
- Statement 3 is correct: it recommended **health grants** (about ₹70,051 crore) through local governments for **diagnostic infrastructure in primary health care facilities**, building-less rural PHCs/SHCs, block-level public health units and urban health and wellness centres.

- **Value addition:** for rural local bodies the tied : untied split is **60 : 40** (award period 2021–26).

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

26. Which of the following statements about the functions of the State Finance Commission is/are correct?

1. It reviews the financial position of the local governments in the State.
2. It reviews the distribution of revenue between rural and urban local governments.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

[APFC 2023 · Q95]

- | |
|---------------------|
| (a) 1 only |
| (b) 2 only |
| (c) Both 1 and 2 |
| (d) Neither 1 nor 2 |

Explanation :

- The **State Finance Commission** is constituted by the Governor every five years under **Article 243-I** (Panchayats) and **Article 243-Y** (Municipalities).
- Statement 1 is correct: it **reviews the financial position** of Panchayats and Municipalities and recommends how their finances can be improved.
- Statement 2 is correct: since the same commission covers both **rural and urban local bodies**, it recommends the principles for sharing State taxes, duties, tolls and fees and for grants-in-aid, which in practice sets how devolved funds are **divided between rural and urban local governments**.
- **Value addition:** the Governor lays its report, with an action-taken memorandum, before the State Legislature.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

27. Which one of the following Articles of the Constitution of India prohibits employment of children in factory or mine or any other hazardous employment?

[APFC 2023 · Q100]

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| (a) Article 19 | (b) Article 21 |
| (c) Article 23 | (d) Article 24 |

Explanation :

- **Article 24** (Fundamental Right against Exploitation): no child **below 14 years** shall be employed in any **factory or mine** or engaged in any other **hazardous employment**.
- **Article 19** – protection of six freedoms; **Article 21** – protection of life and personal liberty; **Article 23** – prohibition of traffic in human beings and **forced labour (begar)**.

35. Who among the following was the founder of Swatantra Party ?

[EO/AO 2021 · Q60]

- (a) C. Rajagopalachari
- (b) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya
- (c) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
- (d) Acharya Narendra Dev

Explanation :

- The **Swatantra Party** was founded in **1959** by **C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji)**. He opposed Nehru's socialist policies, the 'licence-permit raj' and cooperative farming.
- Other founders included **N.G. Ranga, Minoo Masani and K.M. Munshi**. The party backed a free-market economy.
- **Syama Prasad Mookerjee** founded the **Bharatiya Jana Sangh (1951)**. **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya** was a Jana Sangh leader. **Acharya Narendra Dev** was a socialist leader of the Congress Socialist Party.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (a).

36. Who among the following Speakers of Lok Sabha formally disassociated from the political party after his election as the Speaker ?

[EO/AO 2021 · Q97]

- (a) G.V. Mavalankar
- (b) Sardar Hukam Singh
- (c) Neelam Sanjiva Reddy
- (d) P.A. Sangma

Explanation :

- **Neelam Sanjiva Reddy**, elected Speaker of the **4th Lok Sabha** in **1967**, **resigned from the Congress party** to underline the Speaker's impartiality.
- The step followed the British convention that the Speaker, once elected, stands above party politics.
- **Value addition:** he later became the **only President of India** elected **unopposed (1977)**; **G.V. Mavalankar** was the first Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

37. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project will connect India with which one of the following countries ?

[EO/AO 2021 · Q100]

- (a) Nepal
- (b) Myanmar
- (c) Bhutan
- (d) Afghanistan

Explanation :

- The **Kaladan project** links India with **Myanmar** and gives the North-East an alternative sea-river-road route bypassing the Siliguri corridor.

- Route: **Kolkata** → **Sittwe port** (sea) → **Paletwa** (Kaladan river) → **Zorinpui, Mizoram** (road).
- It is a key element of India's **Act East Policy**; Sittwe port was operationalised in 2023.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (b).

EXAMINATION YEAR 2017 · EO/AO

38. Which one of the following statements regarding an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) is not correct?

[EO/AO 2017 · Q36]

- (a) An OCI is a citizen of another country.
- (b) An OCI possesses multiple-entry long-term visa for visiting India.
- (c) An OCI is at par with NRIs in all matters.
- (d) An OCI is not entitled to the fundamental right to equality of opportunity in public employment.

Explanation :

- An **OCI** is registered under **Section 7A of the Citizenship Act, 1955**, and is a **citizen of another country** (a is correct).
- An OCI gets a **lifelong, multiple-entry, multi-purpose visa** to visit India (b is correct).
- Under **Section 7B**, OCIs have parity with NRIs only in the rights the Centre notifies, mainly economic, financial and educational matters. Agricultural or plantation land is excluded. So **'at par with NRIs in all matters' is not correct**.
- Section 7B(2) denies OCIs **Article 16** rights (equal opportunity in public employment), voting rights and constitutional offices (d is correct).

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

39. Which one of the following is not a feature of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016?

[EO/AO 2017 · Q37]

- (a) Only citizens of India are entitled for enrolment under this Act.
- (b) Both demographic and biometric information is to be submitted for enrolment.
- (c) The Unique Identification Authority of India is responsible for enrolment and authentication under this Act.
- (d) It is the responsibility of the Unique Identification Authority to ensure the security of identity of individuals.

Explanation :

- Under **Section 3**, every **resident**, not only citizens, is entitled to an Aadhaar number. A resident is anyone who has lived in India for **182 days or more** in the

- **Value addition:** the **42nd Amendment (1976)** moved five subjects, including education, forests and weights & measures, from the State List to the Concurrent List.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

69. The President of India is elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of elected members of :

- 1. Both Houses of Parliament**
- 2. The Legislative Assemblies of the States**
- 3. Union Council of Ministers**

[APFC 2012 · Q56]

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 2 (d) 2 and 3

Explanation :

- Under **Article 54**, the President is elected by an electoral college of the **elected members of both Houses of Parliament** and the **elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States**. Since the **70th Amendment (1992)**, this includes the NCT of Delhi and Puducherry.
- **Nominated members** and **Legislative Council members** do not vote. The **Union Council of Ministers** is not part of the electoral college as a body, so statement 3 is incorrect.
- **Value addition:** voting is by **proportional representation by single transferable vote** through secret ballot (**Article 55**).

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

70. The responsibility of preparation of electoral rolls in India rests with :

[APFC 2012 · Q57]

- (a) The Parliament
(b) The Local Administration
(c) The Election Commission
(d) The Returning Officer

Explanation :

- **Article 324(1)** vests the **superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls** and the conduct of elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and the offices of President and Vice-President in the **Election Commission of India**.
- Electoral Registration Officers prepare the rolls under the **Representation of the People Act, 1950**, but they work under the Commission's control. **Returning Officers** only conduct the poll in a constituency.

- **Value addition:** **Article 325** provides for **one general electoral roll** for each constituency. No one is excluded on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

71. At the time of becoming the Prime Minister of our country one :

[APFC 2012 · Q58]

- (a) Must be a member of one of the Houses of the Parliament. If not, must become a member of one of the Houses within Six months.
(b) Need not necessarily be a member of one of the Houses of Parliament but must get elected as a member of Lok Sabha within Six months.
(c) Must be a member of one of the Houses of Parliament prior to appointment.
(d) Must be a member of Rajya Sabha.

Explanation :

- The Constitution does not require a person to be an MP when appointed Prime Minister or minister. Under **Article 75(5)**, a minister who is **not a member of either House for six consecutive months** ceases to hold office.
- So a non-member may be appointed but must become a member of **either House**, Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha, within six months. That is why (b), (c) and (d) are wrong.
- Examples: **P.V. Narasimha Rao** (1991) later won a Lok Sabha by-election, while **H.D. Deve Gowda** (1996) entered the **Rajya Sabha**.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (a).

72. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists :

<i>List-I (Commission)</i>	<i>List-II (Chairperson)</i>
A. Second Administrative Reforms Commission	1. Vijay Kelkar
B. Second Commission on Centre-State relations	2. Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah
C. Thirteenth Finance Commission	3. Justice Madan Mohan Punchi
D. National Commission for the Review of the working of the Constitution	4. M. Veerappa Moily

[APFC 2012 · Q59]

- (a) A-4 B-3 C-1 D-2
(b) A-2 B-3 C-1 D-4
(c) A-4 B-1 C-3 D-2
(d) A-2 B-1 C-3 D-4

respect **Fundamental Rights (Article 13)**, and is subject to **judicial review** and the **basic structure doctrine** (*Kesavananda Bharati*, 1973).

NOTE Some read statement 1 loosely, as a reference to the bills that do need the President's prior recommendation, and choose (a). However, the statement says *most* important laws, while prior recommendation is confined to a few specified categories, so 'statement 2 only' is the sounder reading.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

76. Consider the following statements in respect of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) :

1. Reports on the accounts of the States are submitted to the President who shall cause these to be placed before the Parliament.
2. CAG is appointed by the President of India and can be removed only on grounds and procedure similar to those of a Supreme Court Judge.
3. The form in which accounts of the Centre and States are to be kept is prescribed by CAG.

Which of these statements are correct ?

[APFC 2012 · Q97]

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) 1, 2 and 3 | (b) 1 and 2 only |
| (c) 2 and 3 only | (d) 1 and 3 only |

Explanation :

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Under **Article 151(2)**, CAG's reports on the accounts of a **State** are submitted to the **Governor**, who causes them to be laid before the **State Legislature**. Only reports on Union accounts go to the President and Parliament (**Article 151(1)**).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under **Article 148(1)**, the CAG is appointed by the **President** and can be removed only in the manner and on the grounds of a **Supreme Court judge** (proved misbehaviour or incapacity).
- **Statement 3 is correct (in substance):** Under **Article 150**, the form of accounts of the Union and the States is prescribed on the **advice of the CAG**.
- Hence 2 and 3 only.

NOTE Strictly, since the 42nd Amendment (1976), Article 150 says the accounts are kept in such form as the President may prescribe on the advice of the CAG (earlier the CAG prescribed with the President's approval). Statement 3 is thus slightly imprecise, but statement 1 is clearly wrong, leaving (c) as the best choice.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

■ ■ ■

- **Potato** is a shallow-rooted crop needing frequent, assured **irrigation**, so it is unsuitable.
- **Cotton** is a long-duration, water-demanding crop whose yields depend on assured moisture or protective irrigation, so it is not the safe choice for a small farmer without irrigation.
- Hence jowar and arhar (1 and 3) are the best choices.

NOTE Cotton is also widely grown as a rainfed crop on moisture-retentive black soils (e.g., Vidarbha and Marathwada), and a majority of India's cotton area is rainfed; on that view, option (b) '1, 2 and 3 only' is also defensible.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

12. Which one of the following statements is true about red soil ?

[APFC 2012 · Q30]

- (a) It is rich in humus.
- (b) It is rich in potash.
- (c) It is rich in iron compounds.
- (d) It is derived from volcanic origin.

Explanation :

- **Red soil** gets its red colour from the wide diffusion of **iron compounds (ferric oxides)**; it turns yellowish when hydrated.
- It forms from weathering of ancient **crystalline and metamorphic rocks** (granite, gneiss), not volcanic rock — basaltic lava gives **black (regur) soil**, so (d) is wrong.
- It is generally **poor in humus**, nitrogen and phosphorus, so (a) is wrong; potash content is not its distinguishing feature.
- It occurs widely in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and the eastern Deccan.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

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- Global warming, glacier melt and ozone depletion are **atmospheric** problems that cannot be treated this way.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

EXAMINATION YEAR 2016 · APFC

12. The term 'Carbon footprint' means

[APFC 2016 · Q27]

- (a) A region which is rich in coal mines
- (b) The amount of reduction in the emission of CO₂ by a country
- (c) The use of Carbon in manufacturing industries
- (d) The amount of greenhouse gases produced by our day-to-day activities

Explanation :

- A **carbon footprint** is the total amount of **greenhouse gases** released, directly and indirectly, by an individual, organisation, product or activity – for example travel, electricity use, food and consumption.
- It is expressed in terms of **carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e)**, so that gases such as methane and nitrous oxide can be counted too.
- It does not mean a coal-rich region, a country's emission *reduction*, or the industrial use of carbon.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

13. In the study of pollution, SPM refers to

[APFC 2016 · Q55]

- (a) Sulphur Phosphorus Matter
- (b) Sulphur Particulate Matter
- (c) Solid Particulate Matter
- (d) Suspended Particulate Matter

Explanation :

- SPM = Suspended Particulate Matter** – fine solid or liquid particles (dust, smoke, soot, pollen) that remain suspended in the air.
- It is measured as **PM₁₀** ($\leq 10 \mu\text{m}$) and **PM_{2.5}** ($\leq 2.5 \mu\text{m}$); the finer particles reach deep into the lungs and cause respiratory and heart diseases.
- PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} are among the pollutants covered by India's **Air Quality Index** and National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

14. Acid rain is due to

[APFC 2016 · Q63]

- (a) Sulphur dioxide pollution
- (b) Carbon monoxide pollution
- (c) Pesticide pollution
- (d) Dust particles in the atmosphere

Explanation :

- Acid rain** is precipitation with **pH below about 5.6**.
- It forms when **sulphur dioxide (SO₂)** and **nitrogen oxides (NO_x)**, released mainly by burning coal and petroleum, react with water vapour to form **sulphuric acid** and **nitric acid**.
- Effects: damage to forests, acidification of lakes, corrosion of buildings (e.g., yellowing of the **Taj Mahal** marble, 'stone cancer').
- Carbon monoxide, pesticides and dust do not cause acid rain.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (a).

EXAMINATION YEAR 2012 · APFC

15. Biome, largest recognizable assemblage of animals and plants on the Earth, is controlled mainly by :

[APFC 2012 · Q9]

- (a) Biological activity
- (b) Landforms
- (c) Climate
- (d) Soil

Explanation :

- A **biome** is a very large natural community of plants and animals occupying a major habitat, e.g., tropical rainforest, desert, grassland, tundra.
- Biomes are controlled mainly by **climate** — especially temperature and precipitation — which determines the dominant vegetation, and the vegetation in turn shapes animal life.
- Soil, landforms and biological activity modify conditions only locally; they do not set the broad global pattern of biomes.
- Value addition:** this is why biomes are commonly classified on temperature–rainfall axes (Whittaker's scheme).

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

3.6

Indian Economy

EXAMINATION YEAR 2025 · EO/AO & APFC COMMON TEST

1. The classification of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises is based on which of the following factors ?

1. Annual turnover
2. Number of workers
3. Investment in plant and machinery or equipment

Select the answer using the codes given below :

[Common Test 2025 · Q31]

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 only (d) 1 and 3 only

Explanation :

- Since **1 July 2020**, MSMEs have been classified under the **MSMED Act, 2006** on a **composite criterion: investment in plant and machinery or equipment and annual turnover**. Export turnover is excluded from the turnover limit.
- The **number of workers is not a criterion**. The earlier (2006) classification used investment alone, with separate limits for manufacturing and services.
- Update (2026): from **1 April 2025** the limits were raised. Micro: investment up to ₹2.5 crore and turnover up to ₹10 crore. Small: ₹25 crore and ₹100 crore. Medium: ₹125 crore and ₹500 crore.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

2. Fiscal Health Index 2025 published by the NITI Aayog provides a comprehensive assessment of fiscal health of 18 major States based on which of the following key sub-indices ?

1. Quality of expenditure
2. Debt index
3. Debt sustainability
4. Fiscal prudence
5. Revenue mobilisation

Select the answer using the codes given below :

[Common Test 2025 · Q32]

- (a) 1, 3 and 5 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 2, 4 and 5 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Explanation :

- NITI Aayog's first **Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025** (released January 2025) ranks **18 major States** using data for FY 2022–23.
- It is built on **five sub-indices: Quality of Expenditure, Revenue Mobilisation, Fiscal Prudence, Debt Index and Debt Sustainability**.
- Hence all five are sub-indices.
- **Value addition:** Odisha ranked first, followed by Chhattisgarh, Goa and Jharkhand (the 'Achiever' States); Punjab ranked last.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

3. The contribution of the services sector in Gross Value Added at current prices in the Indian economy in 2024 – 25 is estimated to be :

[Common Test 2025 · Q33]

- (a) 25% (b) 35%
(c) 45% (d) 55%

Explanation :

- The **services sector** is the largest part of India's economy. Its share in **Gross Value Added at current prices** is estimated at about **55% in 2024–25**, up from roughly 50% in 2013–14.
- By comparison, industry contributes roughly 27–28% and agriculture and allied sectors about 16–18% of GVA.
- Hence 55% is the closest estimate.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

4. Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana :

1. The average ticket size of loan disbursed has more than doubled between FY 2016 and FY 2025.
2. Since its launch in 2015, Maharashtra has recorded the highest disbursal among States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

[Common Test 2025 · Q34]

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

- Statement 2 is correct: it builds **intergenerational bonds** between youth and seniors through **Regional Resource and Training Centres (RRTCs)**.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: old-age pension comes under **IGNOAPS/NSAP** of the Ministry of Rural Development, not **AVYAY**.
- Statement 4 is incorrect: **Atal Incubation Centres** belong to **NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission**. **AVYAY's** start-up support is **SAGE** (Seniorcare Ageing Growth Engine).

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

16. Consider the following statements :

Statement I : In India, Central Government determines the inflation target, in consultation with Reserve Bank of India, in terms of Consumer Price Index once in five years.

Statement II : At present, the Monetary Policy framework in India is operated by Central Government.

Which of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ?

[EO/AO 2023 · Q111]

- (a) Both statement I and statement II are correct and statement II is the correct explanation for statement I
- (b) Both statement I and statement II are correct and statement II is **not** the correct explanation for statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect but statement II is correct

Explanation :

- Statement I is correct: under **Section 45ZA of the RBI Act, 1934** (inserted in 2016), the **Central Government, in consultation with RBI**, sets the inflation target in terms of **CPI (combined) once every five years**. At the exam date the target was **4% ± 2%** for April 2021–March 2026.
- Statement II is incorrect: the **monetary policy framework is operated by the RBI**. Under **Section 45ZB**, the six-member **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** fixes the **policy repo rate** to meet the target.
- Value addition:** if inflation stays outside the band for **three consecutive quarters**, RBI must explain the failure to the Government.

UPDATE 2026 In March 2026 the Government retained the 4% CPI inflation target with a ±2% tolerance band for 1 April 2026 – 31 March 2031.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

17. Consider the following statements :

Statement I : In India, the RTGS and NEFT payment systems are owned and operated by National Payment Corporation of India.

Statement II : National Payment Corporation of India is an entity promoted by banks.

Which of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ?

[EO/AO 2023 · Q112]

- (a) Both statement I and statement II are correct and statement II is the correct explanation for statement I
- (b) Both statement I and statement II are correct and statement II is **not** the correct explanation for statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect but statement II is correct

Explanation :

- Statement I is incorrect: **RTGS** (Real Time Gross Settlement) and **NEFT** (National Electronic Funds Transfer) are **owned and operated by the Reserve Bank of India**.
- Statement II is correct: **NPCI** was set up in **2008** as an initiative of **RBI and the Indian Banks' Association** under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**. It is a **not-for-profit company promoted by banks**.
- Value addition:** NPCI operates retail systems such as **UPI, IMPS, RuPay, NACH, AePS, BBPS and NETC (FASTag)**.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

18. Consider the following statements :

Statement I : A very strong US Dollar squeezes global credit.

Statement II : Many countries and companies outside America borrow in Dollars.

Which of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ?

[EO/AO 2023 · Q113]

- (a) Both statement I and statement II are correct and statement II is the correct explanation for statement I
- (b) Both statement I and statement II are correct and statement II is **not** the correct explanation for statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct but statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect but statement II is correct

Explanation :

- Statement II is correct: the dollar is the main **invoicing and funding currency**. Many

22. 'NSE Prime', sometimes mentioned in news, denotes :

[EO/AO 2023 · Q120]

- (a) A high standard corporate governance initiative
- (b) Long-duration Sovereign Green Bonds
- (c) Concessions and tax-holidays for hi-tech startup companies
- (d) Special privileges for certain categories of Non-Banking Financial Institutions

Explanation :

- NSE Prime is a **voluntary corporate governance initiative** of the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)**. It sets **higher governance standards than SEBI's listing regulations require**.
- Listed companies that choose to join must meet stricter norms, for example on **board structure and independent directors**, and make **additional disclosures**.
- It helps investors pick out companies committed to **superior governance**. It has nothing to do with green bonds, start-up tax holidays or NBFC privileges.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (a).

EXAMINATION YEAR 2023 · APFC

23. Consider the following statements :

1. The Department of Economic Affairs is a nodal agency of the Government of India to formulate and monitor the country's economic policies and programmes that have a bearing on the domestic and international aspects of economic management.
2. The principal responsibility of the Department of Economic Affairs is the preparation and presentation of the Union Budget (including the Railway Budget) before the Parliament, and the Budgets for Union Territories and States under the President's Rule.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

[APFC 2023 · Q58]

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation :

- Statement 1 is **correct**: the **Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)**, Ministry of Finance, is the **nodal agency** for formulating and monitoring economic policies with domestic and international bearing.

- Statement 2 is **correct**: its principal responsibility, through the **Budget Division**, is the preparation and presentation of the **Union Budget** and the budgets of **Union Territories** (without legislature) and **States under President's Rule**.

- **Value addition**: the separate **Railway Budget was merged** with the Union Budget from **2017-18**; DEA also prepares the **Economic Survey**.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

24. Which one of the following recommended that the public health expenditure of the Union and State Governments together should be increased in a progressive manner to reach 2.5 percent of GDP by the year 2025?

[APFC 2023 · Q61]

- (a) The National Commission on Macroeconomics and Health, 2005
- (b) The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health, 2022
- (c) The Fifteenth Finance Commission
- (d) The Kasturirangan Committee

Explanation :

- The **Fifteenth Finance Commission** (Chairman N.K. Singh) recommended that **public health expenditure of the Union and States together** be raised progressively to **2.5% of GDP by 2025**.
- It also suggested that States raise health spending to more than **8% of their budgets** and that **primary health care** receive about two-thirds of health expenditure.
- The same target – **2.5% of GDP by 2025** – had been adopted in the **National Health Policy, 2017**.
- The **Kasturirangan Committee** is linked to the Western Ghats and the National Education Policy draft, not health spending.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

25. The principle of subrogation in insurance allows

[APFC 2023 · Q111]

- (a) investment of policy amount
- (b) refund for insured and insured's insurance company
- (c) auto-renewal of policy
- (d) indemnification of the insured

Explanation :

- **Subrogation** means 'substitution': after the insurer has paid a claim, it **steps into the shoes of the insured** and acquires the insured's rights against the **third party** who caused the loss.

- Options (b) and (c) are not the premises of the theory; it is built on the *scarcity* of capital and decision-making ability.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

45. Which of the following are incorporated in the Government approved National Telecom Policy, 2012 ?

- Broadband for all with a minimum download speed of two megabits per second
- India's rural tele-density to be improved from 39% to 70% in the next five years
- Roaming charges shall be scrapped

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

[APFC 2016 · Q25]

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation :

- Statement 1 is correct:** NTP-2012 aimed at 'broadband for all' (broadband on demand) with a minimum download speed of 2 Mbps.
- Statement 2 is correct:** it targeted raising rural tele-density from about 39 to 70 by 2017 and to 100 by 2020.
- Statement 3 is correct:** it envisaged 'One Nation – Free Roaming', i.e. removing roaming charges, along with full mobile number portability.
- Value addition:** NTP-2012 was succeeded by the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

46. 'Green Revolution' in India was expeditiously feasible in zones of

[APFC 2016 · Q29]

- (a) High rainfall
(b) Moderate rainfall
(c) Assured irrigation
(d) Higher population density

Explanation :

- The **Green Revolution** (from the mid-1960s) depended on **high-yielding variety (HYV) seeds**, mainly of wheat and later rice, together with chemical fertilisers.
- HYV seeds need a **controlled and assured water supply**. Rainfall, whether high or moderate, is uncertain, so the new technology spread fastest in areas with **assured irrigation** (canals, tube-wells).
- This is why **Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh** gained the most, while rain-fed regions lagged behind.

- Population density was not a precondition.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

47. Transportation plays a great role in any economy. Which of the following modes of transportation has the highest elasticity ?

[APFC 2016 · Q31]

- (a) Air (b) Rail
(c) Road (d) Water

Explanation :

- Here **elasticity** refers to the **flexibility** of a mode – how easily it can adjust its routes, timings, load size and pick-up or delivery points to users' needs.
- Road transport** is the most flexible. It offers **door-to-door service**, can reach remote and hilly areas, can run at any time, and suits both small and large consignments.
- Rail, water and air** are tied to fixed tracks, waterways, ports, airports and schedules, so they are less elastic and need road transport as a feeder.

NOTE In the strict economic sense (price or income elasticity of demand), air travel is usually treated as the most elastic mode, which would support (a). The item evidently uses 'elasticity' to mean the flexibility of the service, which points to road transport.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

48. How does an expansionary monetary policy affect the rate of interest and level of income ?

[APFC 2016 · Q32]

- (a) Raises the level of income but lowers the rate of interest
(b) Raises the rate of interest but lowers the level of income
(c) Raises both, the rate of interest and the level of income
(d) Lowers both, the rate of interest and the level of income

Explanation :

- An **expansionary monetary policy** (cutting the repo rate or CRR, or buying bonds through open market operations) **increases the money supply**.
- Greater money supply **lowers the rate of interest**. Cheaper credit raises investment and consumption, so aggregate demand and the **level of income rise**.
- In the **IS-LM model**, the LM curve shifts to the right: the new equilibrium has a lower interest rate and a higher income.

Explanation :

- **Chikungunya** is caused by the **chikungunya virus (CHIKV)**, an **alphavirus** of the family *Togaviridae*.
- It spreads through bites of infected **Aedes aegypti** and **Aedes albopictus** mosquitoes, the same vectors as dengue and Zika.
- Symptoms: sudden fever and severe, often long-lasting **joint pain**; the name comes from a Makonde word meaning 'that which bends up'.
- **Value addition:** *Aedes* mosquitoes breed in **stored clean water** and bite mainly during the **daytime**.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

50. Beauty of some historical monuments is greatly affected by the growth of certain living organisms. These living organisms belong to which one of the following groups?

[EO/AO 2017 · Q98]

- (a) Amphibious plants
- (b) Lichens
- (c) Bacteria
- (d) Viruses

Explanation :

- **Lichens** are symbiotic associations of a **fungus** and an **alga or cyanobacterium**. They colonise bare stone surfaces of monuments.
- They secrete **organic acids** (e.g., oxalic acid) that corrode stone such as marble and sandstone, and their growth leaves ugly **patches and stains**, spoiling the beauty of monuments.
- **Value addition:** lichens are **pioneer species** on bare rock and are **sensitive indicators of air pollution** (especially SO_2) – they are generally absent from polluted areas.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (b).

51. Which one of the following has the characteristics of both an animal as well as a plant?

[EO/AO 2017 · Q99]

- (a) Fern
- (b) Moss
- (c) Earthworm
- (d) Euglena

Explanation :

- **Euglena** is a unicellular protist that shows features of **both plants and animals**.
- **Plant-like:** it has **chloroplasts** with chlorophyll and makes food by **photosynthesis** in light.
- **Animal-like:** it has **no cell wall** (a flexible pellicle), moves using a **flagellum**, and can feed **heterotrophically** in darkness. This mixed mode of nutrition is called **mixotrophic**.

- Fern and moss are plants; the earthworm is an animal.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

52. In order to save the stored food grains from insects, farmers usually mix with them

[EO/AO 2017 · Q100]

- (a) Neem leaves
- (b) Mango leaves
- (c) Peepal leaves
- (d) Orange leaves

Explanation :

- Farmers traditionally mix dried **neem leaves** with stored grains to keep insects away.
- Neem contains **azadirachtin** and related limonoids that act as **insect repellents, antifeedants and growth regulators** against pests such as weevils and grain moths.
- It is a cheap, **eco-friendly bio-pesticide** that leaves no harmful residue.
- **Value addition:** **neem-coated urea** was made compulsory in India in 2015 to slow nitrogen release and prevent diversion of urea.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (a).

EXAMINATION YEAR 2016 · APFC

53. Besides resistance to pests, what are the other prospects for which plants have been genetically engineered ?

1. To enable them to withstand drought
2. To increase the nutritive value of the produce
3. To enable them to grow and do photosynthesis in spaceships and space stations
4. To increase their shelf life

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

[APFC 2016 · Q45]

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation :

- Genetic engineering of crops aims at traits beyond pest resistance (e.g., **Bt cotton**).
- 1 is correct: **drought / salinity tolerance** (e.g., DroughtGard maize, HB4 wheat).
- 2 is correct: **nutritional enhancement** (e.g., **Golden Rice** rich in beta-carotene).
- 4 is correct: **longer shelf life** (e.g., Flavr Savr tomato, the first commercial GM food, 1994).

3.8

Current Affairs & General Knowledge

EXAMINATION YEAR 2025 · EO/AO & APFC COMMON TEST

1. **Shri Jatin Goswami, a Padma Bhushan awardee in the year 2025, is an exponent of which one of the following dance forms ?**

[Common Test 2025 · Q111]

- (a) Bharatanatyam (b) Sattriya
(c) Kathakali (d) Kathak

Explanation :

- **Jatin Goswami** of **Assam**, a leading guru and exponent of **Sattriya** dance, received the **Padma Bhushan in 2025** in the field of Art.
- **Sattriya** began in the **Vaishnava sattras (monasteries)** of Assam and was introduced by **Srimanta Sankardev** in the 15th–16th century. The **Sangeet Natak Akademi** recognised it as a **classical dance in 2000**.
- Bharatanatyam belongs to Tamil Nadu, Kathakali to Kerala and Kathak to north India.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (b).

2. **Two Indian Servicemen were posthumously conferred with the Dag Hammarskjöld medal in the year 2025 by which one of the following international organisations ?**

[Common Test 2025 · Q112]

- (a) United Nations Organization (UNO)
(b) Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
(c) Nordic Defence Cooperation (NORDEFECO)
(d) Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

Explanation :

- The **Dag Hammarskjöld Medal** is awarded by the **United Nations** to **peacekeepers who lost their lives** serving in UN peacekeeping operations. It was created by **UN Security Council Resolution 1121 (1997)**.
- It is given **posthumously** each year on **29 May**, the **International Day of UN Peacekeepers**. In 2025, two Indian peacekeepers who died while serving with UN missions in 2024 were among those honoured.
- **Value addition:** the medal is named after **Dag Hammarskjöld**, the second UN Secretary-General, who died in a 1961 air crash in present-day Zambia.

India is one of the largest troop contributors to UN peacekeeping.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (a).

3. **Which of the following statements relating to 2026 FIFA Men's Football World Cup is/are correct ?**

1. **USA, Mexico and Canada will jointly host the event.**
2. **48 teams shall participate in the event.**

Select the answer using the codes given below :

[Common Test 2025 · Q114]

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation :

- Statement 1 is correct: the **2026 FIFA World Cup** was **jointly hosted by the USA, Canada and Mexico**, the first World Cup with **three host nations**.
- Statement 2 is correct: it was the first edition with **48 teams**, up from 32, with **104 matches** played from **11 June to 19 July 2026**.
- **Value addition:** Mexico's **Estadio Azteca** hosted the opening match, making Mexico the first country to host World Cup matches in three editions (1970, 1986, 2026). The final was played at **MetLife Stadium, New Jersey**.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

4. **Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra was removed by Thailand's Constitutional Court in the year 2025 over a leaked phone call with a senior statesperson of which neighbouring country ?**

[Common Test 2025 · Q115]

- (a) Myanmar (b) Cambodia
(c) Laos (d) Vietnam

Explanation :

- On **29 August 2025**, **Thailand's Constitutional Court** removed PM **Paetongtarn Shinawatra** from office by a **6–3** vote for breaching ethical standards.
- The case arose from a **leaked phone call** with **Hun Sen**, Cambodia's former Prime Minister and now President of its Senate, during the **Thailand–Cambodia border dispute**. Critics said her tone towards him was deferential and damaged national interest.

Explanation :

- **Naomi Osaka** (Japan) defeated **Jennifer Brady** (USA) **6–4, 6–3** in the women's singles final of the **Australian Open 2021** at Melbourne.
- It was Osaka's **4th Grand Slam** title and her second Australian Open (after 2019).
- She beat **Serena Williams** in the semi-final; Novak Djokovic won the men's title in 2021.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (b).

EXAMINATION YEAR 2017 · EO/AO

19. Which one of the following bodies has formulated the 'National Student Startup Policy', launched by the President of India in November 2016?

[EO/AO 2017 · Q46]

- (a) UGC (b) NCERT
(c) AIU (d) AICTE

Explanation :

- The **National Student Startup Policy** was formulated by the **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** and launched by President **Pranab Mukherjee** on **16 November 2016** at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- It aims to build an ecosystem for **technology-based, student-driven start-ups** in technical institutions, targeting about 1 lakh such start-ups and 10 lakh jobs over ten years.
- UGC regulates universities, NCERT deals with school education, and AIU (Association of Indian Universities) is an association of universities, not the policy's author.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

20. Who among the following were conferred with Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for the year 2016?

1. Jitu Rai
2. Dipa Karmakar
3. P. V. Sindhu
4. Sakshi Malik

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

[EO/AO 2017 · Q52]

- (a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation :

- The **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2016** was conferred on **four** sportspersons after the Rio Olympics:

- **P.V. Sindhu** (badminton – Olympic silver), **Sakshi Malik** (wrestling – Olympic bronze), **Dipa Karmakar** (gymnastics – 4th in vault) and **Jitu Rai** (shooting).
- Hence all four – option (d).

UPDATE 2026

The award was renamed the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in August 2021.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

EXAMINATION YEAR 2016 · APFC

21. Amongst the following, who is the latest recipient of the 'Bharat Ratna' award ?

[APFC 2016 · Q28]

- (a) Sachin Tendulkar
(b) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
(c) Amartya Sen
(d) A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

Explanation :

- **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam** – 1997; **Amartya Sen** – 1999.
- **Sachin Tendulkar** – announced in November 2013 and conferred in **2014**, along with scientist C.N.R. Rao.
- **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** – announced in December 2014 and conferred in **2015**, along with Madan Mohan Malaviya (posthumously).
- So Vajpayee was the most recent of the four recipients as of the exam.

UPDATE 2026

The award has since been conferred again – in 2019 (Pranab Mukherjee, Nanaji Deshmukh, Bhupen Hazarika) and in 2024 (Karpooori Thakur, L.K. Advani, Chaudhary Charan Singh, P.V. Narasimha Rao, M.S. Swaminathan). Among the four options, Vajpayee remains the latest.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (b).

EXAMINATION YEAR 2012 · APFC

22. Who won the Golden Boot Award in the recently concluded UEFA Euro 2012 ?

[APFC 2012 · Q22]

- (a) Fernando Torres (Spain)
(b) Mario Balotelli (Italy)
(c) Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal)
(d) Mario Gomez (Germany)

Explanation :

- **Fernando Torres (Spain)** won the Golden Boot at UEFA Euro 2012 (hosted by Poland and Ukraine).

- Six players finished level on **3 goals** — Torres, Mario Gomez, Mario Mandžukić, Mario Balotelli, Cristiano Ronaldo and Alan Dzagoev.
- The tie was decided on **assists and then minutes played**: Torres and Gomez each had one assist, but Torres had played fewer minutes, so he took the award.
- Spain won the title, beating Italy **4–0** in the final at Kyiv.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (a).

23. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists :

List-I (Person)	List-II (Company)
A. Steve Jobs	1. Google
B. Sheryl Sandberg	2. Apple
C. Larry Page	3. Yahoo
D. Ross Levinsohn	4. Facebook

[APFC 2012 · Q24]

- (a) A-2 B-1 C-4 D-3
- (b) A-3 B-1 C-4 D-2
- (c) A-2 B-4 C-1 D-3
- (d) A-3 B-4 C-1 D-2

Explanation :

- A-2: **Steve Jobs** co-founded **Apple** and led it until shortly before his death in October 2011.
- B-4: **Sheryl Sandberg** was Chief Operating Officer of **Facebook**.
- C-1: **Larry Page**, co-founder of **Google**, became its CEO in 2011.
- D-3: **Ross Levinsohn** was interim CEO of **Yahoo** in 2012 (succeeded by Marissa Mayer).

UPDATE 2026 Sheryl Sandberg stepped down as COO of Meta (Facebook's parent) in 2022; Larry Page stepped down as CEO of Alphabet in 2019, and Sundar Pichai now heads Google and Alphabet.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (c).

24. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists :

List-I (Book)	List-II (Author)
A. Rahul Dravid : Timeless Steel	1. Steve Waugh and Nasser Hussain
B. An Ashes Summer	2. Greg Chappell
C. Sachin : A Hundred Hundreds Now	3. Mike Atherton
D. Opening Up : My autography	4. V. Krishnaswamy

[APFC 2012 · Q25]

- (a) A-3 B-4 C-1 D-2
- (b) A-2 B-4 C-1 D-3
- (c) A-3 B-1 C-4 D-2
- (d) A-2 B-1 C-4 D-3

Explanation :

- A-2: *Rahul Dravid: Timeless Steel* (2012) is an anthology of writings on Dravid's career. **Greg Chappell** is the contributor named for it in the list.
- B-1: *An Ashes Summer* is a joint account by the rival Ashes captains **Steve Waugh** and **Nasser Hussain**.
- C-4: *Sachin: A Hundred Hundreds Now* is by cricket writer **V. Krishnaswamy**.
- D-3: *Opening Up: My Autobiography* is by former England captain **Mike Atherton**. ('Autography' in the question is a misprint for autobiography.)

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

25. Why was Justice Dalveer Bhandari in the news recently ?

[APFC 2012 · Q26]

- (a) He became member of UN Human Rights Council.
- (b) He was elected to the International Court of Justice.
- (c) He became Director General of World Trade Organization.
- (d) He became Secretary-General of SAARC.

Explanation :

- In **April 2012**, Justice **Dalveer Bhandari**, a former judge of the Supreme Court of India, was **elected to the International Court of Justice (ICJ)** at The Hague.
- He filled the vacancy left by Jordan's Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh, for the term ending February 2018.
- The ICJ, principal judicial organ of the UN, has **15 judges** elected for **9-year terms** by an absolute majority in both the **UN General Assembly and the Security Council**.
- **Value addition:** earlier Indian judges at the ICJ were B.N. Rau, Nagendra Singh and R.S. Pathak.

UPDATE 2026 Justice Bhandari was re-elected in November 2017 for a full nine-year term (2018–2027) after the UK's candidate withdrew.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (b).

26. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists :

List-I (Head)	List-II (Institution)
A. Jim Yong Kim	1. President, World Bank
B. Kamlesh Sharma	2. Secretary-General, Commonwealth
C. Christine Lagarde	3. Managing Director, IMF
D. Catherine Day	4. Secretary-General of the European Commission

[APFC 2012 · Q27]

- (a) A-3 B-4 C-2 D-1
- (b) A-1 B-4 C-2 D-3
- (c) A-3 B-2 C-4 D-1
- (d) A-1 B-2 C-4 D-3

Explanation :

- Correct pairs (2012): A-1 **Jim Yong Kim** – President, World Bank; B-2 **Kamlesh Sharma** – Secretary-General, Commonwealth; C-3 **Christine Lagarde** – Managing Director, IMF; D-4 **Catherine Day** – Secretary-General of the European Commission.
- The correct code **A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4** is not given in any option; option (d) matches A and B correctly but interchanges C and D.
- Since no option is fully correct, the item is defective; the closest option is (d).

NOTE UPSC dropped this item because none of the options is fully correct. Update (2026): World Bank President – Ajay Banga (since 2023); IMF Managing Director – Kristalina Georgieva (since 2019); Commonwealth Secretary-General – Shirley Botchwey (since 2025).

This question was dropped by UPSC and not evaluated.

27. Which of the following is the earliest to be constituted ?

[APFC 2012 · Q47]

- (a) Press Council of India
- (b) United News of India
- (c) NAM News Network
- (d) Press Trust of India

Explanation :

- **Press Trust of India (PTI)**: registered in **1947**, and took over news services from Associated Press of India in 1949. It is the earliest of the four.
- **United News of India (UNI)**: incorporated in **1959**, began operations in 1961.
- **Press Council of India**: first set up in **1966** under the Press Council Act, 1965. It was later reconstituted under the 1978 Act.
- **NAM News Network (NNN)**: launched in the **mid-2000s** as the successor of the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

28. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists :

List-I (Chairperson)	List-II (Issue)
A. D.M. Dharmadhikari	1. National Corporate Governance Policy
B. Anil Kakodkar	2. Air India—Indian Airlines merger
C. B.N. Srikrishna	3. Indian Railways High Level Safety Review Committee
D. Adi Godrej	4. Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission

[APFC 2012 · Q99]

- (a) A-1 B-3 C-4 D-2
- (b) A-2 B-3 C-4 D-1
- (c) A-1 B-4 C-3 D-2
- (d) A-2 B-4 C-3 D-1

Explanation :

- **A. D.M. Dharmadhikari – 2. Air India–Indian Airlines merger**: Justice Dharmadhikari's committee examined HR integration issues of the merged airline.
- **B. Anil Kakodkar – 3. High Level Safety Review Committee** for Indian Railways (2011–12).
- **C. B.N. Srikrishna – 4. Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission (FSLRC)**, set up in 2011; it proposed the Indian Financial Code.
- **D. Adi Godrej – 1. National Corporate Governance Policy** committee set up by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- Code: **A-2, B-3, C-4, D-1**.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (b).

■ ■ ■

4.1

Quantitative Aptitude

EXAMINATION YEAR 2025 · EO/AO & APFC COMMON TEST

1. The length of candle B is 3 times the length of candle A. The speed of burning of Candle B is 4 times the speed of burning of Candle A. A party begins with the lighting of these two candles. The party ends when the heights of these candles become equal. If the numerical value of length (in metre) of the burnt away portion of Candle A and the speed (in metre per hour) of its burning are same, how long, in hours, did the party continue ?

[Common Test 2025 · Q66]

- (a) $1/2$ (b) 1
(c) $1\frac{1}{4}$ (d) $1\frac{1}{2}$

Explanation :

- Let candle A have length L and burning speed s . Then candle B has length $3L$ and speed $4s$.
- Heights equal after t hours: $L - st = 3L - 4st \Rightarrow 3st = 2L \Rightarrow t = 2L/(3s)$.
- Burnt length of A = st . It is given that $st = s$ (numerically), so $t = 1$ hour.
- Check: $L = 3s/2$. After 1 hour, $A = 1.5s - s = 0.5s$ and $B = 4.5s - 4s = 0.5s$ - equal.
- The party lasted **1 hour**.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (b).

2. Five prime numbers are arranged in ascending order. The ratio of the product of the first three of them to that of the last three of them is 35 : 323. What is the difference between the smallest and the largest numbers ?

[Common Test 2025 · Q67]

- (a) 8 (b) 10
(c) 12 (d) 14

Explanation :

- Let the primes be $p_1 < p_2 < p_3 < p_4 < p_5$.
- $(p_1 p_2 p_3) : (p_3 p_4 p_5) = p_1 p_2 : p_4 p_5 = 35 : 323$ (p_3 cancels).
- $35 = 5 \times 7$ and $323 = 17 \times 19$. A product of two primes has only these factors, so $p_1 = 5$, $p_2 = 7$, $p_4 = 17$, $p_5 = 19$ ($p_3 = 11$ or 13).
- Difference between the largest and smallest = $19 - 5 = 14$.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (d).

3. In a movie hall, there are three categories of seats : Diamond, Gold and Silver. On a week day, the prices per ticket in these categories are ₹ 500, ₹ 300 and ₹ 200, respectively. But on weekends, the prices are raised to ₹ 800, ₹ 500 and ₹ 300, respectively. There are exactly 10 Diamond seats and the number of Silver seats is double the number of Gold seats. If the hall goes house full in all the shows, which of the following is the excess earning made per show on a weekend ?

[Common Test 2025 · Q68]

- (a) ₹ 20,000 (b) ₹ 23,000
(c) ₹ 26,000 (d) ₹ 30,000

Explanation :

- Extra earning per seat on a weekend: Diamond ₹800 - ₹500 = ₹300; Gold ₹500 - ₹300 = ₹200; Silver ₹300 - ₹200 = ₹100.
- Let Gold seats = g , so Silver seats = $2g$. Excess = $10 \times 300 + 200g + 100 \times 2g = 3,000 + 400g$.
- Test the options: $g = (\text{Excess} - 3,000)/400 \rightarrow$ ₹20,000 gives 42.5, **₹23,000 gives 50**, ₹26,000 gives 57.5, ₹30,000 gives 67.5.
- Seats must be a whole number, so only **₹23,000** fits (50 Gold, 100 Silver seats).

NOTE The number of Gold seats is not given in the question; the answer follows only from the requirement that the number of seats be a whole number across the options.

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (b).

4. How many digits are there in 6^{25} ? (It is given that $\log_{10} 2 = 0.3010$ and $\log_{10} 3 = 0.4771$)

[Common Test 2025 · Q69]

- (a) 20 (b) 21
(c) 22 (d) 23

Explanation :

- $\log_{10} 6 = \log_{10} 2 + \log_{10} 3 = 0.3010 + 0.4771 = 0.7781$.
- $\log_{10} 6^{25} = 25 \times 0.7781 = 19.4525$.
- Characteristic = 19, so the number of digits = $19 + 1 = 20$.
- Check: $6^{25} = 28,430,288,029,929,701,376$ (20 digits).

Therefore, the Correct Answer is (a).

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