Testogram
Master Every Topic. Win Every Day

Aarohan UTS 2027

This is what one test teaches you.

Every question from Polity + Modern India + Current Affairs is here, with the right answer and the reasoning behind it. Read the explanations, not the answer key. That is where the marks for the next test are.

Updated on 19 November 2026

If this booklet reached you from a friend, the next one can carry your own answers.

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A wrong answer you understand is worth more than a right one you guessed.

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1 Which one of the following Bills can be introduced in Parliament only on the recommendation of the President?

(a) A Bill to amend a provision of Part III of the Constitution

(b) A Bill to give effect to a treaty signed with another country

(c) A Bill dealing only with the imposition or abolition of a tax ✓

(d) A Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951

Explanation

The correct answer is (c). A Bill dealing only with matters in Article 110(1), such as imposing or abolishing a tax, is a Money Bill. Under Article 117(1), it can be introduced only on the President's recommendation and only in the Lok Sabha.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - WRONG. Constitution Amendment Bills under Article 368 need no prior recommendation of the President. They can be introduced in either House by a minister or a private member. Since the 24th Amendment, the President must give assent once they are duly passed.
• Option (b) - WRONG. Article 253 lets Parliament legislate to implement treaties, even on State List subjects, but requires no presidential recommendation.
• Option (c) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict.
• Option (d) - WRONG. Election laws under Article 327 are ordinary legislation with no recommendation requirement.

TOPIC REVISION - BILLS NEEDING THE PRESIDENT'S PRIOR RECOMMENDATION

• Money Bills (Article 117(1)) and Financial Bills Category I.
• Bills involving expenditure from the Consolidated Fund - Financial Bills Category II: recommendation needed for CONSIDERATION, not introduction (Article 117(3)).
• Bills on forming new States or altering boundaries or names (Article 3).
• Bills affecting taxes in which States are interested (Article 274).
• State Bills restricting freedom of trade (Article 304(b)).

MONEY BILL PROCEDURE

• The Speaker's certificate is final (Article 110(3)), though it is not immune from judicial review (Rojer Mathew, 2019, referred the question to a larger bench).
• The Rajya Sabha can only make recommendations within 14 days.
• There is no joint sitting.
• The President cannot return it for reconsideration; in practice it is assented, since it is introduced on the President's own recommendation.

ILLUSTRATION

Appropriation Bills and the Finance Bill presented with the Budget are standard instances of Money Bills.

Types of financial Bills

Type	Recommendation of President	Rajya Sabha's power
Money Bill (Art. 110)	For introduction	Recommend only, within 14 days
Financial Bill I (Art. 117(1))	For introduction	Full (like an ordinary Bill)
Financial Bill II (Art. 117(3))	For consideration	Full; joint sitting possible

> Constitution Amendment Bills need no presidential recommendation. Money Bills need it for introduction; Category II Financial Bills need it only for consideration.

2 **With reference to the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha, which one of the following statements is correct?**

(a) Article 93 requires the Lok Sabha to choose a Deputy Speaker 'as soon as may be'. ✓

(b) The Deputy Speaker is appointed by the Speaker from among the members of the House.

(c) The Deputy Speaker submits his resignation in writing addressed to the President.

(d) While presiding, the Deputy Speaker can vote in the first instance like any other member.

Explanation

The correct answer is (a). Article 93 provides that the House of the People shall, 'as soon as may be', choose two members to be Speaker and Deputy Speaker. The Constitution itself sets no fixed deadline.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict. The election date is fixed by the Speaker (Rule 8 of the Lok Sabha Rules).

• Option (b) - WRONG. The Deputy Speaker is ELECTED by the Lok Sabha from among its members. The Speaker nominates a 'Panel of Chairpersons', but that is different.

• Option (c) - WRONG. Under Article 94, the Deputy Speaker resigns by writing to the SPEAKER, and the Speaker resigns by writing to the Deputy Speaker.

• Option (d) - WRONG. A member presiding as Speaker or Deputy Speaker cannot vote in the first instance and has only a CASTING vote in case of a tie (Article 100(1)). The exception is that when a removal resolution against the Speaker is under consideration, the Speaker can vote in the first instance but not in a tie.

TOPIC REVISION - THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

• Article 95: performs the Speaker's duties when the office is vacant, and presides when the Speaker is absent, including at a joint sitting.

• Is not subordinate to the Speaker; is directly responsible to the House.

• When appointed to a parliamentary committee, automatically becomes its chairman.

• By convention since the 11th Lok Sabha, the post usually went to the Opposition - though not invariably.

• Removal (Article 94(c)): by a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members, after 14 days' notice.

CONSTITUTIONAL BACKGROUND

• The offices originated under the Government of India Act, 1919, as the President and Deputy President of the Central Legislative Assembly. They were renamed Speaker and Deputy Speaker in 1947.

• The Rajya Sabha's counterpart, the Deputy Chairman, is elected under Article 89.

Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Feature	Speaker	Deputy Speaker
Chosen by	Lok Sabha (Art. 93)	Lok Sabha (Art. 93)
Resigns to	Deputy Speaker	Speaker
Removal	Majority of all then members, 14 days' notice	Same

> The Deputy Speaker is elected, not appointed, and resigns to the Speaker. Presiding officers have only a casting vote. 'As soon as may be' sets no deadline.

The same mistake, made twice, is a habit. This is where you catch it the first time.

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3 **With reference to parliamentary committees in India, consider the following statements:**

1. There are 24 Department-Related Standing Committees, each with members from both Houses.
2. Referring a Government Bill to a Department-Related Standing Committee is mandatory before it can be passed.
3. A Joint Parliamentary Committee is an ad hoc committee, constituted by a motion adopted in one House and agreed to by the other.
4. By convention, the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee is appointed from the Opposition.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three ✓

(d) All four

Explanation

The correct answer is (c) Only three. Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct. Statement 2 is wrong: referral is at the discretion of the presiding officer (the Speaker or Chairman). Many Bills are passed without committee scrutiny.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. The DRSC system began in 1993 and was expanded to 24 committees in 2004. Each has 31 members: 21 from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha. 16 are serviced by the Lok Sabha Secretariat and 8 by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. They examine Demands for Grants, Bills referred to them, annual reports and long-term policy. A minister cannot be a member.

• Statement 2 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. Because referral is discretionary, the extent of committee scrutiny varies from one Lok Sabha to another - an important point on the quality of legislative scrutiny.

• Statement 3 - CORRECT. JPCs are ad hoc committees set up for a specific Bill or inquiry and dissolved on submitting their report. Examples: JPCs on the Bofors deal (1987), the securities scam (1992) and 2G spectrum allocation (2011).

• Statement 4 - CORRECT. Since 1967, the PAC Chairman has been from the Opposition. The PAC has 22 members (15 Lok Sabha + 7 Rajya Sabha). It examines CAG reports on appropriation accounts - a tool of ex post accountability.

TOPIC REVISION - FINANCIAL COMMITTEES

• Public Accounts Committee (22 members).

• Estimates Committee (30 members, all Lok Sabha) - suggests economies; the 'continuous economy committee'.

• Committee on Public Undertakings (22 members: 15 Lok Sabha + 7 Rajya Sabha).

• Ministers cannot be members of these.

WHY COMMITTEES MATTER

They allow detailed, less partisan scrutiny, expert and stakeholder evidence, and continuity across sessions - especially valuable when floor debate is curtailed by disruptions or time pressure.

Key parliamentary committees

Committee	Members	Nature
Department-Related Standing Committees (24)	31 each (21 LS + 10 RS)	Standing
Public Accounts Committee	22 (15 LS + 7 RS)	Standing (financial)
Estimates Committee	30 (all LS)	Standing (financial)
Joint Parliamentary Committee	As set by motion	Ad hoc

> Committee referral is discretionary, not mandatory. DRSCs are permanent; JPCs are ad hoc. The PAC chair goes to the Opposition by convention, not by law.

4 **With reference to the privileges of Parliament and its members, consider the following statements:**

1. Parliament has not enacted a comprehensive law codifying all its privileges.
2. The privileges under Article 105 also extend to persons who have the right to speak in, and take part in, the proceedings of a House, such as the Attorney General.
3. The validity of any proceedings in Parliament cannot be called in question in a court on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure.
4. No member of Parliament is liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given in Parliament.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one	(b) Only two
(c) Only three	**(d) All four ✓**

Reading a solution shows you the answer. Sitting the test shows you yourself.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (d) All four. Each statement reflects Articles 105 and 122 and the uncodified status of parliamentary privileges.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Article 105(3) says that, until defined by law, the privileges are those of the House and its members as they existed before the 44th Amendment. Originally the reference was to the British House of Commons at the commencement of the Constitution. No comprehensive codifying law has been passed, which keeps privileges flexible but uncertain.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Article 105(4) extends these privileges to persons entitled to speak in Parliament - notably the Attorney General (Article 88), and ministers in the House of which they are not members. The President, although part of Parliament, does not enjoy these privileges.

• Statement 3 - CORRECT. Article 122(1) protects internal proceedings from challenge for procedural irregularity. But courts can intervene for illegality or unconstitutionality - Raja Ram Pal (2007) on the expulsion of members, and Kihoto Hollohan (1992) on Speakers' anti-defection rulings.

• Statement 4 - CORRECT. Article 105(2) gives absolute immunity for speech and votes in Parliament or its committees.

KEY LIMITATION (Sita Soren, 2024)

A seven-judge Bench overruled P.V. Narasimha Rao (1998) and held that this immunity does not protect a member who takes a BRIBE to vote or speak. The bribery is complete on acceptance and is unconnected with the legislative function.

TOPIC REVISION - TYPES OF PRIVILEGE

• Collective: publishing reports and debates, excluding strangers, punishing for contempt, and receiving immediate information about the arrest of members.

• Individual: freedom from arrest in CIVIL cases during the session and 40 days before and after it (not criminal or preventive detention); exemption from jury service; freedom of speech.

• Article 194 mirrors Article 105 for State Legislatures.

CONTINUING DEBATE

How privilege interacts with citizens' Article 19(1)(a) rights, for example when the House punishes the press for 'breach of privilege' (Searchlight, 1959; Keshav Singh, 1965), remains a classic area of tension.

Parliamentary privileges

Type	Examples
Collective	Publish proceedings, exclude strangers, punish for contempt
Individual	Freedom of speech in the House; freedom from civil arrest (session ± 40 days)
Not covered	Criminal arrest, preventive detention, bribery for votes

> Privileges are uncodified. The Attorney General enjoys them; the President does not. Freedom from arrest covers only civil cases. Bribery is not protected (Sita Soren, 2024).

Whoever sent you this knows their strengths, understands their gaps, and knows where they're headed. They're preparing with clarity and confidence—not fear. They know their edge. You can too.

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5 **With reference to the Vice-President of India, consider the following statements:**

1. The Vice-President is elected by an electoral college consisting of all members, elected and nominated, of both Houses of Parliament.
2. A resolution for the removal of the Vice-President can be moved in the Rajya Sabha without any prior notice.
3. While acting as President, the Vice-President does not perform the duties of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
4. Disputes relating to the election of the Vice-President are decided by the Election Commission of India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one	**(b) Only two ✓**
(c) Only three	(d) All four

Explanation

The correct answer is (b) Only two. Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Statement 2 is wrong because at least 14 days' notice is required. Statement 4 is wrong because election disputes are decided by the Supreme Court (Article 71).

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Article 66: elected by members of both Houses, including nominated members, by proportional representation through the single transferable vote and secret ballot. Unlike the President's electoral college, State Legislative Assemblies have no role.

• Statement 2 - WRONG. Article 67(b): removal is by a Rajya Sabha resolution passed by an effective majority (a majority of all the then members) and agreed to by the Lok Sabha by a simple majority. At least 14 days' notice of the intention to move it is required. No grounds are specified, and there is no impeachment procedure.

• Statement 3 - CORRECT. Article 64: while acting as or discharging the functions of the President (under Article 65, for up to six months in case of a vacancy), the Vice-President does not act as Chairman. The Deputy Chairman presides, and the Vice-President draws the President's emoluments, not the Chairman's.

• Statement 4 - WRONG. Article 71 gives the Supreme Court exclusive jurisdiction over disputes about the election of the President and Vice-President. The Election Commission only CONDUCTS the election (Article 324).

TOPIC REVISION - QUALIFICATIONS AND TERM

• Citizen of India; at least 35 years old; qualified for election to the RAJYA SABHA; must not hold an office of profit.

• Term of five years. A person elected to fill a mid-term vacancy gets a full five-year term.

• Resignation is addressed to the President.

OTHER POINTS

• The Vice-President is the ex officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Article 64) but NOT a member of it, so votes only to break a tie.

COMPARE WITH THE PRESIDENT

The President's electoral college includes ELECTED members of Parliament and State Assemblies (including Delhi and Puducherry) but excludes nominated members. The President is removed by impeachment under Article 61.

President vs Vice-President: election and removal

Feature	President	Vice-President
Electoral college	Elected MPs + elected MLAs	All MPs (incl. nominated)
Removal	Impeachment (Art. 61)	RS effective majority + LS agreement (Art. 67)
Election disputes	Supreme Court (Art. 71)	Supreme Court (Art. 71)

> Vice-President's electoral college = both Houses including nominated members; no State role. Removal needs 14 days' notice and an effective majority in the Rajya Sabha. Election disputes go to the Supreme Court, not the EC.

6 **With reference to the Union Council of Ministers, consider the following statements:**

1. The total number of Ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Union Council of Ministers cannot exceed 15 per cent of the total strength of the Lok Sabha.
2. A person who is not a member of either House of Parliament can be appointed a Minister, but ceases to be one if not elected or nominated to either House within six months.
3. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to both Houses of Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

The exam will ask what you avoided. Find out what that is while it still costs nothing.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (a) 1 and 2 only. Statement 3 is wrong: under Article 75(3), the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the LOK SABHA only. The Rajya Sabha can question and criticise ministers, but it cannot remove the government through a no-confidence motion.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Article 75(1A), inserted by the 91st Amendment (2003), caps the Union Council of Ministers at 15% of the Lok Sabha's total strength. Article 164(1A) sets the same cap for States, with a minimum of 12 ministers. The same amendment bars a member disqualified for defection under the Tenth Schedule from holding a ministerial post until re-elected.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Article 75(5): a minister who is not a member for six consecutive months ceases to be a minister at the end of that period. In S.R. Chaudhuri (2001), the Supreme Court held that the same non-member cannot be re-appointed repeatedly without being elected - that would defeat the constitutional scheme.

• Statement 3 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. A minister who sits in the Rajya Sabha is still answerable to the Lok Sabha as part of the collective whole. The no-confidence motion is not mentioned in the Constitution; it is provided for in the Lok Sabha's Rules (Rule 198) and exists only in that House.

TOPIC REVISION - THREE KINDS OF RESPONSIBILITY

• Collective: ministers sink or swim together. A Cabinet decision binds every minister, even one who disagreed in Cabinet; a minister unwilling to defend it must resign.

• Individual: ministers hold office during the President's pleasure (Article 75(2)). In practice the President removes a minister on the PM's advice.

• Legal: India has no rule requiring a minister to countersign the President's orders (unlike Britain), and courts cannot inquire whether, or what, advice was tendered (Article 74(2)).

ARTICLE 74 - AID AND ADVICE

• The 42nd Amendment (1976) made the advice binding on the President.

• The 44th Amendment (1978) allowed the President to return the advice once for reconsideration. After that, the President must act on it.

COUNCIL vs CABINET

• The Council of Ministers (Cabinet ministers, Ministers of State, Deputy Ministers) is a constitutional body.

• The word 'Cabinet' entered the Constitution only through the 44th Amendment, in Article 352.

Responsibility of ministers

Type	Basis	Meaning
Collective	Art. 75(3)	Council answerable to the Lok Sabha
Individual	Art. 75(2)	Minister holds office at the President's pleasure
Legal	Not provided	No countersignature requirement in India

> Collective responsibility runs to the Lok Sabha only (Article 75(3)). 15% cap = 91st Amendment; 6-month rule = Article 75(5).

7 **In the following question, an Assertion (A) is followed by a Reason (R). Select the correct option from the codes given below.**

Assertion (A): A judge of the Supreme Court can be removed from office only on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

Reason (R): The Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 regulates the procedure for investigating and proving the misbehaviour or incapacity of a judge.

(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

Every explanation here was written to teach, not to justify an answer key.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (B): both A and R are true, but R does not explain A. The grounds for removal come from Article 124(4) of the Constitution. The 1968 Act only lays down the procedure, enacted under Article 124(5).

ASSERTION - TRUE

• Article 124(4): a judge can be removed by an order of the President, passed after an address by each House of Parliament, supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by at least two-thirds of members present and voting, in the same session - only on the ground of 'proved misbehaviour or incapacity'.
• Security of tenure is a pillar of judicial independence.

REASON - TRUE, BUT IT DOES NOT EXPLAIN A

• Article 124(5) lets Parliament regulate the procedure, and the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 does so:
1. A motion signed by at least 100 Lok Sabha members or 50 Rajya Sabha members.
2. The Speaker or Chairman may admit or reject it.
3. If admitted, a three-member committee is set up: a Supreme Court judge (or the CJI), a High Court Chief Justice and a distinguished jurist.
4. If the committee finds the judge guilty, the House considers the motion.
• The Act is a procedural law. The substantive limitation on grounds is in the Constitution itself.

HISTORY

• No judge has been removed so far.
• Justice V. Ramaswami (1993): the motion failed in the Lok Sabha despite an adverse inquiry finding.
• Justice Soumitra Sen (Calcutta High Court, 2011): resigned after the Rajya Sabha passed the motion.
• Motions against Justice P.D. Dinakaran and others did not complete the process.
• The same procedure applies to High Court judges (Article 218).

NOTE ON TERMS

The Constitution does not use the word 'impeachment' for judges. It uses 'address' and 'removal'. Article 61 'impeachment' is for the President.

IN-HOUSE PROCEDURE (1999)

The judiciary's own mechanism for complaints against judges can lead to advice to resign or withdrawal of work. It is separate from removal by Parliament.

> Grounds = Constitution (Article 124(4)); procedure = Judges (Inquiry) Act (under Article 124(5)). Both are true, but the procedure does not explain the grounds - answer (B).

8 **With reference to the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under Article 131, which one of the following statements is correct?**

(a) A private citizen can invoke Article 131 against a State Government that has violated his rights.

(b) It covers disputes between the Government of India and one or more States that involve a question of legal right. ✓

(c) It extends to disputes arising out of any treaty or agreement signed before the commencement of the Constitution.

(d) It always gives the Supreme Court jurisdiction over inter-State river water disputes, which Parliament cannot exclude.

Well prepared is not the same as competitive. Know which one you are.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (b). Article 131 gives the Supreme Court exclusive original jurisdiction in disputes between the Government of India and one or more States, between the Union and States on one side and other States on the other, or between two or more States - insofar as the dispute involves a question on which the existence or extent of a legal right depends.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - WRONG. Only the Union and the States can be parties. Citizens seeking enforcement of rights use Article 32 (Fundamental Rights) or Article 226.

• Option (b) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict. The dispute must be legal, not political. Examples: State of Karnataka v. Union of India (1977), and State of Rajasthan v. Union of India (1977) on the dissolution of State Assemblies.

• Option (c) - WRONG. The proviso excludes disputes arising from pre-Constitution treaties, agreements, covenants, engagements and sanads.

• Option (d) - WRONG. Article 262(2) allows Parliament to exclude the jurisdiction of all courts over inter-State water disputes. The Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 does this: disputes go to tribunals. The Supreme Court still hears appeals by special leave against tribunal awards, as in Cauvery (2018).

TOPIC REVISION - JURISDICTIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT

• Original: Article 131 (federal disputes); writs under Article 32.

• Appellate: Articles 132-134A (constitutional, civil, criminal); Article 136 (special leave - the widest, discretionary).

• Advisory: Article 143. The Court may decline under 143(1) (as in the Ayodhya reference, 1993). It must answer under 143(2), on pre-Constitution treaty disputes.

• Review: Article 137. Curative petitions were evolved in Rupa Hurra (2002).

• Plenary: Article 142 (complete justice).

• Court of record: Article 129, including the power to punish for contempt.

DISTINGUISH

Article 131 covers legal rights between governments. Article 32 covers the Fundamental Rights of persons. Article 262 covers water disputes, which Parliament may keep out of the courts.

Supreme Court jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	Article(s)
Original (federal disputes)	131
Writ	32
Appellate	132-134A, 136
Advisory	143
Review	137
Complete justice	142

> Article 131 = Union-State or inter-State legal disputes only; no private parties. Pre-Constitution treaties are excluded. River water disputes can be excluded by Parliament (Article 262).

9 **With reference to the transfer of judges of High Courts under Article 222, which one of the following statements is correct?**

(a) A transfer requires the prior consent of the judge who is to be transferred.

(b) The Governor of the State to which the judge is transferred must first be consulted by the President.

(c) Transfers can be made only through a law made by Parliament under Article 222.

(d) The President may transfer a judge after consultation with the CJI. ✓

Explanation

The correct answer is (d). Article 222(1) empowers the President, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, to transfer a judge from one High Court to another. In practice, the proposal originates with the Collegium.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - WRONG. In Union of India v. Sankalchand Sheth (1977), the Supreme Court held that the judge's consent is not required. But a transfer must be in the public interest and not punitive.
• Option (b) - WRONG. Article 222 mentions no consultation with any Governor. (Governors are consulted for APPOINTMENTS under Article 217, not transfers.)
• Option (c) - WRONG. The power is executive, exercised by the President. Parliament's role is limited to providing a compensatory allowance by law (Article 222(2)).
• Option (d) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict.

THE COLLEGIUM PROCESS

• Under the Third Judges case (1998), the CJI's recommendation for transfers is formed with the four senior-most judges.
• The views of the Chief Justices of both the High Courts concerned are taken.
• The government implements the recommendation by notification.
• Judicial review of transfers is limited: only whether 'effective consultation' took place can be challenged, not the merits (K. Ashok Reddy, 1994).

RELATED ARTICLES

• Article 223: appointment of an acting Chief Justice of a High Court. when the office is vacant or the Chief Justice is unable to perform duties.
• Article 224: additional and acting judges.
• Article 217: appointment of High Court judges.

DEBATE

Transfers are justified for impartiality and fresh perspectives, and to avoid local influence. Critics argue they are opaque and can be perceived as punitive, which affects judicial independence.

Key High Court provisions

Article	Subject
217	Appointment and conditions of office
222	Transfer between High Courts
223	Acting Chief Justice
224	Additional and acting judges
224A	Retired judges sitting

> Transfer: President + consultation with the CJI; the judge's consent is not needed. The Governor is consulted for appointments (Article 217), not transfers.

10 **With reference to the power of a legislature to respond to judicial decisions, consider the following statements:**

1. A legislature may enact a law with retrospective effect to remove the defect on the basis of which a court invalidated an action.
2. A validating law can validate past actions retrospectively if it cures the legal defect identified by the court.
3. A legislature may, by law, simply declare a court's final judgment between parties to be ineffective without changing the underlying law.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

The exam doesn't ask how much you studied. It asks where you stand among everyone who studied too.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (a) 1 and 2 only. Statement 3 is wrong: a legislature cannot directly overrule or annul a judicial decision between parties. That would be an exercise of judicial power, and would violate the separation of powers.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. A legislature can 'remove the basis' of a judgment by changing the law retrospectively, so that the court could not have reached the same conclusion under the amended law (Shri Prithvi Cotton Mills, 1969; Indian Aluminium Co., 1996).

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. This is the classic validating Act. It is constitutional when it genuinely cures the defect and is within legislative competence. Tax laws are often amended this way after an adverse ruling.

• Statement 3 - WRONG. In Madan Mohan Pathak v. Union of India (1978), a law that tried to override a High Court's writ directing LIC to pay bonus to its employees was held invalid insofar as it sought to nullify the court's command. A legislature can change the law, but cannot sit in appeal over a judgment or merely declare it inoperative.

THE TEST COURTS APPLY

• Has the defect pointed out by the court actually been cured?

• Is the subject within the legislature's competence (Seventh Schedule)?

• Does the law independently violate Fundamental Rights or the basic structure?

• A law that only says 'the judgment shall not be enforced' fails the test.

TOPIC REVISION - SEPARATION OF POWERS IN INDIA

• Not rigid as in the USA, but functional: the executive is drawn from the legislature, and courts can review both.

• Article 50 (a DPSP) directs separating the judiciary from the executive in public services.

• Separation of powers and judicial review are basic features (Kesavananda, 1973). In Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain (1975), the Court struck down clause (4) of Article 329A, inserted by the 39th Amendment, which had tried to validate an election by legislative declaration instead of adjudication.

Permissible vs impermissible legislative responses

Permissible	Impermissible
Retrospectively amend the law to remove the basis of a judgment	Declare a final judgment void or ineffective
Cure the defect the court identified	Revive an action without curing any defect
Act within legislative competence	Adjudicate rights between specific parties

> Changing the LAW behind a judgment is permitted. Overturning the JUDGMENT itself is not. Hardship to beneficiaries does not validate an unconstitutional law.

11 **With reference to judges of the higher judiciary in India, consider the following statements:**

1. A judge of a High Court holds office until the age of 62 years.
2. A judge of the Supreme Court holds office until the age of 65 years.
3. The Chief Justice of a High Court may, with the previous consent of the President, request a retired High Court judge to sit and act as a judge of that High Court.
4. The Chief Justice of India may, with the previous consent of the President, request a retired Supreme Court judge to sit and act as a judge of the Supreme Court.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All four ✓

Explanation

The correct answer is (d) All four. The retirement ages come from Articles 217(1) and 124(2). Articles 224A and 128 allow retired judges to sit in the High Courts and the Supreme Court respectively.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Article 217(1). The 15th Amendment (1963) raised the age from 60 to 62. Questions about a High Court judge's age are decided by the President after consulting the CJI, and the decision is final (Article 217(3)).

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Article 124(2): until 65. Proposals to raise the age of both have been debated but not enacted.

• Statement 3 - CORRECT. Article 224A (15th Amendment, 1963). In Lok Prahari v. Union of India (2021), the Supreme Court revived this provision to tackle High Court pendency. It laid down triggers (for example, vacancies above 20%, or cases pending more than five years).

• Statement 4 - CORRECT. Article 128 - used rarely. It is different from Article 127 (ad hoc judges): when there is no quorum of permanent judges, the CJI may, with the President's consent and after consulting the concerned High Court Chief Justice, request a High Court judge qualified for Supreme Court appointment to sit.

TOPIC REVISION - HIGH COURT JUDGES

• Appointed under Article 217 by the President after consulting the CJI, the Governor and the High Court Chief Justice (via the Collegium).

• Transferred under Article 222.

• Acting Chief Justice appointed under Article 223.

• Additional and acting judges under Article 224, for up to two years.

REMOVAL

Supreme Court and High Court judges are removed the same way: an address by both Houses, by a special majority, on proved misbehaviour or incapacity (Articles 124(4) and 218).

POST-RETIREMENT BAR

A retired Supreme Court judge cannot plead in any court in India (Article 124(7)). A retired permanent High Court judge can plead only in the Supreme Court and other High Courts (Article 220).

Retired and temporary judges

Article	Provision
127	Ad hoc judges of Supreme Court (lack of quorum)
128	Retired Supreme Court judges sitting in Supreme Court
224	Additional / acting High Court judges (up to 2 years)
224A	Retired High Court judges sitting in High Court

High Court 62, Supreme Court 65. Article 224A = retired High Court judges; Article 128 = retired Supreme Court judges; Article 127 = ad hoc Supreme Court judges.

A limited number of places. One honest question: are you holding yours?

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12 **With reference to the appointment of judges of the Supreme Court of India, consider the following statements:**

1. Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President under Article 124(2).
2. The Collegium system of appointment evolved from the Second Judges case (1993) and the Third Judges case (1998).
3. The Supreme Court struck down the National Judicial Appointments Commission, created by the 99th Constitutional Amendment, in 2015.
4. A person must have been a judge of a High Court for at least ten years to be eligible for appointment as a Supreme Court judge.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three ✓

(d) All four

The exam ranks everyone together, whatever language they write in. So does this.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (c) Only three. Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong: Article 124(3) requires five years as a High Court judge, OR ten years as an advocate of a High Court, OR being a distinguished jurist in the President's opinion.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. The President appoints judges 'after consultation with' the judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts as the President deems necessary. The Chief Justice of India must always be consulted for other appointments.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. The progression:

- First Judges case (S.P. Gupta, 1981): 'consultation' does not mean 'concurrence'; executive primacy.
- Second Judges case (1993): judicial primacy; the CJI's opinion formed with two senior-most judges.
- Third Judges case (1998, a Presidential Reference): the collegium expanded to the CJI plus four senior-most judges for Supreme Court appointments.

• Statement 3 - CORRECT. The 99th Amendment (2014) and the NJAC Act set up a six-member commission including the Law Minister and two eminent persons. In the Fourth Judges case (Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association, 2015), the Court struck them down by 4:1 as violating judicial independence, a basic feature.

• Statement 4 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict.

TOPIC REVISION - THE MEMORANDUM OF PROCEDURE AND RECENT PRACTICE

• The government can return a recommendation once for reconsideration. If the Collegium reiterates it, the appointment should follow (by convention).

• The CJI is appointed by convention as the senior-most judge.

• The Collegium now issues brief 'statements'. Critics note that little reasoning is disclosed.

• Judges take their oath before the President, or a person appointed by the President for this purpose (Article 124(6)).

STRENGTH

• Parliament fixes the number by law (Article 124(1)). The original Constitution provided for a CJI and seven other judges.

• Retirement age: 65.

• Ad hoc judges (Article 127) and retired judges (Article 128) can also sit.

The Judges cases

Case	Year	Outcome
First (S.P. Gupta)	1981	Consultation ≠ concurrence; executive primacy
Second	1993	Judicial primacy; CJI + 2 judges
Third (Reference)	1998	Collegium of CJI + 4 senior-most judges
Fourth (NJAC)	2015	99th Amendment & NJAC Act struck down

Eligibility: 5 years as an HC judge / 10 years as an HC advocate / a distinguished jurist - not 10 years as a judge. The Collegium is judge-made; the NJAC was struck down in 2015.

13 **With reference to the doctrine of precedent and the binding nature of Supreme Court judgments, consider the following statements:**

1. Under Article 141, the law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all courts within the territory of India.
2. Article 141 also makes the Supreme Court bound by its own earlier decisions.
3. The doctrine of prospective overruling was first applied by the Supreme Court in Golaknath (1967).
4. A 5:4 majority judgment of a nine-judge Bench has lower precedential value than a unanimous judgment of a seven-judge Bench.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one	**(b) Only two ✓**
(c) Only three	(d) All four

Explanation

The correct answer is (b) Only two. Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Statement 2 is wrong because the Supreme Court is not bound by its own decisions. Statement 4 is wrong because precedential value depends on bench strength, not the margin of the majority.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Article 141 binds all courts below the Supreme Court. Article 144 requires all civil and judicial authorities to act in aid of the Supreme Court.
• Statement 2 - WRONG. The Supreme Court can depart from its own precedents, usually through a larger bench (Bengal Immunity Co., 1955). A smaller bench must follow a larger bench and may only refer doubts upward (Central Board of Dawoodi Bohra Community, 2005).
• Statement 3 - CORRECT. Golaknath (1967) held that Parliament could not amend Fundamental Rights, but applied this only prospectively, so as not to unsettle past land-reform amendments. The doctrine was borrowed from American jurisprudence.
• Statement 4 - WRONG. A majority judgment of a larger bench is the law, whatever the split. It binds smaller benches, including a unanimous seven-judge Bench, and overrides it where they conflict. Kesavananda itself was decided 7:6.

WHY LARGER BENCHES MATTER

• Article 145(3): a case involving a substantial question of law on the interpretation of the Constitution, or a reference under Article 143, must be heard by at least five judges (a Constitution Bench).
• Because weight follows bench strength, overruling a decision needs a bench larger than the one that gave it. So Kesavananda (13 judges) could be revisited only by an even larger bench.
• A decision given 'per incuriam' - in ignorance of a binding precedent or statute - does not bind.

How precedent works in the Supreme Court

Situation	Rule
Smaller bench vs larger bench	Must follow; may refer doubts to a larger bench
Coequal bench disagreement	Refer to a larger bench
Larger bench	Can overrule smaller benches
Margin of majority (e.g. 5:4)	Irrelevant to binding force

Article 141 binds lower courts, not the Supreme Court itself. Bench size, not vote margin, decides precedential weight. Prospective overruling began with Golaknath.

14 **In the following question, an Assertion (A) is followed by a Reason (R). Select the correct option from the codes given below.**

Assertion (A): While a Proclamation of National Emergency is in operation, Parliament can make laws on matters in the State List.

Reason (R): Article 250 empowers Parliament, during the operation of a Proclamation of Emergency, to make laws for the whole or any part of India with respect to any matter in the State List.

(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

Write in your language. Be ranked against everyone. Nothing here is measured in a smaller room.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (A): both A and R are true, and R correctly explains A. Article 250 is the precise constitutional basis for Parliament's power to legislate on State subjects during a National Emergency.

ASSERTION - TRUE
• During a National Emergency the federal distribution of legislative power is effectively suspended in Parliament's favour.

REASON - TRUE, AND IT EXPLAINS A
• Article 250(1) grants exactly this power. Under Article 250(2), such laws cease to have effect six months after the Proclamation ends, except for things already done.
• The State Legislature is NOT suspended. It can still legislate on State subjects, but in case of conflict the Union law prevails.

OTHER EFFECTS OF A NATIONAL EMERGENCY ON CENTRE-STATE RELATIONS
• Executive: the Union can give directions to any State on any matter (Article 353(a)).
• Legislative: Parliament can confer powers and impose duties on the Union's officers even in State matters (Article 353(b)).
• Financial: the President can modify the constitutional distribution of revenues by order, subject to parliamentary approval (Article 354).
• The Lok Sabha's term can be extended (Article 83(2)), as in 1976.

CONTRAST WITH PRESIDENT'S RULE
• Under Article 356, the State Legislature's powers are exercised by or under the authority of Parliament, and the Assembly is suspended or dissolved.
• Under Article 352, the State Legislature continues, but Parliament gains concurrent power over the State List.

TOPIC REVISION - FEDERAL FLEXIBILITY
Article 250 is one of five routes by which Parliament can legislate on State List matters - the others are Articles 249, 252, 253 and 356/357. It shows how India's federation can turn unitary in a crisis, which scholars describe as a federation that is 'federal in normal times, unitary in emergencies'.

> Under Article 250 the State Legislature is not suspended - it continues, but the Union law prevails. Laws lapse six months after the Emergency ends.

15 **With reference to administrative relations between the Union and the States, which one of the following statements is correct?**

(a) The executive power of a State must ensure compliance with laws of Parliament, but the Union cannot direct States on this.

(b) The Union can entrust its executive functions to a State only after Parliament first approves it by a resolution.

(c) If a State fails to comply with Union directions, the President may hold that its government cannot be carried on constitutionally. ✓

(d) Inter-State river water disputes are decided by the Inter-State Council constituted by the President under Article 263 of the Constitution.

Explanation

The correct answer is (c). Under Article 365, where a State fails to comply with, or give effect to, directions given by the Union in exercise of its executive power, the President may hold that a situation has arisen in which the State's government cannot be carried on in accordance with the Constitution. This opens the way to Article 356.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - WRONG. Article 256 does require a State's executive power to be exercised so as to ensure compliance with Union laws. But it also expressly empowers the Union to give directions to a State for this purpose. Article 257 adds that a State must not impede the Union's executive power, and the Union can direct States on constructing and maintaining means of communication of national or military importance and on protecting railways.

• Option (b) - WRONG. Under Article 258(1), the President may entrust Union functions to a State Government with the CONSENT OF THAT STATE GOVERNMENT - no parliamentary resolution is needed. Parliament can also confer powers on States by law under Article 258(2), even without consent. Article 258A works the other way: a Governor may, with the Union's consent, entrust State functions to the Union.

• Option (c) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict. Article 365 is the sanction behind Articles 256 and 257. In S.R. Bommai (1994), the Court held that any resulting Proclamation is still subject to judicial review.

• Option (d) - WRONG. Article 262 deals with water disputes: Parliament may provide for their adjudication and exclude the courts' jurisdiction. Under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, such disputes go to tribunals. The Inter-State Council under Article 263 is only advisory - it inquires into and advises on disputes and common subjects, and cannot decide them.

TOPIC REVISION - OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE LINKS

• All-India Services (Article 312) - officers recruited by the Union but serving States.

• Public Service Commissions: a Joint State PSC can be created by Parliament on the request of the States concerned (Article 315).

• Full faith and credit to public acts, records and judicial proceedings of every State (Article 261).

• Inter-State trade and commerce (Articles 301-307).

SARKARIA COMMISSION (1988)

It recommended a permanent Inter-State Council, sparing use of Article 356, and consultation with States on Concurrent List laws.

Key administrative-relations Articles

Article	Provision
256	State executive to ensure compliance with Union laws; Union directions
257	Union control over States in certain cases
258	Union may entrust functions to States (with consent)
262	Adjudication of inter-State water disputes
365	Effect of failure to comply with Union directions

> Article 365 is the enforcement link to Article 356. Article 258 needs only the State Government's consent. The Inter-State Council is advisory; water disputes go to tribunals (Article 262).

The costliest mistake in this exam isn't a wrong answer. It's a year you can't get back.

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16 **With reference to a Financial Emergency under Article 360, which one of the following statements is correct?**

(a) It must be approved by both Houses of Parliament within one month, by a special majority.

(b) Once approved within two months by simple majority, it continues until revoked. ✓

(c) During its operation, the salaries of Supreme Court and High Court judges cannot be reduced.

(d) It was proclaimed once, during the 1991 balance of payments crisis, and was revoked after the reforms.

Explanation

The correct answer is (b). A Financial Emergency must be approved by both Houses within two months by a simple majority. Once approved, it continues indefinitely until revoked, with no repeated parliamentary approval.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - WRONG. That describes a National Emergency (Article 352). For Article 360 the period is two months and the majority is simple.
• Option (b) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict.
• Option (c) - WRONG. Article 360(4)(b) expressly allows the President to direct the REDUCTION of salaries and allowances of all persons serving the Union, including Supreme Court and High Court judges - an exception to the usual protection of judicial salaries (Article 125).
• Option (d) - WRONG. A Financial Emergency has NEVER been proclaimed. In 1991 India dealt with the crisis through IMF support, pledging gold and economic reforms.

TOPIC REVISION - THE GROUND AND EFFECTS

• Ground: the President is satisfied that the financial stability or credit of India, or any part of it, is threatened.
• The 38th Amendment (1975) made this satisfaction immune from judicial review. The 44th Amendment (1978) removed that immunity.
• Effects:
- The Union can direct States to observe principles of financial propriety.
- Salaries of State government servants can be reduced.
- All Money Bills and Financial Bills of States can be reserved for the President.
- Union salaries, including judges', can be cut.

WHY IT MATTERS FOR FEDERALISM

It gives the Centre extensive control over State finances, which is why critics view it as a threat to fiscal autonomy.

THE THREE EMERGENCIES AT A GLANCE

• National (Article 352): war, external aggression, armed rebellion; one month; special majority.
• State or President's Rule (Article 356): failure of constitutional machinery; two months; simple majority.
• Financial (Article 360): threat to financial stability; two months; simple majority; never used.

The three Emergencies

Emergency	Ground	Approval	Used?
National (Art. 352)	War / external aggression / armed rebellion	1 month, special majority	1962, 1971, 1975
President's Rule (Art. 356)	Failure of constitutional machinery	2 months, simple majority	100+ times
Financial (Art. 360)	Threat to financial stability	2 months, simple majority	Never

> Article 360 = two months, simple majority, indefinite, never used. Judges' salaries CAN be reduced under Article 360(4).

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17 **With reference to the powers and position of the Governor of a State, consider the following statements:**

1. The Governor may reserve a Bill passed by the State Legislature for the consideration of the President.
2. The Governor cannot return a Money Bill to the State Legislature for reconsideration.
3. Only a person who is a resident of the State concerned can be appointed as its Governor.
4. The Governor can be removed from office only by impeachment, on the same lines as the President.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one	**(b) Only two ✓**
(c) Only three	(d) All four

Explanation

The correct answer is (b) Only two. Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong: the Constitution prescribes no residence requirement, and by convention the Governor is usually an outsider to the State. Statement 4 is wrong: the Governor holds office during the pleasure of the President (Article 156), and the Constitution provides no impeachment procedure for the Governor.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Under Article 200, when a Bill is presented, the Governor may: (i) assent; (ii) withhold assent; (iii) return a non-Money Bill for reconsideration; or (iv) reserve it for the President. Article 201 then governs the President's decision. Reservation is MANDATORY for a Bill that would endanger the position of the High Court.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. The first proviso to Article 200 allows return only of Bills other than Money Bills. If the legislature re-passes a returned Bill, the Governor cannot withhold assent.

• Statement 3 - WRONG. Article 157 requires only that the Governor be a citizen of India and at least 35 years old. Article 158 bars the Governor from being a member of a legislature or holding an office of profit. The conventions of appointing an outsider and consulting the Chief Minister were endorsed by the Sarkaria Commission; they are not legal requirements.

• Statement 4 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. In B.P. Singhal (2010), the Supreme Court held that the pleasure cannot be withdrawn arbitrarily or for political reasons. Removal must rest on valid reasons, and is open to limited judicial review.

TOPIC REVISION - THE GOVERNOR'S DISCRETION

• Constitutional discretion: reserving Bills for the President; reporting under Article 356; special responsibilities under Article 371 provisions; acting as administrator of an adjoining UT.

• Situational discretion: appointing a CM when no party has a clear majority; dismissing a government that has lost its majority (a floor test is the proper method, S.R. Bommai, 1994).

• Article 163(2): if a question arises whether a matter is within the Governor's discretion, the Governor's decision is final.

OTHER FACTS

• Appointed by the President by warrant under hand and seal (Article 155); five-year term subject to pleasure.

• One person can be Governor of two or more States (7th Amendment, 1956).

• The President has no Article 356-like 'discretion'; the Governor's discretion is wider than the President's.

President vs Governor

Feature	President	Governor
Selection	Elected (Art. 54)	Appointed (Art. 155)
Removal	Impeachment (Art. 61)	President's pleasure (Art. 156)
Constitutional discretion	No express discretion	Express (Art. 163)
Money Bill return	Not possible	Not possible

> Money Bills cannot be returned. No residence condition (Article 157). The Governor serves at the President's pleasure - not removed by impeachment.

18 **With reference to a Proclamation of National Emergency under Article 352, consider the following statements:**

1. The 44th Amendment replaced 'internal disturbance' with 'armed rebellion' as a ground for proclamation.
2. The Proclamation must be approved by each House of Parliament within one month, by a special majority.
3. The rights under Article 19 are automatically suspended whenever a National Emergency is proclaimed on any ground.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

If you only find out on result day, you found out too late.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (a) 1 and 2 only. Statement 3 is wrong: under Article 358 (as amended by the 44th Amendment), Article 19 is suspended automatically only when the Emergency is proclaimed on the ground of WAR or EXTERNAL AGGRESSION - not armed rebellion.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. The vague 'internal disturbance' ground used in June 1975 was replaced by 'armed rebellion' in 1978, to prevent misuse. The 44th Amendment also requires a WRITTEN communication of the Cabinet's decision to the President.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Approval is needed within ONE month (it was two months before 1978). The majority required is a majority of total membership plus two-thirds of those present and voting. Continuance needs approval every six months. The Lok Sabha can pass a resolution of disapproval by a simple majority (Article 352(7)), and one-tenth of Lok Sabha members can requisition a special sitting for this.

• Statement 3 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. For other Fundamental Rights, Article 359 lets the President suspend their ENFORCEMENT by order. Articles 20 and 21 can never be suspended.

EFFECTS ON FEDERALISM

• The Union's executive power extends to giving directions to States on any matter (Article 353).
• Parliament can legislate on State List subjects (Article 250).
• The President can modify the distribution of revenues (Article 354).
• The Lok Sabha's term can be extended one year at a time (Article 83(2)).
• The federation effectively becomes unitary.

HISTORY

• 1962: China war (external aggression).
• 1971: Pakistan war (external aggression).
• 1975: internal disturbance, alongside the 1971 Emergency.
• The 1975-77 Emergency led to the 44th Amendment safeguards.

TERRITORIAL SCOPE

The Proclamation can cover the whole of India or a part of it (from the 42nd Amendment). It can be made before actual aggression if there is imminent danger.

Articles 358 and 359 compared

Feature	Article 358	Article 359
What is affected	Article 19 itself	Enforcement of specified rights
How	Automatic	Presidential order
Grounds	War / external aggression only	Any Emergency
Exception	-	Articles 20 and 21 never suspended

> Article 358 (automatic suspension of Article 19) applies only for war or external aggression. Approval = one month, special majority. Articles 20-21 are never suspended.

19 **With reference to a Proclamation under Article 356 (President's Rule), consider the following statements:**

1. It must be approved by both Houses of Parliament within two months, by a simple majority.
2. Once approved, it can continue for six months at a time, up to a maximum of three years.
3. Its continuance beyond one year requires, among other conditions, a certificate from the Election Commission that elections to the State Assembly cannot be held.
4. Its revocation by the President must also be approved by Parliament.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three ✓

(d) All four

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Explanation

The correct answer is (c) Only three. Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong: the President can revoke the Proclamation at any time by a subsequent Proclamation, which needs no parliamentary approval.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Article 356(3): the Proclamation lapses after two months unless both Houses approve it. If the Lok Sabha is dissolved, the Rajya Sabha's approval suffices until 30 days after the new Lok Sabha first sits. Approval is by a simple majority - unlike a National Emergency, which needs a special majority.
• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Each approval extends it by six months. The maximum is three years.
• Statement 3 - CORRECT. Article 356(5), from the 44th Amendment: beyond one year, both conditions must hold - (a) a National Emergency is in operation in all or part of the State, AND (b) the Election Commission certifies difficulty in holding elections.
• Statement 4 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict.

EFFECTS OF PRESIDENT'S RULE

• The President assumes the State's executive functions, exercised through the Governor.
• The Assembly is dissolved or kept in suspended animation.
• Parliament, or the President if Parliament delegates, legislates for the State (Article 357).
• The High Court is not affected.

S.R. BOMMAI v. UNION OF INDIA (1994) - KEY LIMITS

• The Proclamation is subject to judicial review on grounds of mala fides or irrelevant material.
• A government's majority must be tested on the floor of the House.
• The Assembly should not be dissolved before Parliament approves.
• Secularism is a basic feature; a government acting against it can be dismissed.

HISTORY

• Article 356 has been invoked over 100 times. Ambedkar hoped it would remain a 'dead letter'. The Sarkaria and Punchhi Commissions urged its use only as a last resort.

National Emergency vs President's Rule vs Financial Emergency

Feature	Art. 352	Art. 356	Art. 360
Approval deadline	1 month	2 months	2 months
Majority	Special	Simple	Simple
Maximum duration	Indefinite (6-monthly approvals)	3 years	Indefinite
Revocation needs approval?	No (LS can disapprove)	No	No

Approval: two months, simple majority. Revocation needs no approval. Beyond one year: both a National Emergency AND an EC certificate are required.

Stamina is a skill. Marathon is where you build it before the exam asks for it.

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20 **With reference to Union-State relations and institutions of cooperative federalism, consider the following statements:**

1. The Inter-State Council was established in 1990 by a Presidential order under Article 263.
2. The Zonal Councils were set up under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.
3. Under Article 249, Parliament can legislate on a State List matter in the national interest if the Rajya Sabha passes a resolution supported by two-thirds of its members present and voting.
4. Under Article 248, residuary powers of legislation are vested in Parliament.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All four ✓

Explanation

The correct answer is (d) All four. These are standard features of India's Centre-State institutional and legislative framework.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Article 263 lets the President set up an Inter-State Council. Following the Sarkaria Commission (1988), it was set up in 1990. It is chaired by the PM, with Chief Ministers, the Administrators of UTs without legislatures, and six Union Cabinet ministers. It is advisory and has met rarely.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Five Zonal Councils (Northern, Central, Eastern, Western, Southern) are statutory bodies under that Act, chaired by the Union Home Minister. The North Eastern Council was created separately under the North Eastern Council Act, 1971.

• Statement 3 - CORRECT. An Article 249 resolution is valid for up to one year at a time, and can be renewed. The law ceases six months after the resolution lapses.

• Statement 4 - CORRECT. Article 248 and Entry 97 of the Union List vest residuary powers in Parliament - following Canada. In the USA and Australia they lie with the states. In Union of India v. H.S. Dhillon (1971), this was used to uphold the Wealth Tax on agricultural land.

OTHER WAYS PARLIAMENT CAN LEGISLATE ON STATE SUBJECTS

• Article 250: during a National Emergency.

• Article 252: when two or more States request by resolution - for example the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

• Article 253: to implement international agreements.

• Article 356: during President's Rule (via Article 357).

COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM INSTITUTIONS

• NITI Aayog Governing Council (2015).

• GST Council (Article 279A).

• Finance Commission (Article 280).

• Inter-State Council and Zonal Councils.

KEY DISTINCTION

Bodies that rest on the Constitution (Finance Commission, GST Council, Inter-State Council under Article 263) differ from statutory bodies (Zonal Councils) and executive bodies (NITI Aayog, set up by a Union Cabinet resolution).

Ways Parliament can legislate on State List subjects

Article	Condition
249	Rajya Sabha resolution (2/3 present & voting), national interest
250	During a National Emergency
252	Two or more States request by resolution
253	To implement international agreements
356/357	During President's Rule

> Inter-State Council = constitutional enabling (Article 263), set up in 1990. Zonal Councils = statutory (1956). Residuary powers lie with Parliament (Canadian model).

21 **In the following question, an Assertion (A) is followed by a Reason (R). Select the correct option from the codes given below.**

Assertion (A): The Preamble cannot be invoked to override an express provision of the Constitution.

Reason (R): The Preamble is neither a source of power to the legislature nor a source of prohibitions on its powers.

(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

A year is too long to wait for feedback.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (A): both A and R are true, and R correctly explains A. Because the Preamble neither grants nor limits power, it serves as an aid to interpretation. It can help resolve ambiguity, but it cannot prevail over clear operative provisions.

ASSERTION - TRUE

• Courts use the Preamble to understand the objectives behind provisions, especially where the language is ambiguous. But where the text is clear, the Preamble cannot be used to defeat it.

REASON - TRUE, AND IT EXPLAINS A

• The Preamble is not enforceable as such and does not confer substantive powers. Hence its role is interpretive, which is exactly why it cannot override express provisions.

TOPIC REVISION - THE PREAMBLE IN THE COURTS

• Berubari Union (1960): held that the Preamble is NOT part of the Constitution, but is a key to the minds of the makers.
• Kesavananda Bharati (1973): overruled that view and held the Preamble IS part of the Constitution. It can be amended under Article 368, but not so as to damage the basic structure.
• LIC of India (1995): reaffirmed that it is part of the Constitution.
• The Preamble has been amended only once: the 42nd Amendment (1976) added 'Socialist', 'Secular' and 'Integrity'.
• Secularism was recognised as a basic feature in S.R. Bommai (1994), although the word entered the Preamble only in 1976.

CONTENTS OF THE PREAMBLE

• Source of authority: 'We, the people of India'.
• Nature of the State: Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic.
• Objectives: Justice (social, economic, political), Liberty (of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship), Equality (of status and opportunity), Fraternity (assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation).
• Date of adoption: 26 November 1949.
• Origin: based on the Objectives Resolution moved by Nehru (1946).

> Part of the Constitution (Kesavananda) ≠ enforceable source of power. Berubari's 'not a part' view was overruled. It has been amended only once (42nd).

22 **Which one of the following was added to the Constitution by the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976?**

(a) The right of children aged 6 to 14 to free and compulsory education

(b) The Tenth Schedule on disqualification on the ground of defection

(c) A list of Fundamental Duties of citizens in Part IVA ✓

(d) Part IXB on the functioning of co-operative societies

Explanation

The correct answer is (c). The 42nd Amendment, on the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee, inserted Part IVA (Article 51A) with ten Fundamental Duties.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - WRONG. Article 21A (the right to education) was inserted by the 86th Amendment, 2002. It also revised Article 45 and added the 11th Fundamental Duty in Article 51A(k).

• Option (b) - WRONG. The Tenth Schedule was added by the 52nd Amendment, 1985.

• Option (c) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict.

• Option (d) - WRONG. Part IXB (co-operative societies) was added by the 97th Amendment, 2011. In 2021 the Supreme Court struck down the part dealing with State co-operative societies for want of ratification by States, keeping it only for multi-State co-operatives.

TOPIC REVISION - THE 42nd AMENDMENT ('MINI-CONSTITUTION')

• Preamble: added 'Socialist', 'Secular' and 'Integrity'. This is the only amendment to the Preamble so far.

• New Directive Principles: Article 39A (free legal aid), 43A (workers' participation in management), 48A (environment).

• Five subjects moved from the State List to the Concurrent List: education, forests, weights and measures, protection of wild animals and birds, and administration of justice.

• It made the President bound by ministerial advice (Article 74).

• It added Articles 323A and 323B (tribunals).

• It extended the Lok Sabha and Assembly terms to six years (restored to five by the 44th Amendment).

• Clauses (4) and (5) of Article 368, barring review of amendments, were struck down in Minerva Mills (1980).

THE 44th AMENDMENT (1978) - WHAT IT UNDID

• Replaced 'internal disturbance' with 'armed rebellion' as a ground for National Emergency.

• Made Articles 20 and 21 non-suspendable during an Emergency.

• Removed the right to property from Part III (it is now Article 300A).

Amendments and what they added

Amendment	Year	Key addition
42nd	1976	Fundamental Duties; 'Socialist, Secular, Integrity'
52nd	1985	Tenth Schedule (anti-defection)
86th	2002	Article 21A; 11th Fundamental Duty
97th	2011	Part IXB (co-operatives)

42nd = Fundamental Duties (10). 86th = Article 21A plus the 11th duty. 52nd = anti-defection. 97th = co-operatives.

A wrong answer you understand is worth more than a right one you guessed.

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23 **Which one of the following can be done by Parliament by a simple majority, without following the procedure of Article 368?**

(a) Forming a new State out of a Union Territory by a law made under Articles 3 and 4 ✓

(b) Changing the manner in which the President of India is elected under Articles 54 and 55

(c) Moving a subject from the State List to the Union List in the Seventh Schedule

(d) Altering the jurisdiction and powers of the High Courts under Part VI of the Constitution

Explanation

The correct answer is (a). A law under Articles 3 and 4 that forms or reorganises States (and amends the First and Fourth Schedules accordingly) is passed by a simple majority. Article 4(2) declares that such a law is not an amendment of the Constitution for the purposes of Article 368.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict. The Bill needs the President's recommendation, and the President refers it to the affected State Legislature for its views (not consent). The State's views are not binding on Parliament (Babulal Parate, 1960).

• Option (b) - WRONG. The election of the President (Articles 54-55) is among the provisions in the proviso to Article 368(2). Changing it needs a special majority PLUS ratification by half the State Legislatures.

• Option (c) - WRONG. Changing the Seventh Schedule lists also needs a special majority and State ratification (for example, the 101st Amendment on GST was ratified by the States).

• Option (d) - WRONG. Provisions on the Supreme Court and High Courts (Chapter IV of Part V and Chapter V of Part VI) are entrenched, so they too need ratification.

TOPIC REVISION - THREE WAYS TO CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION

• Simple majority, outside Article 368: admission or formation of States (Articles 2-4); creation or abolition of Legislative Councils (Article 169); the Fifth and Sixth Schedules; quorum; salaries; citizenship (Article 11); rules of procedure.

• Special majority (Article 368(2)): a majority of total membership plus two-thirds of those present and voting in each House - for Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles and most other provisions.

• Special majority plus ratification by half the States: federal provisions - the President's election, the extent of executive power, the Supreme Court and High Courts, the distribution of legislative powers, GST Council, States' representation in Parliament, and Article 368 itself.

NOTE

Even 'simple majority' changes are subject to judicial review.

Methods of amendment

Method	Examples
Simple majority (outside Art. 368)	New States (Arts. 2-4), Legislative Councils (Art. 169), Fifth/Sixth Schedules
Special majority	Fundamental Rights, DPSPs
Special majority + half the States	Seventh Schedule, President's election, Supreme Court/High Courts, Art. 368

> Laws under Articles 3-4 are deemed not to be amendments (Article 4(2)). Anything touching federal structure - Seventh Schedule, President's election, courts - needs State ratification.

24 **With reference to the Constituent Assembly of India, consider the following statements:**

1. Members representing the British Indian provinces were elected indirectly by the members of the provincial legislative assemblies.
2. Besides framing the Constitution, the Constituent Assembly also functioned as the first legislature of independent India.
3. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

The same mistake, made twice, is a habit. This is where you catch it the first time.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (b) Only two. Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar chaired the Drafting Committee; Dr. Rajendra Prasad was President of the Assembly. Statement 4 is wrong: the Constitution was adopted on 26 November 1949 and came into force on 26 January 1950.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Under the Cabinet Mission Plan (1946), provincial seats were filled by indirect election, by members of the provincial assemblies, using proportional representation by single transferable vote. Princely States' representatives were to be nominated by their rulers. Seats were roughly in the ratio of one per million population.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. After independence the Assembly also became the Dominion Legislature. When it sat as the legislature, G.V. Mavalankar presided; when framing the Constitution, Dr. Rajendra Prasad presided. It continued as the Provisional Parliament until the first elected Parliament met in 1952.

• Statement 3 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. The Drafting Committee was set up on 29 August 1947 with seven members.

• Statement 4 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. 26 November is now observed as Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas). Some provisions - citizenship, elections, the provisional Parliament, and temporary and transitional provisions - took effect on 26 November 1949 itself.

TOPIC REVISION - KEY FACTS

• First meeting: 9 December 1946 (Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha as temporary President).

• Objectives Resolution: moved by Nehru on 13 December 1946 and adopted on 22 January 1947. It later shaped the Preamble.

• Sir B.N. Rau was the Constitutional Adviser.

• The Muslim League boycotted the Assembly. After Partition, its strength fell from 389 to 299.

• The work took about 2 years, 11 months and 17 days. The original Constitution had 395 Articles, 22 Parts and 8 Schedules.

• Criticism: the Assembly was not directly elected on universal adult franchise and was dominated by the Congress. Its defence: it was broadly representative and worked by consensus.

Constituent Assembly: who did what

Role	Person
President of the Assembly	Dr. Rajendra Prasad
Chairman, Drafting Committee	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
Constitutional Adviser	Sir B.N. Rau
Mover of Objectives Resolution	Jawaharlal Nehru

> Adopted on 26 November 1949; commenced on 26 January 1950. Ambedkar chaired the Drafting Committee; Prasad was President of the Assembly.

25 **With reference to the federal character of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:**

1. Article 1 of the Constitution describes India as a 'Union of States'.
2. The word 'federation' is not used anywhere in the text of the Constitution.
3. A new All-India Service can be created by Parliament only after the Lok Sabha passes a resolution supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation

The correct answer is (a) 1 and 2 only. Statement 3 is wrong: under Article 312, the resolution authorising a new All-India Service must be passed by the RAJYA SABHA (the House representing the States), by two-thirds of members present and voting.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Article 1(1): 'India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States.' Dr. Ambedkar explained the choice: the Indian federation is not the result of an agreement among States, and no State has the right to secede.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. The Constitution sets up a federal system - two levels of government, division of powers (Seventh Schedule), a written and rigid Constitution, an independent judiciary and a bicameral legislature. But it never uses the word 'federation'. Scholars call it 'quasi-federal' (K.C. Wheare), 'cooperative federalism' (Granville Austin) or 'federal with a strong centre'.

• Statement 3 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. The rationale is that because these services affect States, the federal chamber must consent. The Indian Forest Service (1966) was created this way.

UNITARY FEATURES (often asked)

• Single Constitution and single citizenship.
• An integrated judiciary.
• All-India Services.
• Parliament's power to alter State boundaries (Articles 3-4).
• Emergency provisions.
• Governors appointed by the Centre.
• Article 249 (Rajya Sabha resolution for Parliament to legislate on State List subjects).
• Unequal representation of States in the Rajya Sabha.

ARTICLES 2-4: 'INDESTRUCTIBLE UNION OF DESTRUCTIBLE STATES'

• Parliament can, by a simple-majority law, form new States, alter areas, boundaries or names, or merge States (Article 3). The Bill needs the President's recommendation, and the President refers it to the State Legislature for its views, which Parliament is not bound to accept.

• So the Indian Union cannot be broken, but its States can be reorganised. In the USA, by contrast, a State's territory cannot be altered without its consent.

Federal vs unitary features of the Constitution

Federal features	Unitary features
Dual polity, division of powers	Single citizenship, single Constitution
Written, rigid Constitution	Integrated judiciary, All-India Services
Independent judiciary	Emergency provisions, Articles 3-4
Bicameral Parliament	Centre-appointed Governors

Article 312 resolutions are passed by the Rajya Sabha, not the Lok Sabha. 'Union of States' signals indestructibility, and no right to secede.

Reading a solution shows you the answer. Sitting the test shows you yourself.

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26 **With reference to the basic structure doctrine, consider the following statements:**

1. The doctrine was propounded by the Supreme Court in Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973).
2. Article 368 of the Constitution lists the features that form the basic structure.
3. In Minerva Mills (1980), the Supreme Court held that the limited nature of Parliament's amending power is itself a basic feature.
4. Laws placed in the Ninth Schedule after 24 April 1973 can be tested against the basic structure.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three ✓

(d) All four

Explanation

The correct answer is (c) Only three. Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct. Statement 2 is wrong: the basic structure is a judicial doctrine. The Constitution nowhere lists its elements; courts identify them case by case.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. In Kesavananda Bharati (24 April 1973), a 13-judge Bench held by 7:6 that Parliament can amend any part of the Constitution under Article 368, but cannot destroy its 'basic structure'. This reversed the logic of Golaknath (1967), which had held that Fundamental Rights could not be amended at all.
• Statement 2 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. Elements recognised so far include supremacy of the Constitution, republican and democratic government, secularism, federalism, separation of powers, judicial review, free and fair elections (Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain, 1975), rule of law and the parliamentary system.
• Statement 3 - CORRECT. Minerva Mills (1980) struck down clauses (4) and (5) of Article 368, which had been inserted by the 42nd Amendment to bar judicial review of amendments. It also held that the balance between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles is part of the basic structure.
• Statement 4 - CORRECT. In I.R. Coelho (2007), a nine-judge Bench held that laws added to the Ninth Schedule after 24 April 1973 (the date of Kesavananda) can be examined for violating the basic structure, including the essence of Articles 14, 19 and 21.

WHAT THE DOCTRINE DOES AND DOES NOT DO

• It limits CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS (and, after Coelho, Ninth Schedule laws). In Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain (1975), the majority held that ordinary laws are tested against specific provisions such as Part III, not against the basic structure as such.
• Parliament can still amend ANY provision, including Fundamental Rights and the Preamble. The doctrine bars only amendments that damage or destroy an essential feature.

KEY TIMELINE

Shankari Prasad (1951) → Sajjan Singh (1965) → Golaknath (1967) → 24th Amendment (1971) → Kesavananda (1973) → Indira Gandhi (1975) → 42nd Amendment (1976) → Minerva Mills (1980) → Waman Rao (1981) → I.R. Coelho (2007).

Basic structure: landmark cases

Case	Year	Holding
Kesavananda Bharati	1973	Amending power cannot destroy the basic structure
Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain	1975	Free and fair elections are a basic feature
Minerva Mills	1980	Limited amending power; FR-DPSP balance are basic features
I.R. Coelho	2007	Post-24 April 1973 Ninth Schedule laws are reviewable

The basic structure is judge-made; it is not listed in the text. The Ninth Schedule cut-off is 24 April 1973, the date of Kesavananda, not the date of the 1951 First Amendment.

27 **With reference to the Schedules of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:**

1. The Ninth Schedule was added by the Constitution (First Amendment) Act, 1951.
2. The provisions on disqualification on the ground of defection are contained in the Tenth Schedule, added by the 52nd Amendment.
3. The Sixth Schedule provides for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
4. The Eighth Schedule currently lists 22 languages.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one	(b) Only two
(c) Only three	**(d) All four ✓**

Whoever sent you this knows their strengths, understands their gaps, and knows where they're headed. They're preparing with clarity and confidence—not fear. They know their edge. You can too.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (d) All four. Each statement correctly identifies the origin or content of a Schedule.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. The First Amendment (1951) inserted Articles 31A and 31B and the Ninth Schedule to protect land-reform laws from challenge on the ground of violating Fundamental Rights. Since I.R. Coelho (2007), laws added after 24 April 1973 can still be tested against the basic structure.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. The Tenth Schedule (52nd Amendment, 1985) disqualifies a legislator who voluntarily gives up party membership or defies the party whip. The Speaker or Chairman decides. The 91st Amendment (2003) deleted the 'split' exception, leaving only the merger exception (two-thirds of the legislature party). In Kihoto Hollohan (1992), the Court upheld the Schedule but made the presiding officer's decision subject to judicial review.

• Statement 3 - CORRECT. The Sixth Schedule (Articles 244(2) and 275(1)) provides Autonomous District Councils with legislative, executive and judicial powers in these four States. The Fifth Schedule governs Scheduled Areas in other States, through Tribes Advisory Councils.

• Statement 4 - CORRECT. The original 14 languages grew to 22. Sindhi was added in 1967 (21st Amendment); Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali in 1992 (71st); and Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali in 2003 (92nd).

ALL 12 SCHEDULES - QUICK RECALL

1 States and UTs; 2 emoluments; 3 oaths; 4 Rajya Sabha seats; 5 Scheduled Areas; 6 tribal areas of the North East; 7 Union, State and Concurrent Lists; 8 languages; 9 validated laws; 10 anti-defection; 11 Panchayats (29 subjects, 73rd Amendment); 12 Municipalities (18 subjects, 74th Amendment).

KEY DISTINCTION

• Adding a language to the Eighth Schedule needs a constitutional amendment under Article 368.

• Amending the Fifth or Sixth Schedule is deemed NOT to be an amendment under Article 368 (paragraph 7 of the Fifth Schedule, paragraph 21 of the Sixth), so a simple majority suffices.

Schedules added by amendment

Schedule	Subject	Added by
Ninth	Validated laws	1st Amendment, 1951
Tenth	Anti-defection	52nd Amendment, 1985
Eleventh	Panchayats	73rd Amendment, 1992
Twelfth	Municipalities	74th Amendment, 1992

> Ninth Schedule = 1st Amendment (1951); Tenth = 52nd (1985); Eleventh/Twelfth = 73rd/74th (1992). Sixth Schedule = only Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram.

28 **In the following question, an Assertion (A) is followed by a Reason (R). Select the correct option from the codes given below.**

Assertion (A): A State law that takes total reservation beyond 50 per cent ordinarily has to be justified by extraordinary circumstances.

Reason (R): The 50 per cent ceiling on reservations is expressly laid down in Article 16(4) of the Constitution.

(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

The exam will ask what you avoided. Find out what that is while it still costs nothing.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (C): A is true, but R is false. The 50% ceiling is a judicial rule laid down in Indra Sawhney (1992). Article 16(4) contains no numerical limit.

ASSERTION - TRUE

• Indra Sawhney (nine judges, 1992) held that reservations should ordinarily not exceed 50%. In extraordinary situations - such as far-flung areas and populations kept out of the mainstream - the limit may be relaxed with extreme caution.

• Applications:

- Jaishri Laxmanrao Patil (2021) struck down Maharashtra's Maratha quota for lacking such circumstances.
- M.R. Balaji (1962) had first indicated that reservations should generally be well below 50%.

REASON - FALSE

• Article 16(4) only enables reservation for 'any backward class of citizens' not adequately represented in State services. No percentage appears in the Constitution.

• The ceiling flows from the Court's reading of equality: reservation is an exception that cannot swallow the rule of equal opportunity under Article 16(1).

• Since R is false, the answer is (C).

RELATED POINTS

• Tamil Nadu's 69% reservation law was placed in the Ninth Schedule by the 76th Amendment (1994). After I.R. Coelho (2007), it remains open to basic structure review.

• The EWS quota (103rd Amendment) took total reservation in central institutions to about 59.5%. In Janhit Abhiyan (2022) the majority held that the 50% ceiling is not inflexible and applies to backward-class reservations.

• Indra Sawhney also introduced the 'creamy layer' exclusion for OBCs.

• It barred reservation in promotions, which was later restored for SCs and STs by Article 16(4A).

KEY DISTINCTION

The enabling provisions are in the text. The numerical limit, the creamy layer and the data requirements are all judge-made.

> The 50% rule is judge-made (Indra Sawhney), not in the text of Article 16(4). Placing a law in the Ninth Schedule does not give full immunity after Coelho.

29 **With reference to the freedom of religion under Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution, which one of the following statements is correct?**

(a) The freedom under Article 25 is absolute and cannot be restricted on grounds of public order or health.

(b) The 'essential religious practices' test is expressly laid down in the text of Article 25.

(c) Article 25 does not allow the State to regulate secular activities that are associated with religious practice.

(d) The rights of a religious denomination under Article 26 are subject to public order, morality and health. ✓

Explanation

The correct answer is (d). Article 26 guarantees every religious denomination the right to manage its own affairs in matters of religion, own and acquire property, and so on - but 'subject to public order, morality and health'.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - WRONG. Article 25(1) is expressly 'subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of this Part'.

• Option (b) - WRONG. The 'essential religious practices' doctrine is judge-made, originating with the Shirur Mutt case (1954); under it, courts decide what is integral to a religion.

• Option (c) - WRONG. Article 25(2)(a) explicitly allows the State to regulate or restrict any economic, financial, political or other SECULAR activity associated with religious practice. Article 25(2)(b) allows social welfare and reform and the opening of Hindu religious institutions of a public character to all classes and sections.

• Option (d) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict. Unlike Article 25, Article 26 is not expressly 'subject to the other provisions of this Part'. How it interacts with other Fundamental Rights is a recurring question of interpretation.

TOPIC REVISION - RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (ARTICLES 25-28)

• Article 25: freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation - available to all PERSONS.

• Article 26: rights of religious denominations.

• Article 27: no tax whose proceeds go to promoting a particular religion.

• Article 28: no religious instruction in wholly State-funded institutions.

LANDMARK CASES

• Shirur Mutt (1954): 'religion' includes rituals and observances, not only beliefs. This is the origin of the ERP test.

• Durgah Committee, Ajmer (1961): only practices that are essential and integral to the religion get protection.

• Bijoe Emmanuel (1986): students who stood respectfully but did not sing the National Anthem, on religious grounds, could not be expelled. Freedom of conscience includes the right to remain silent.

NOTE

'Propagate' in Article 25 does not include a right to forcibly convert (Rev. Stainislaus, 1977).

Articles 25 and 26 compared

Feature	Article 25	Article 26
Right-holder	Every person	Religious denominations
Subject to public order, morality, health	Yes	Yes
Subject to other provisions of Part III	Yes (expressly)	Not expressly
State regulation of secular activity	Article 25(2)(a)	Via 'administer property in accordance with law'

> Both Articles 25 and 26 are subject to public order, morality and health. Only Article 25 is also 'subject to other provisions of this Part'. The ERP test is judicial, not textual.

30 **With reference to the right to education under Article 21A of the Constitution, which one of the following statements is correct?**

(a) It was inserted by the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976, as one of the Emergency-period changes to Part III.

(b) It guarantees free and compulsory education to children aged 6 to 14 in a manner the State may by law determine. ✓

(c) It extends to free and compulsory education for all children up to the age of 18 under the RTE Act.

(d) It obliges every private unaided school to admit all children in its neighbourhood free of charge.

Explanation

The correct answer is (b). Article 21A, inserted by the 86th Amendment (2002), makes free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 a Fundamental Right. It is given effect by the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which came into force on 1 April 2010.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - WRONG. The 86th Amendment (2002), not the 42nd, inserted Article 21A. It followed Unni Krishnan (1993), which had held that education up to age 14 flows from Article 21.

• Option (b) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict.

• Option (c) - WRONG. The guarantee covers ages 6 to 14 only. Early childhood care (below six) is a Directive Principle under the revised Article 45.

• Option (d) - WRONG. Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act requires private unaided schools to reserve 25% of seats in the entry class for children from disadvantaged groups and weaker sections, with the State reimbursing costs. It does not require admitting all children free. Pramati Educational Trust (2014) exempted minority institutions from the RTE Act.

THE 86th AMENDMENT CHANGED THREE PROVISIONS

• Article 21A (Fundamental Right).

• Article 45 (DPSP, now on early childhood care and education below six).

• Article 51A(k) (Fundamental Duty of parents and guardians).

KEY RTE FEATURES

• No screening tests or capitation fees.

• Pupil-teacher ratio norms.

• School Management Committees.

• The 'no detention' policy was modified by the 2019 amendment, which allows States to hold back students in Classes 5 and 8.

• Bar on corporal punishment.

LINKAGES

• Samagra Shiksha (a Centrally Sponsored Scheme) funds RTE implementation.

• The National Education Policy 2020 envisions extending universal education from 3 to 18 years - a policy goal, not a constitutional right.

Education provisions after the 86th Amendment

Provision	Content	Nature
Article 21A	Free & compulsory education, ages 6-14	Fundamental Right
Article 45	Early childhood care & education below 6	Directive Principle
Article 51A(k)	Parents to provide opportunities for education	Fundamental Duty

> Article 21A = 86th Amendment, ages 6-14. Article 45 = below 6 (DPSP). NEP 2020's 3-18 aim is a policy goal, not Article 21A.

Every explanation here was written to teach, not to justify an answer key.

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31 **With reference to the Fundamental Duties in the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:**

1. They were added on the recommendation of the Swaran Singh Committee.
2. The duty of a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to a child aged 6 to 14 was added by the 86th Amendment.
3. Fundamental Duties can be enforced directly by a writ issued by the Supreme Court under Article 32.
4. Fundamental Duties are contained in Part IV of the Constitution.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one	**(b) Only two ✓**
(c) Only three	(d) All four

Explanation

The correct answer is (b) Only two. Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong because the duties are not directly enforceable by writ. Statement 4 is wrong because they are in Part IVA (Article 51A); Part IV contains the Directive Principles.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. The Swaran Singh Committee (1976) recommended eight duties. The 42nd Amendment added ten - more than recommended - in Part IVA. The committee's proposals for penalties for non-compliance were not adopted.
• Statement 2 - CORRECT. The 86th Amendment (2002) added Article 51A(k), making eleven duties. It is the only duty addressed to parents and guardians.
• Statement 3 - WRONG. The duties are non-justiciable: there is no constitutional mechanism to enforce them directly. But Parliament can enforce them through ordinary laws, and courts consider them when judging the reasonableness of restrictions (Article 19(2)) and in interpretation - for example in AIIMS Students' Union (2001).
• Statement 4 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict.

TOPIC REVISION - FEATURES

• They apply only to CITIZENS, unlike some Fundamental Rights that are available to all persons.
• They are inspired by the Constitution of the former USSR.
• They include both moral duties (cherishing the ideals of the freedom struggle) and civic duties (respecting the Constitution, the National Flag and the National Anthem).

LAWS GIVING EFFECT TO DUTIES

• Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.
• Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955.
• Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, linked to Article 51A(g) (environment).

JUSTICE VERMA COMMITTEE (1999)

It identified existing legal provisions that operationalise the duties, and recommended awareness.

Fundamental Duties at a glance

Feature	Detail
Location	Part IVA, Article 51A
Number	11 (10 by 42nd + 1 by 86th Amendment)
Applies to	Citizens only
Enforceable by writ?	No (enforced via laws)
Inspiration	Former USSR Constitution

Part IV = Directive Principles; Part IVA = Fundamental Duties (Article 51A). There are 11 duties now (10 from the 42nd Amendment, 1 from the 86th). Duties are not writ-enforceable.

32 **With reference to reservation under the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:**

1. The 103rd Amendment inserted Articles 15(6) and 16(6) to enable reservation for economically weaker sections.
2. Reservation for economically weaker sections excludes persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.
3. Article 16(4A) enables reservation in promotion for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
4. Reservation in appointments to public posts is a fundamental right of the members of the Scheduled Castes.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three ✓

(d) All four

Well prepared is not the same as competitive. Know which one you are.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (c) Only three. Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong: Articles 16(4) and 16(4A) are ENABLING provisions. They empower the State to reserve, but create no fundamental right to reservation (Mukesh Kumar v. State of Uttarakhand, 2020).

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. The 103rd Amendment (2019) allows up to 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) in education (Article 15(6)) and public employment (Article 16(6)), in addition to existing reservations.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. In Janhit Abhiyan v. Union of India (2022), a five-judge Bench upheld the EWS quota by 3:2, including the exclusion of SCs, STs and OBCs. The minority held that this exclusion violated equality and the basic structure.

• Statement 3 - CORRECT. Article 16(4A) was inserted by the 77th Amendment (1995) after Indra Sawhney barred reservation in promotions. The 85th Amendment (2001) added 'consequential seniority'. In M. Nagaraj (2006) the Court upheld these provisions subject to quantifiable data on backwardness, inadequacy of representation and administrative efficiency. Jarnail Singh (2018) dropped the backwardness-data requirement for SCs and STs.

• Statement 4 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict.

THE 50% QUESTION

• Indra Sawhney (1992) held that reservations should ordinarily not exceed 50%, except in extraordinary situations.

• Maratha reservation was struck down in 2021 for breaching the ceiling without such circumstances.

• Tamil Nadu's 69% law was placed in the Ninth Schedule (76th Amendment, 1994). After Coelho it remains open to basic structure review.

• The EWS quota was held NOT to breach the ceiling in the relevant sense, because the ceiling applies to backward-class reservations.

RELATED PROVISIONS

• Article 15(4): special provisions for SEBCs, SCs and STs (1st Amendment).

• Article 15(5): admission to educational institutions, including private ones (93rd Amendment).

• Article 16(4B): carry-forward of unfilled vacancies (81st Amendment).

• Article 335: claims of SCs and STs to be balanced with administrative efficiency.

Reservation provisions

Article	Purpose	Inserted by
15(4)	Special provisions for SEBCs, SCs, STs	1st Amendment, 1951
16(4A)	Reservation in promotion (SC/ST)	77th Amendment, 1995
16(4B)	Carry-forward of unfilled vacancies	81st Amendment, 2000
15(6), 16(6)	EWS reservation (up to 10%)	103rd Amendment, 2019

Articles 16(4)/(4A) enable reservation; they do not guarantee it. EWS = 103rd Amendment (Articles 15(6)/16(6)), upheld 3:2 in 2022. Reservation in promotion = Article 16(4A), 77th Amendment.

The exam doesn't ask how much you studied. It asks where you stand among everyone who studied too.

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33 **With reference to the Directive Principles of State Policy, consider the following statements:**

1. Under Article 37, the Directive Principles are not enforceable by any court, but are fundamental in the governance of the country.
2. Article 44 directs the State to endeavour to secure a uniform civil code for citizens throughout the territory of India.
3. Only Parliament, and not a State Legislature, is competent to enact a law on matters of marriage, divorce and succession.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation

The correct answer is (a) 1 and 2 only. Statement 3 is wrong: marriage, divorce, adoption, wills and succession fall under Entry 5 of the CONCURRENT List. Both Parliament and State Legislatures can legislate on them, subject to Article 254 in case of repugnancy.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Article 37 makes Part IV non-justiciable, yet declares the principles fundamental in governance and imposes a duty on the State to apply them in making laws. Courts use them to interpret laws and to judge the reasonableness of restrictions on Fundamental Rights.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Article 44 is a Directive Principle. The Supreme Court has repeatedly urged action on it (Shah Bano, 1985; Sarla Mudgal, 1995). Goa follows a common civil code inherited from Portuguese rule.

• Statement 3 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. If a State law conflicts with a central law on a Concurrent List subject, the central law prevails (Article 254), unless the State law has received the President's assent.

TOPIC REVISION - CLASSIFYING THE DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES

• Socialistic: Articles 38, 39, 39A, 41, 42, 43, 43A, 47.

• Gandhian: Article 40 (village panchayats), 43 (cottage industries), 46 (weaker sections), 47 (prohibition), 48 (cow protection).

• Liberal-intellectual: Article 44 (UCC), 45 (early childhood care), 48 (scientific agriculture), 48A (environment), 49 (monuments), 50 (separation of judiciary from executive), 51 (international peace).

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS vs DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES

• Champakam Dorairajan (1951): FRs prevail.

• Golaknath (1967): FRs cannot be amended.

• 25th Amendment (1971): Article 31C protects laws giving effect to Article 39(b)-(c).

• Kesavananda (1973): upheld the first part of Article 31C.

• Minerva Mills (1980): harmony and balance between FRs and DPSPs is a basic feature.

THE UCC DEBATE

Supporters cite equality and national integration. Critics cite religious freedom (Article 25), community autonomy and the federal diversity of personal laws.

Fundamental Rights vs Directive Principles

Feature	Fundamental Rights	Directive Principles
Part	III	IV
Justiciable?	Yes (Article 32)	No (Article 37)
Nature	Mostly negative (limits on the State)	Positive (duties of the State)
Source of idea	US Bill of Rights	Irish Constitution

> Personal-law subjects = Concurrent List (Entry 5), so States can legislate. UCC = Article 44 (a DPSP), not a Fundamental Right.

34 **With reference to the constitutional protections available to accused, arrested and detained persons, consider the following statements:**

1. Article 20(1) prohibits ex post facto criminal laws, but not retrospective civil laws.
2. The protection against double jeopardy under Article 20(2) applies only where there has been both prosecution and punishment by a court or judicial tribunal.
3. The safeguards of being produced before a magistrate within 24 hours under Article 22(2) do not apply to a person arrested under a preventive detention law.
4. The enforcement of Articles 20 and 21 cannot be suspended even during a Proclamation of National Emergency.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one	(b) Only two
(c) Only three	**(d) All four ✓**

A limited number of places. One honest question: are you holding yours?

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Explanation

The correct answer is (d) All four. Each statement accurately reflects the text of Articles 20 and 22, as interpreted by the courts, and the effect of the 44th Amendment.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Article 20(1) bars conviction for an act that was not an offence when committed, and a penalty greater than the one in force then. Civil and tax laws can be retrospective. The protection also applies only to conviction or sentence, not to trial procedure.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Under Maqbool Hussain (1953), proceedings before departmental or administrative authorities - such as customs confiscation or disciplinary action - do not count as 'prosecution'. So a later criminal trial for the same act is not barred.

• Statement 3 - CORRECT. Article 22(3) excludes from clauses (1) and (2) any enemy alien and any person arrested under a preventive detention law. For detenus, Articles 22(4)-(7) give different safeguards: Advisory Board review beyond three months, communication of grounds, and an opportunity to make a representation.

• Statement 4 - CORRECT. The 44th Amendment (1978) amended Article 359 so that the President cannot suspend the enforcement of Articles 20 and 21 even during an Emergency. This was a response to ADM Jabalpur (1976), which Puttaswamy (2017) declared wrongly decided.

TOPIC REVISION - ARTICLE 22 (PUNITIVE ARREST)

• The right to be informed of the grounds of arrest.
• The right to consult and be defended by a lawyer of one's choice.
• Production before a magistrate within 24 hours, excluding travel time.
• No detention beyond that without a magistrate's authority.

ARTICLE 21 JURISPRUDENCE

• A.K. Gopalan (1950) read 'procedure established by law' narrowly.
• Maneka Gandhi (1978) required the procedure to be 'fair, just and reasonable' - close to due process.
• D.K. Basu (1997) laid down arrest guidelines (arrest memo, informing a relative, medical examination).

REMEDY

Habeas corpus under Articles 32 and 226 is the primary remedy against illegal detention.

Article 22: punitive arrest vs preventive detention

Safeguard	Punitive arrest	Preventive detention
Informed of grounds	Yes - Art. 22(1)	Yes - Art. 22(5)
Lawyer of choice	Yes - Art. 22(1)	No
Magistrate within 24 hours	Yes - Art. 22(2)	No
Review beyond 3 months	-	Advisory Board - Art. 22(4)

Departmental penalties are not 'prosecution and punishment'. Preventive detainees get Articles 22(4)-(7), not 22(1)-(2). Articles 20-21 are non-suspendable (44th Amendment).

35 **In the following question, an Assertion (A) is followed by a Reason (R). Select the correct option from the codes given below.**

Assertion (A): A Bill that has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha and is pending there lapses when the Lok Sabha is dissolved.

Reason (R): The Rajya Sabha is a permanent body and is not subject to dissolution.

(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 ✓

Explanation

The correct answer is (D): A is false, but R is true. A Bill pending in the Rajya Sabha, and not yet passed by the Lok Sabha, does NOT lapse when the Lok Sabha is dissolved.

ASSERTION - FALSE

• Under Article 107(5) and parliamentary practice, the following Bills LAPSE on dissolution:
- a Bill pending in the Lok Sabha (whether it originated there or came from the Rajya Sabha);
- a Bill passed by the Lok Sabha and pending in the Rajya Sabha.
• The following do NOT lapse:
- a Bill pending in the Rajya Sabha but not passed by the Lok Sabha;
- a Bill passed by both Houses and pending the President's assent;
- a Bill returned by the President for reconsideration;
- a Bill for which the President has notified a joint sitting before dissolution.
• So the Bill described in the Assertion survives.

REASON - TRUE

• Article 83(1): the Council of States is not subject to dissolution. One-third of its members retire every second year, and members serve six-year terms.
• Since A is false, the answer is (D).

RELATED FACTS

• The Lok Sabha's term is five years from its first meeting (Article 83(2)). During a National Emergency it can be extended by law one year at a time, and not beyond six months after the Emergency ends.
• Dissolution is by the President (Article 85(2)(b)), on ministerial advice.
• A prorogation does not affect pending Bills.
• Example: the Women's Reservation Bill passed by the Rajya Sabha in 2010 stayed alive in that House for years after successive Lok Sabha dissolutions. It was finally replaced by the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023.

TERMS TO KNOW

• Adjournment: suspends a sitting.
• Adjournment sine die: ends a sitting with no date fixed.
• Prorogation: ends a session.
• Dissolution: ends the life of the Lok Sabha.

> Bills pending in the Rajya Sabha that the Lok Sabha has not passed survive dissolution. Bills pending in or passed by the Lok Sabha lapse. Prorogation does not kill Bills.

The exam ranks everyone together, whatever language they write in. So does this.

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36 **With reference to the Brahmo Samaj movement, consider the following statements:**

1. Raja Rammohan Roy founded the Atmiya Sabha in Calcutta in 1815.
2. Raja Rammohan Roy wrote 'Satyarth Prakash' to spread the ideals of the Brahmo Samaj.
3. Debendranath Tagore founded the Tattvabodhini Sabha.
4. The Brahmo Samaj upheld the infallibility of the Vedas as a core doctrine.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one	**(b) Only two ✓**
(c) Only three	(d) All four

Explanation

The correct answer is (b) Only two. Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Statement 2 is wrong because 'Satyarth Prakash' was written by Swami Dayanand Saraswati, founder of the Arya Samaj. Statement 4 is wrong because under Debendranath Tagore the Brahmos repudiated the doctrine of Vedic infallibility, relying on reason and the Upanishads.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. The Atmiya Sabha (1815) propagated monotheism and opposed idolatry and superstition. It led to the Brahmo Sabha (20 August 1828), later called the Brahmo Samaj.
• Statement 2 - WRONG. Dayanand wrote 'Satyarth Prakash' (1875) for the Arya Samaj, which he founded in Bombay in 1875. Rammohan Roy's works include 'Tuhfat-ul-Muwahhidin' (A Gift to Monotheists, in Persian) and 'The Precepts of Jesus'. His journals included 'Sambad Kaumudi' (Bengali) and 'Mirat-ul-Akhbar' (Persian).
• Statement 3 - CORRECT. Debendranath Tagore, father of Rabindranath, founded the Tattvabodhini Sabha (1839), which studied India's past with a rational outlook. He joined the Brahmo Samaj in 1842 and revitalised it.
• Statement 4 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict.

TOPIC REVISION - SPLITS IN THE BRAHMO MOVEMENT

• Keshab Chandra Sen's radicalism - inter-caste marriage, cosmopolitan readings, women's emancipation - led to a split in 1866. Debendranath led the Adi Brahmo Samaj and Keshab the Brahmo Samaj of India.
• The Native Marriage Act (1872), allowing Brahmo marriages, came out of Keshab's efforts.
• In 1878, Keshab married his under-age daughter to the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, breaking that very Act's spirit. His followers left to form the Sadharan Brahmo Samaj (Ananda Mohan Bose, Shivnath Shastri).

RAMMOHAN ROY'S CONTRIBUTIONS

• His campaign led to the abolition of sati (1829).
• He supported English education and helped found the Hindu College with David Hare (1817).
• He argued for women's property rights and press freedom.
• He is called the 'father of the Indian Renaissance'.

Phases of the Brahmo movement

Leader	Contribution
Rammohan Roy	Atmiya Sabha (1815); Brahmo Sabha (1828)
Debendranath Tagore	Tattvabodhini Sabha (1839); revived the Samaj
Keshab Chandra Sen	Brahmo Samaj of India (1866); Native Marriage Act (1872)
Sadharan Brahmo Samaj	Formed in 1878 after the Cooch Behar marriage

> 'Satyarth Prakash' = Dayanand (Arya Samaj), not Rammohan Roy. The Brahmos rejected Vedic infallibility; the Arya Samaj upheld it.

Write in your language. Be ranked against everyone. Nothing here is measured in a smaller room.

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37 Consider the following pairs:
Centre of the Revolt of 1857 : Leader

1. Kanpur : Nana Saheb
2. Lucknow : Begum Hazrat Mahal
3. Bareilly : Khan Bahadur Khan
4. Jagdishpur (Bihar) : Kunwar Singh

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All four ✓

Explanation

The correct answer is (d) All four. Each centre is correctly paired with its leader.

PAIR-WISE (STATEMENT-WISE) ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 (pair 1) - CORRECT. Nana Saheb, the adopted son of the last Peshwa Baji Rao II, whose pension the British had refused to continue, led the revolt at Kanpur. He was assisted by Tantia Tope and Azimullah Khan. The British commander Sir Colin Campbell recaptured Kanpur in December 1857.

• Statement 2 (pair 2) - CORRECT. Begum Hazrat Mahal, wife of the deposed Nawab Wajid Ali Shah, led at Lucknow and proclaimed her son Birjis Qadir Nawab. Henry Lawrence died during the siege of the Residency. Campbell recaptured Lucknow in March 1858, and the Begum later took refuge in Nepal.

• Statement 3 (pair 3) - CORRECT. Khan Bahadur Khan, a descendant of the Rohilla chiefs, led the revolt at Bareilly and set up an administration in the name of Bahadur Shah Zafar.

• Statement 4 (pair 4) - CORRECT. Kunwar Singh, a zamindar of Jagdishpur near Arrah, led the revolt in Bihar despite being about eighty years old. He died in April 1858.

TOPIC REVISION - OTHER CENTRES AND LEADERS

• Delhi: Bahadur Shah Zafar (proclaimed Emperor of Hindustan), with Bakht Khan as effective commander. Recaptured in September 1857 (John Nicholson; Hodson captured the emperor, who was exiled to Rangoon).

• Jhansi: Rani Lakshmibai; Sir Hugh Rose. She died fighting near Gwalior in June 1858.

• Faizabad: Maulvi Ahmadullah.

• Tantia Tope was captured and executed in 1859.

BRITISH COMMANDERS (frequently asked)

Delhi - Nicholson, Hodson; Kanpur and Lucknow - Campbell (with Havelock and Outram); Jhansi - Hugh Rose; Benares - James Neill.

Centres of the Revolt of 1857

Centre	Indian leader	British commander
Delhi	Bahadur Shah Zafar, Bakht Khan	Nicholson, Hodson
Kanpur	Nana Saheb, Tantia Tope	Colin Campbell
Lucknow	Begum Hazrat Mahal	Colin Campbell
Jhansi	Rani Lakshmibai	Hugh Rose
Jagdishpur / Arrah	Kunwar Singh	Vincent Eyre

> Kunwar Singh = Jagdishpur/Arrah (Bihar). Khan Bahadur Khan = Bareilly. Maulvi Ahmadullah = Faizabad. Bakht Khan = Delhi's military leader.

38

With reference to the Revolt of 1857, consider the following statements:

1. The introduction of the Enfield rifle, whose cartridges were believed to be greased with cow and pig fat, was the immediate cause of the revolt.
2. The revolt began with the uprising of sepoys at Meerut on 10 May 1857.
3. V.D. Savarkar described the revolt as the 'First War of Indian Independence'.
4. The revolt spread widely across Punjab and the Madras Presidency.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three ✓

(d) All four

Explanation

The correct answer is (c) Only three. Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong: Punjab and South India remained largely undisturbed. Sikh and other Punjabi troops in fact helped the British recapture Delhi.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. The cartridges of the new Enfield rifle had to be bitten open. The rumour that they were greased with cow and pig fat offended both Hindu and Muslim sepoys. The deeper causes were:
- economic: heavy revenue demands and the ruin of artisans;
- political: annexations, the Doctrine of Lapse, the annexation of Awadh;
- socio-religious: fear of conversion; the General Service Enlistment Act, 1856, which required overseas service;
- military: low pay, poor promotion, discrimination.
• Statement 2 - CORRECT. On 10 May 1857, sepoys at Meerut broke out, freed comrades jailed for refusing the cartridges, and marched to Delhi, proclaiming Bahadur Shah Zafar emperor. An earlier incident: Mangal Pandey attacked officers at Barrackpore on 29 March 1857 and was hanged.
• Statement 3 - CORRECT. In 'The Indian War of Independence of 1857' (1909), Savarkar presented it as a planned war of national independence.
• Statement 4 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict.

HOW HISTORIANS INTERPRET IT (competing interpretations)

• 'A mere sepoy mutiny': Sir John Seeley and many British officials.
• 'Neither first, nor national, nor a war of independence': R.C. Majumdar.
• 'What began as a fight for religion ended as a war of independence': S.N. Sen.
• A 'conservative' revolt seeking to restore old rulers: a common historiographical view.
It is best treated as a widespread popular revolt with a sepoy core. The debate on its nature is genuine.

WHY IT FAILED

• Limited territorial spread.
• Lack of unified leadership and a forward-looking programme.
• Superior British resources and communications (the telegraph).
• Support of many princes (Scindia, Nizam, Holkar) and of the educated middle class for the British.

Interpretations of 1857

Historian / writer	View
John Seeley	A sepoy mutiny
V.D. Savarkar	First War of Indian Independence
R.C. Majumdar	Neither first, nor national, nor a war of independence
S.N. Sen	Began as a fight for religion, ended as a war of independence

Meerut (10 May) is the starting point; Barrackpore (Mangal Pandey) was an earlier isolated incident. Punjab and the South stayed largely quiet.

The costliest mistake in this exam isn't a wrong answer. It's a year you can't get back.

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39 **With reference to the changes in British policy after the Revolt of 1857, consider the following statements:**

1. The Government of India Act, 1858 transferred the power to govern India from the East India Company to the British Crown.
2. The Act created the office of the Secretary of State for India, assisted by a Council of India of fifteen members.
3. The Queen's Proclamation of 1858 announced that the Doctrine of Lapse would continue to be applied to the princely States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation

The correct answer is (a) 1 and 2 only. Statement 3 is wrong: the Queen's Proclamation abandoned the policy of annexation. It promised to respect the rights, dignity and honour of native princes and to recognise adoption.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. The 'Act for the Better Government of India' (August 1858) ended Company rule. The Board of Control and the Court of Directors were abolished.
• Statement 2 - CORRECT. The Secretary of State was a member of the British Cabinet and responsible to Parliament, and was advised by a 15-member Council of India. The Governor-General was also styled Viceroy, the Crown's representative. Lord Canning was the first Viceroy.
• Statement 3 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict.

TOPIC REVISION - THE QUEEN'S PROCLAMATION (1 November 1858)

• Read by Canning at a durbar at Allahabad.
• Promised: no further annexation; respect for treaties with princes; religious non-interference; equal and impartial protection of law; consideration of ancient rights and customs; and admission of subjects to office regardless of race or creed.
• Granted a general amnesty, except to those directly involved in killing British subjects.

OTHER CHANGES AFTER 1857

• Army: the Peel Commission (1859) led to a higher proportion of European soldiers; artillery was confined to Europeans; and recruitment shifted to so-called 'martial races' from Punjab and Nepal, with mixed regiments to prevent unity.
• Princes: they became allies and props of British rule, paying allegiance to the Crown (paramountcy).
• Policy: a more cautious approach to social reform; 'divide and rule'; growing distrust of the educated middle class.
• Law: the Indian Councils Act, 1861 began associating Indians with legislation (nominated members).

Before and after 1858

Aspect	Before 1858	After 1858
Authority in Britain	Court of Directors + Board of Control	Secretary of State + Council of India
Head in India	Governor-General	Governor-General and Viceroy
Annexation	Doctrine of Lapse	Abandoned

1858 = Crown rule, Secretary of State plus a council of 15, Viceroy. The Queen's Proclamation ENDED annexation by lapse.

40 **With reference to socio-religious reform movements in western and southern India, consider the following statements:**

1. The Prarthana Samaj was founded in Bombay, and M.G. Ranade was among its prominent members.
2. Jyotiba Phule founded the Satyashodhak Samaj to fight caste-based discrimination.
3. The Sri Narayana Dharma Paripalana (SNDP) Yogam worked for the upliftment of the Ezhava community in Kerala.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3 ✓

A test tells you where you stand. Daily practice is how you move.
Both are in the Testogram app.
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Explanation

The correct answer is (d) 1, 2 and 3. All three statements correctly describe the organisations and their aims.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. The Prarthana Samaj was founded in Bombay in 1867 by Atmaram Pandurang, with Keshab Chandra Sen's inspiration. M.G. Ranade and R.G. Bhandarkar joined it. Its four-point programme was: disapproval of caste, women's education, widow remarriage, and raising the age of marriage. Ranade also founded the Widow Remarriage Association (1861) and the Deccan Education Society movement, and helped set up the Indian National Social Conference (1887).

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Phule founded the Satyashodhak Samaj in 1873 for the lower castes, against Brahmanical dominance. His 'Gulamgiri' (1873) compared caste oppression with slavery. With his wife Savitribai Phule, he opened a girls' school in Pune in 1848.

• Statement 3 - CORRECT. The SNDP Yogam was founded in 1903, inspired by Sri Narayana Guru, with Dr. Palpu and the poet Kumaran Asan. Guru's message was 'one caste, one religion, one God for mankind'. He consecrated a Shiva idol at Aruvippuram (1888), challenging the Brahmin monopoly of temple rites.

TOPIC REVISION - OTHER ANTI-CASTE AND TEMPLE-ENTRY MOVEMENTS

• Self-Respect Movement: E.V. Ramaswamy 'Periyar', 1925.

• Vaikom Satyagraha (1924-25), Travancore: against the ban on lower castes using roads near the temple. T.K. Madhavan and K.P. Kesava Menon were leaders; Gandhi visited.

• Guruvayur Satyagraha (1931-32): K. Kelappan; A.K. Gopalan was a volunteer.

• Ayyankali (Sadhu Jana Paripalana Sangham) worked for the Pulayas.

• B.R. Ambedkar: Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha (1924), Mahad Satyagraha (1927).

KEY DISTINCTION

The Brahmo and Prarthana Samaj were reforms within, driven largely by upper-caste intellectuals. Phule, Narayana Guru and Periyar led movements that challenged caste hierarchy from below.

Reform movements of western and southern India

Organisation	Founder / leader	Year	Region
Prarthana Samaj	Atmaram Pandurang; Ranade	1867	Bombay
Satyashodhak Samaj	Jyotiba Phule	1873	Maharashtra
SNDP Yogam	Narayana Guru (inspiration)	1903	Kerala
Self-Respect Movement	Periyar	1925	Tamil Nadu

> Prarthana Samaj = Bombay (Atmaram Pandurang, Ranade). Satyashodhak = Phule (1873). SNDP = Ezhavas (Narayana Guru). Do not mix up the regions.

41 **In the following question, an Assertion (A) is followed by a Reason (R). Select the correct option from the codes given below.**

Assertion (A): The Extremist leaders of the early twentieth century rejected the political methods of the Moderates.

Reason (R): The Extremists believed that self-government could be attained through constitutional reforms granted by the British in response to petitions.

(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

If you only find out on result day, you found out too late.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (C): A is true, but R is false. The Extremists rejected the Moderates' faith in British justice and in petitions. They believed swaraj had to be won through self-reliance, boycott, swadeshi and passive resistance.

ASSERTION - TRUE

• Leaders like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bipin Chandra Pal (Lal-Bal-Pal) and Aurobindo Ghosh ridiculed the Moderates' 'mendicancy' - their methods of prayers, petitions and protests.
• Aurobindo, in 'New Lamps for Old' (1893-94), criticised the Congress leadership. Tilak declared 'Swaraj is my birthright'.

REASON - FALSE

• R describes the MODERATES' belief. The Extremists held that the British would not voluntarily grant self-government, and that it had to be won through mass struggle and self-sacrifice.
• Since R is false, the answer is (C).

TOPIC REVISION - WHY EXTREMISM GREW

• The Moderates' failure to secure significant gains.
• Famines and plague (1896-1900), and the harsh government response, including the plague administration in Poona.
• Curzon's reactionary policies.
• International influences: Japan's victory over Russia (1905), and nationalist movements in Ireland, Egypt and Turkey.
• Growth of self-confidence and pride in Indian culture: Vivekananda, Dayanand, Bankim Chandra.

THE EXTREMIST PROGRAMME

• Boycott of foreign goods, government schools, courts and titles.
• Swadeshi and national education.
• Passive resistance - non-cooperation with the administration, a precursor to Gandhian methods.
• Use of religious festivals for mass mobilisation: Tilak's Ganapati festival (1893) and Shivaji festival (1896).

LIMITATIONS

• Religious symbolism tended to alienate Muslims.
• Organisation was weak, and they could not mobilise the peasantry on a large scale.

> Faith in constitutional reforms and British justice = MODERATES. Extremists = self-reliance, boycott, passive resistance.

42 **In the following question, an Assertion (A) is followed by a Reason (R). Select the correct option from the codes given below.**

Assertion (A): The Indian Universities Act, 1904 reduced government control over universities in India.

Reason (R): The Act was passed on the basis of the recommendations of the Raleigh Commission.

(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 ✓

Explanation

The correct answer is (D): A is false, but R is true. The Act INCREASED government control over universities. It was indeed based on the Raleigh Commission (1902) appointed by Lord Curzon.

ASSERTION - FALSE
• The Act tightened official control:
- most fellows of a university were to be nominated by the government;
- the government obtained the power to veto university senate regulations, and could amend them or frame them itself;
- stricter conditions were laid down for the affiliation of private colleges;
- the universities were also to take on teaching functions.
• Nationalists saw it as an attempt to curb the growth of independent, nationalist education and to restrict Indian higher education. Gokhale called it a retrograde measure.

REASON - TRUE
• Curzon appointed the Indian Universities Commission in 1902 under Sir Thomas Raleigh to inquire into the condition of universities. The 1904 Act followed its report.
• Since A is false, the answer is (D).

TOPIC REVISION - CURZON'S UNPOPULAR MEASURES (1899-1905)
• Calcutta Corporation Act (1899): reduced the number of elected members.
• Official Secrets Act (1904).
• Indian Universities Act (1904).
• Partition of Bengal (1905), the most explosive of all.
Together they fuelled the rise of militant nationalism.

POSITIVE ASPECTS OF CURZON'S REGIME (for balance)
• The Ancient Monuments Preservation Act (1904), leading to the reorganised Archaeological Survey of India.
• Agricultural research: the Pusa institute.
• Police reforms (Fraser Commission).

LATER EDUCATION MILESTONES
• Government resolution on education policy (1913).
• Sadler Commission (1917-19) on Calcutta University.
• Education became a transferred subject under the 1919 Act.

> The 1904 Act INCREASED government control. Raleigh Commission = 1902, appointed by Curzon; do not confuse it with the Hunter Commission (1882).

43 With reference to the Home Rule Leagues, which one of the following statements is correct?

(a) Tilak's League worked in Maharashtra (except Bombay city), Karnataka, the Central Provinces and Berar. ✓

(b) Annie Besant's League was founded several months before the League that Tilak set up at Belgaum in Maharashtra.

(c) The Home Rule Leagues were formed as wings of the All-India Muslim League after the Lucknow Pact of 1916.

(d) Annie Besant presided over the Lucknow session of the Indian National Congress in 1916, where the pact was signed.

Practise daily, and the test stops being a surprise.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (a). By agreement, Tilak's League (April 1916) worked in Maharashtra excluding Bombay city, Karnataka, the Central Provinces and Berar. Besant's League covered the rest of India.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict. Tilak founded his League at the Bombay Provincial Conference in Belgaum in April 1916, with six branches.

• Option (b) - WRONG. Besant's All-India Home Rule League was founded in Madras in September 1916, after Tilak's. Its branches included Bombay city, and George Arundale was its organising secretary.

• Option (c) - WRONG. The Leagues were independent organisations, set up because the Congress (then dominated by Moderates) would not launch an agitation. They worked closely with the Congress.

• Option (d) - WRONG. The Lucknow session (1916) was presided over by Ambica Charan Mazumdar. Besant presided over the Calcutta session of 1917, becoming the first woman president of the Congress.

TOPIC REVISION - THE HOME RULE MOVEMENT

• Background: World War I, inspiration from the Irish Home Rule movement, and the Extremists' return to politics after Tilak's release (1914).

• Aim: self-government within the British Empire.

• Methods: discussion groups, reading rooms, pamphlets, lectures and newspapers - Tilak's 'Kesari' and 'Maratha'; Besant's 'New India' and 'Commonweal'.

• Tilak's slogan: 'Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it'.

• Besant's internment in June 1917 caused a nationwide outcry and brought new members, including Jinnah and Motilal Nehru.

OUTCOMES

• The movement shifted the emphasis to the masses, created organisational links between town and country, and produced a new generation of activists.

• It prepared the ground for the Montagu Declaration (August 1917), which promised the 'progressive realisation of responsible government'.

• It faded by 1919, when Gandhi's leadership emerged.

The two Home Rule Leagues

Feature	Tilak's League	Besant's League
Founded	April 1916, Belgaum	September 1916, Madras
Area	Maharashtra (excl. Bombay city), Karnataka, CP, Berar	Rest of India
Newspapers	Kesari, Maratha	New India, Commonweal

Tilak's League came first (April 1916); Besant's followed (September 1916). Besant presided in 1917 (Calcutta), not in 1916 (Lucknow).

44 **With reference to the Lucknow Pact of 1916, which one of the following statements is correct?**

(a) It was negotiated principally between Mahatma Gandhi and Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

(b) Under it, the Congress accepted the Muslim League's demand for separate electorates. ✓

(c) It led the Congress to give up its demand for self-government in favour of the Khilafat cause.

(d) It welcomed and accepted the Montagu-Chelmsford proposals as a final settlement.

Explanation

The correct answer is (b). At Lucknow (December 1916), the Congress accepted separate electorates for Muslims and an agreed proportion of seats in the councils, in exchange for joint constitutional demands with the Muslim League.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - WRONG. The principal architects were Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Muhammad Ali Jinnah, then a member of both the Congress and the League. Gandhi had not yet emerged as a national leader in 1916.

• Option (b) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict. It was the first time the Congress formally accepted separate electorates.

• Option (c) - WRONG. The Khilafat issue came later (1919-20). The Pact jointly demanded self-government and more representative councils.

• Option (d) - WRONG. The Montagu-Chelmsford Report came in 1918 and the Act in 1919, after the Pact. The Congress found the reforms disappointing.

TOPIC REVISION - WHY LUCKNOW (1916) WAS LANDMARK

• Congress-League unity: the League had moved closer to the Congress because of anger over the British refusal to help Turkey, the annulment of the Bengal partition (1911), and the rise of young nationalist Muslims - the Ali brothers, Maulana Azad and Hakim Ajmal Khan.

• Moderate-Extremist reunion: the Extremists were readmitted to the Congress at this session.

• It was presided over by Ambica Charan Mazumdar.

JOINT DEMANDS

• Self-government at an early date.

• Elected majorities in the councils.

• Half the members of the Executive Council to be Indians.

CRITICAL ASSESSMENT

By accepting separate electorates, the Congress implicitly recognised communal politics as legitimate. This had long-term consequences for the growth of separatism, even though the Pact produced short-term unity.

Lucknow, 1916 - two unities

Unity	Between	Outcome
Congress-League	Congress and Muslim League	Joint scheme; separate electorates accepted
Moderate-Extremist	Two wings of the Congress	Extremists readmitted

> Lucknow Pact = Tilak and Jinnah, 1916. The Congress accepted separate electorates, and the Extremists were readmitted at the same session.

Stamina is a skill. Marathon is where you build it before the exam asks for it.

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45 **With reference to the Ghadar Movement, which one of the following statements is correct?**

(a) It was launched by Indian students in London who had earlier worked with Shyamji Krishna Varma at India House.

(b) Its founding was a direct consequence of the Komagata Maru incident of 1914.

(c) It was organised mainly by Punjabi immigrants on the Pacific coast of North America. ✓

(d) It confined itself to constitutional methods and sent petitions to the British Parliament for Dominion status.

Explanation

The correct answer is (c). The Ghadar Party was formed in 1913 by Indian immigrants, mostly Punjabi Sikh peasants and ex-soldiers, on the Pacific coast of the USA and Canada. It was headquartered in San Francisco.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - WRONG. India House (London, 1905) was founded by Shyamji Krishna Varma, and V.D. Savarkar was associated with it. Lala Har Dayal had links with it, but the Ghadar movement was built among North American immigrant workers, not London students.

• Option (b) - WRONG. The party predates the Komagata Maru incident (1914). The incident - a ship carrying Punjabi passengers that was refused entry at Vancouver and fired upon at Budge Budge near Calcutta on its return - intensified Ghadarite anger.

• Option (c) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict. Sohan Singh Bhakna was its president and Lala Har Dayal its moving spirit. Other leaders included Ramchandra, Barkatullah, Kartar Singh Sarabha and Bhai Parmanand. Its weekly paper 'Ghadar' (from November 1913) gave the party its name. Its centre was the Yugantar Ashram in San Francisco.

• Option (d) - WRONG. It aimed at overthrowing British rule through armed revolt. During World War I it planned uprisings and tried to win over Indian soldiers. The rising planned for 21 February 1915 in Punjab was betrayed by an informer and crushed.

TOPIC REVISION - AFTERMATH

• The Lahore Conspiracy Case trials: many were hanged, including Kartar Singh Sarabha, and others were transported.

• The Defence of India Act (1915) was used for repression.

SIGNIFICANCE AND LIMITS

• It was secular and internationalist in outlook, and its members came mainly from a non-elite, rural background.

• It failed because of poor organisation, a weak base inside India and inadequate leadership.

OTHER REVOLUTIONARY CENTRES ABROAD

• Berlin Committee (Virendranath Chattopadhyaya).

• Provisional Government of India at Kabul (1915: Raja Mahendra Pratap, Barkatullah).

• The Singapore mutiny (1915).

Revolutionary centres abroad

Organisation	Place	Key figures
India House	London (1905)	Shyamji Krishna Varma, Savarkar
Ghadar Party	San Francisco (1913)	Sohan Singh Bhakna, Lala Har Dayal
Berlin Committee	Berlin (1915)	Virendranath Chattopadhyaya
Provisional Government	Kabul (1915)	Raja Mahendra Pratap, Barkatullah

Ghadar (1913) came before Komagata Maru (1914). India House = London (Shyamji Krishna Varma). Ghadar = North America, armed revolt.

A year is too long to wait for feedback.
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46 With reference to the economic critique of British rule by the early nationalists, consider the following statements:

1. Dadabhai Naoroji explained the 'drain of wealth' in his book 'Poverty and Un-British Rule in India'.
2. R.C. Dutt wrote 'The Economic History of India', analysing the impact of colonial policies on the Indian economy.
3. The early nationalists who put forward this critique demanded complete independence from British rule.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only ✓

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation

The correct answer is (a) 1 and 2 only. Statement 3 is wrong: the early nationalists (Moderates) sought reforms within the British Empire, such as expanded councils, Indianisation of services and lower taxation. They did not demand complete independence.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Naoroji, the 'Grand Old Man of India', developed the drain theory in papers from 1867 and in 'Poverty and Un-British Rule in India' (1901). He argued that a part of India's national product was transferred to Britain with no economic return. This included the 'Home Charges' - pensions, the salaries of British officials, interest on debt and military costs.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. R.C. Dutt, a retired ICS officer and Congress president (1899), wrote 'The Economic History of India' (two volumes, 1902-04). He criticised the land revenue system and the ruin of Indian industries, and argued for a permanent settlement.

• Statement 3 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. Naoroji did raise 'swaraj' as the goal at the 1906 Calcutta session, but in the sense of self-government on colonial lines. Purna Swaraj was adopted only at Lahore in 1929.

TOPIC REVISION - THE ECONOMIC CRITIQUE (Moderates' major contribution)

• Other economic thinkers: M.G. Ranade (Indian economics), G.V. Joshi, G. Subramaniya Iyer, G.K. Gokhale.

• Themes: the drain, de-industrialisation (one-way free trade), heavy land revenue, military expenditure and recurring famines.

• Demands: reducing Home Charges, protecting Indian industries, lower land revenue, more spending on welfare.

THE MODERATES' METHODS AND LIMITATIONS

• Methods: constitutional agitation through petitions, resolutions, meetings and the press, together with faith in British justice.

• Limitations: a narrow social base among the educated elite, and little mass mobilisation.

• Achievement: by exposing the exploitative character of colonial rule, they undermined its moral basis.

CONGRESS PRESIDENCIES OF NAOROJI

1886, 1893 and 1906. He was also the first Indian elected to the British House of Commons (1892).

Economic nationalists and their works

Thinker	Key work / idea
Dadabhai Naoroji	Poverty and Un-British Rule in India (1901); drain theory
R.C. Dutt	The Economic History of India (1902-04)
M.G. Ranade	Essays on Indian Economics

> The drain theory came from the Moderates, who did NOT demand full independence. Purna Swaraj = Lahore, 1929.

47 **With reference to the period between 1907 and 1909, consider the following statements:**

1. The Surat session of the Indian National Congress in 1907 saw a split between the Moderates and the Extremists.
2. The Indian Councils Act of 1909 introduced separate electorates for Muslims.
3. The Indian Councils Act of 1909 introduced direct elections to the Imperial Legislative Council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation

The correct answer is (a) 1 and 2 only. Statement 3 is wrong: elections under the 1909 Act were INDIRECT. Members were elected through local bodies, provincial councils and special constituencies such as landholders, chambers of commerce and Muslims.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. At Surat (December 1907), the two groups clashed over the presidency and over the Calcutta (1906) resolutions on swadeshi, boycott, national education and self-government. The Extremists wanted Tilak or Lajpat Rai; the Moderates' candidate, Rash Behari Ghosh, presided. The Congress split, and the Moderates retained control. The government then repressed the Extremists: Tilak was sentenced to six years in Mandalay (1908).
• Statement 2 - CORRECT. The Morley-Minto Reforms (John Morley, Secretary of State; Lord Minto, Viceroy) provided separate electorates in which only Muslims voted for Muslim candidates. This followed the Simla Deputation (1906) led by the Aga Khan. Minto came to be called the 'father of communal electorate'.
• Statement 3 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict.

TOPIC REVISION - OTHER FEATURES OF THE 1909 ACT

• It enlarged the legislative councils, though an official majority was retained in the Imperial Council. Non-official majorities were allowed in provincial councils, which included nominated members.
• Members could discuss the budget, ask supplementary questions and move resolutions, but these were not binding.
• S.P. Sinha became the first Indian member of the Viceroy's Executive Council (Law Member).

ASSESSMENT

The reforms aimed to rally the Moderates ('rallying the Moderates' policy) and divide the nationalists on communal lines. There was no responsible government; the councils remained largely advisory.

REUNION

The two wings reunited at the Lucknow session (1916), helped by Annie Besant and Tilak's release in 1914.

Moderates vs Extremists

Feature	Moderates	Extremists
Goal	Reforms; self-government within the Empire	Swaraj
Methods	Petitions, prayers, protests	Boycott, swadeshi, passive resistance
Social base	Educated elite	Wider, including lower middle classes
Leaders	Gokhale, Pherozeshah Mehta	Tilak, Lajpat Rai, B.C. Pal, Aurobindo

1909 = separate electorates plus INDIRECT elections. Direct elections came with the 1919 Act. Rash Behari Ghosh presided at Surat.

Explanation

The correct answer is (c) Only three. Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong: the annulment of the partition was announced at the Delhi Durbar of December 1911, together with the decision to shift the capital from Calcutta to Delhi.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. The partition was announced in July 1905. It created Eastern Bengal and Assam, with a Muslim majority, and a western Bengal province that included Bihar and Orissa. The official reason was administrative convenience, but the real aim was to weaken Bengali nationalism. As Home Secretary Risley put it, Bengal united was a power and Bengal divided would pull in several different ways. 16 October 1905 was observed as a day of mourning, and Rabindranath Tagore suggested 'raksha bandhan' as a symbol of unity.
• Statement 2 - CORRECT. On 7 August 1905, the Calcutta Town Hall meeting adopted the boycott resolution, marking the formal start of the Swadeshi Movement.
• Statement 3 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict.
• Statement 4 - CORRECT. The Muslim League was founded on 30 December 1906 at Dacca, under the leadership of the Aga Khan and Nawab Salimullah of Dacca, among others. It initially supported the partition.

TOPIC REVISION - FEATURES OF THE SWADESHI MOVEMENT

• Boycott of foreign goods; public bonfires of foreign cloth.
• National education: the National Council of Education (1906), and Bengal National College with Aurobindo as principal.
• Swadeshi enterprises: Bengal Chemicals (P.C. Ray); V.O. Chidambaram Pillai's Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company at Tuticorin.
• Samitis: Ashwini Kumar Dutta's Swadesh Bandhab Samiti, Barisal.
• Cultural renaissance: Tagore's 'Amar Sonar Bangla' (1905); Abanindranath Tagore in art.

WHY IT DECLINED

Repression, the Surat split (1907), the lack of an effective organisation and the inability to reach the Muslim peasantry. Revolutionary terrorism emerged as one outcome.

Swadeshi era timeline

Date	Event
July 1905	Partition announced
7 Aug 1905	Boycott resolution at Calcutta Town Hall
16 Oct 1905	Partition takes effect
30 Dec 1906	Muslim League founded at Dacca
Dec 1911	Annulment announced at Delhi Durbar

The annulment was announced at the Delhi Durbar (1911), not by the 1909 Act. The partition took effect on 16 October 1905, while the Swadeshi resolution was on 7 August 1905.

49 **With reference to the first session of the Indian National Congress, consider the following statements:**

1. A.O. Hume, a retired British civil servant, played an important role in founding the Congress.
2. Surendranath Banerjea was among the delegates who attended the first session.
3. The first session was attended by 72 delegates.
4. The first session was held at Calcutta under the presidentship of W.C. Bonnerjee.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two ✓
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Explanation

The correct answer is (b) Only two. Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Statement 2 is wrong because Surendranath Banerjea did not attend - he was busy with the Indian National Conference in Calcutta. Statement 4 is wrong because the session was held at BOMBAY (28-31 December 1885).

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Hume, a retired ICS officer, took the initiative to bring together educated Indians from different provinces.

• Statement 2 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. Banerjea and Ananda Mohan Bose had already organised the Indian National Conference (1883, 1885). It merged with the Congress in 1886.

• Statement 3 - CORRECT. 72 delegates attended, drawn mainly from lawyers, journalists, teachers and merchants.

• Statement 4 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. The session was held at Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College, Bombay. It had originally been planned for Poona but was shifted because of a cholera outbreak. W.C. Bonnerjee did preside.

THE 'SAFETY-VALVE' DEBATE (a contested interpretation)

• One view, popularised by Lala Lajpat Rai and used by some later historians, held that Hume founded the Congress as a 'safety valve' to release Indian discontent harmlessly.

• Bipan Chandra rejected this as a myth, arguing that Indian leaders used Hume as a 'lightning conductor' to avoid official hostility.

• The founding reflected a nationalist impulse already maturing in bodies such as the Indian Association (1876), the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha (1870), the Madras Mahajan Sabha (1884) and the Bombay Presidency Association (1885).

EARLY SESSIONS TO REMEMBER

• 1885 Bombay: W.C. Bonnerjee.

• 1886 Calcutta: Dadabhai Naoroji.

• 1887 Madras: Badruddin Tyabji, the first Muslim president.

• 1888 Allahabad: George Yule, the first British president.

THE VICEROY

Lord Dufferin was Viceroy in 1885. He later ridiculed the Congress as representing a 'microscopic minority'.

Early Congress sessions

Year	Venue	President
1885	Bombay	W.C. Bonnerjee
1886	Calcutta	Dadabhai Naoroji
1887	Madras	Badruddin Tyabji
1888	Allahabad	George Yule

First session = Bombay (shifted from Poona), 72 delegates, Bonnerjee. Surendranath Banerjea was absent. The safety-valve theory is a debated interpretation, not a fact.

The same mistake, made twice, is a habit. This is where you catch it the first time.

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50 **In the following question, an Assertion (A) is followed by a Reason (R). Select the correct option from the codes given below.**

Assertion (A): The Congress ministries in the provinces resigned in October-November 1939.

Reason (R): The Government of India Act, 1935 provided for provincial autonomy.

(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

Explanation

The correct answer is (B): both A and R are true, but R does not explain A. The ministries resigned in protest because the Viceroy declared India a belligerent in World War II without consulting Indian opinion. The provision of provincial autonomy is the reason they could be formed, not the reason they resigned.

ASSERTION - TRUE

• After the 1937 elections, the Congress formed ministries in seven provinces (later eight): Madras, Bombay, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces, Bihar, Orissa and NWFP, with Assam later.
• On 3 September 1939, Lord Linlithgow declared India at war with Germany without consulting Indian leaders.
• The Congress demanded a statement of war aims and a commitment to India's independence, and a national government at the Centre. Linlithgow's reply was unsatisfactory.
• The Congress Working Committee then called on its ministries to resign, which they did in October-November 1939.

REASON - TRUE, BUT IT DOES NOT EXPLAIN A

• The 1935 Act's provincial autonomy enabled elected ministries responsible to legislatures.
• It explains how they came to be formed, not why they resigned. So the answer is (B).

TOPIC REVISION - THE RECORD OF THE CONGRESS MINISTRIES (1937-39)

• Release of political prisoners; removal of bans on organisations and newspapers.
• Agrarian legislation: tenancy and debt relief.
• Expansion of education (Basic Education); prohibition in some areas.
• Measures against untouchability.
• Limitations: the Governors' special powers, financial constraints and the absence of power at the Centre.

REACTION OF THE MUSLIM LEAGUE

• The League celebrated 22 December 1939 as 'Day of Deliverance' from Congress rule, alleging mistreatment of Muslims. Ambedkar also joined the celebration.
• The Lahore Resolution (March 1940) followed, demanding independent States for Muslim-majority regions.

> The ministries resigned because India was dragged into the war without consultation. Provincial autonomy explains their formation, not their resignation - answer (B).

**Reading a solution shows you the answer.
Sitting the test shows you yourself.**

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51 Consider the following events:
1. Communal Award
2. August Offer
3. Nehru Report
4. Launch of Individual Satyagraha

Which one of the following is the correct chronological order of the above?

(a) 3 - 2 - 1 - 4

(b) 1 - 3 - 2 - 4

(c) 3 - 1 - 2 - 4 ✓

(d) 3 - 1 - 4 - 2

Explanation

The correct answer is (c) 3 - 1 - 2 - 4: Nehru Report (1928) → Communal Award (1932) → August Offer (August 1940) → Individual Satyagraha (from October 1940).

STEP-BY-STEP CHRONOLOGY

• 3. Nehru Report (August 1928). Drafted by a committee under Motilal Nehru in response to Lord Birkenhead's challenge, after the all-white Simon Commission (1927). It demanded Dominion status and joint electorates with reserved seats for minorities, and included a list of fundamental rights. Jinnah's Fourteen Points (1929) were the League's response.

• 1. Communal Award (16 August 1932). British PM Ramsay MacDonald announced separate electorates for minorities and for the depressed classes. This led to Gandhi's fast and the Poona Pact (September 1932).

• 2. August Offer (8 August 1940). Linlithgow offered:

- Dominion status as the objective;
- expansion of the Viceroy's Executive Council;
- a war advisory council;
- a constitution-making body after the war;
- an assurance that minorities would have a say in any future constitution.

The Congress rejected it.

• 4. Individual Satyagraha (from 17 October 1940). Gandhi chose individuals to offer satyagraha against the war effort, to assert the right of free speech without hampering the war. Vinoba Bhave was the first satyagrahi and Nehru the second.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) 3-2-1-4 - WRONG. It puts the August Offer (1940) before the Communal Award (1932).

• Option (b) 1-3-2-4 - WRONG. It puts the Communal Award (1932) before the Nehru Report (1928).

• Option (c) 3-1-2-4 - CORRECT.

• Option (d) 3-1-4-2 - WRONG. It puts the Individual Satyagraha before the August Offer, though the satyagraha was a response to it.

TOPIC REVISION - THE WARTIME SEQUENCE

• Congress ministries resign (Oct-Nov 1939).

• Lahore Resolution of the League (March 1940).

• August Offer (Aug 1940).

• Individual Satyagraha (Oct 1940).

• Cripps Mission (March 1942).

• Quit India (Aug 1942).

• C.R. Formula (1944).

• Wavell Plan and Simla Conference (1945).

Constitutional milestones, 1927-45

Year	Event
1927	Simon Commission appointed
1928	Nehru Report
1932	Communal Award; Poona Pact
1940	August Offer; Individual Satyagraha
1942	Cripps Mission; Quit India
1945	Wavell Plan; Simla Conference

> The Individual Satyagraha (October 1940) was a RESPONSE to the August Offer (August 1940). The Nehru Report (1928) came long before the Communal Award (1932).

52 With reference to the Government of India Act, 1935, which one of the following statements is correct?

(a) It provided for an All-India Federation, which never came into being as princes did not join. ✓

(b) It introduced dyarchy in the provinces for the first time and kept the Centre fully responsible.

(c) It abolished separate electorates and introduced joint electorates for all communities.

(d) It made the Federal Court the final court of appeal, ending all appeals to the Privy Council in London.

Whoever sent you this knows their strengths, understands their gaps, and knows where they're headed. They're preparing with clarity and confidence—not fear. They know their edge. You can too.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (a). The Act envisaged an All-India Federation of British provinces and princely States. It never materialised, because joining was voluntary for the princes and not enough of them acceded.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict.

• Option (b) - WRONG. Dyarchy in the provinces had been introduced by the 1919 Act. The 1935 Act ABOLISHED provincial dyarchy and introduced provincial autonomy: ministers responsible to legislatures handled all provincial subjects. It proposed dyarchy at the CENTRE (reserved and transferred federal subjects), which never operated because the federation never came into being.

• Option (c) - WRONG. The Act EXTENDED separate electorates - to depressed classes (as modified by the Poona Pact), women and labour - not abolished them.

• Option (d) - WRONG. The Federal Court was set up (1937), but appeals from it lay to the Privy Council in London. Appeals to the Privy Council were abolished only in 1949.

TOPIC REVISION - OTHER FEATURES OF THE 1935 ACT

• Three lists: Federal, Provincial and Concurrent. Residuary powers were given to the Viceroy.

• Bicameral legislatures in six provinces.

• The franchise was extended to about 10% of the population.

• Federal and Provincial Public Service Commissions.

• Burma separated from India; Sind and Orissa were created as new provinces (1936).

• The Reserve Bank of India was set up under a separate law, the RBI Act, 1934.

REACTION AND WORKING

• Nehru called it a 'charter of slavery' and 'a machine with strong brakes but no engine'.

• The Congress nonetheless contested the 1937 elections and formed ministries in most provinces.

LEGACY

Much of the 1935 Act's structure - federal scheme, lists, Governors, Public Service Commissions, emergency powers - was carried into the Constitution of India.

1919 Act vs 1935 Act

Feature	1919 Act	1935 Act
Provinces	Dyarchy	Provincial autonomy
Centre	Bicameral, not responsible	Dyarchy proposed (never worked)
Federation	None	All-India Federation proposed
Separate electorates	Extended to Sikhs, others	Extended further

1919 = provincial dyarchy. 1935 = provincial autonomy plus proposed dyarchy at the Centre. Privy Council appeals ended in 1949. The RBI came from a separate 1934 Act.

53 **With reference to the Quit India Movement, consider the following statements:**

1. The Quit India resolution was passed at the Bombay session of the All India Congress Committee in August 1942.
2. Gandhi gave the call 'Do or Die' in connection with this movement.
3. The Communist Party of India actively supported the Quit India Movement.
4. The Quit India Movement was launched before the Cripps Mission came to India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one	**(b) Only two ✓**
(c) Only three	(d) All four

The exam will ask what you avoided. Find out what that is while it still costs nothing.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (b) Only two. Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong because the CPI opposed the movement, supporting the war effort as a 'People's War' after the German invasion of the USSR. Statement 4 is wrong because the Cripps Mission (March-April 1942) came before the movement; its failure was a major cause of it.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. The AICC adopted the resolution at Gowalia Tank, Bombay, on 8 August 1942. Its demand was an immediate end to British rule. Early on 9 August, Gandhi and the top Congress leadership were arrested (Operation Zero Hour).

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Gandhi's 'Do or Die' speech declared that Indians would either free India or die in the attempt. Without its leaders, the movement became spontaneous. Leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia, Aruna Asaf Ali and Usha Mehta (Congress Radio) led an underground phase.

• Statement 3 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. The Muslim League and the Hindu Mahasabha also kept away. Many princes and the bureaucracy opposed it.

• Statement 4 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict.

TOPIC REVISION - THE CRIPPS MISSION (March 1942)

• Offer: Dominion status after the war; a constitution-making body; provinces free to stay out (opening the door to partition); no immediate transfer of defence.

• Rejected by the Congress and the League. Gandhi reportedly called it a 'post-dated cheque'.

FEATURES OF QUIT INDIA

• Parallel governments: Ballia (Chittu Pande), Tamluk in Midnapore (Jatiya Sarkar, which lasted until 1944) and Satara (Prati Sarkar, Y.B. Chavan and Nana Patil).

• Attacks on symbols of authority: railways, telegraph, police stations.

• Massive participation of youth, women and peasants.

• Brutal repression: firing, whipping, collective fines.

SIGNIFICANCE

Independence was put on the immediate agenda, and the movement showed the depth of nationalist feeling. After it, there could be no retreat. Gandhi's 21-day fast in February 1943 drew wide support.

Parallel governments of 1942

Place	Name / leader
Ballia (UP)	Chittu Pande
Tamluk (Midnapore, Bengal)	Jatiya Sarkar
Satara (Maharashtra)	Prati Sarkar - Y.B. Chavan, Nana Patil

Cripps (March 1942) → Quit India (August 1942). The CPI, Muslim League and Hindu Mahasabha did not support Quit India.

Every explanation here was written to teach, not to justify an answer key.

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54 **With reference to the Non-Cooperation Movement and its aftermath, consider the following statements:**

1. The programme of non-cooperation was approved at a special session of the Congress at Calcutta in 1920 and endorsed at the Nagpur session later that year.
2. The Nagpur session reorganised the Congress Committees on a linguistic basis.
3. Gandhi withdrew the movement after the violence at Chauri Chaura in February 1922.
4. C.R. Das and Motilal Nehru formed the Swaraj Party to contest elections to the legislative councils.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All four ✓

Explanation

The correct answer is (d) All four. Each statement correctly describes the launch, organisational change, withdrawal and aftermath of the Non-Cooperation Movement.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. The special session at Calcutta (September 1920), presided over by Lala Lajpat Rai, approved non-cooperation. The regular Nagpur session (December 1920), under C. Vijayaraghavachariar, endorsed it. C.R. Das, who had earlier opposed it, moved the main resolution at Nagpur. The background included the Rowlatt Act, Jallianwala Bagh, the Hunter Committee's inadequate response and the Khilafat issue.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Nagpur also gave the Congress a new structure:

- Provincial Congress Committees on linguistic lines;
- a Congress Working Committee of fifteen to lead the organisation;
- membership open to all adults paying four annas.

The goal became attaining swaraj by peaceful and legitimate means.

• Statement 3 - CORRECT. On 5 February 1922, a mob at Chauri Chaura (Gorakhpur) set fire to a police station, killing 22 policemen. Gandhi withdrew the movement through the Bardoli resolution (12 February 1922). Many leaders, including Motilal Nehru, C.R. Das and Subhas Bose, were dismayed.

• Statement 4 - CORRECT. After the Gaya session (1922) rejected council entry, Das and Motilal formed the Congress-Khilafat Swarajya Party (1 January 1923). Their aim was to wreck the councils from within. The 'no-changers' (Vallabhbhai Patel, Rajendra Prasad, C. Rajagopalachari) preferred constructive work.

TOPIC REVISION - THE NON-COOPERATION PROGRAMME

• Surrender of titles; boycott of government schools, courts and councils; boycott of foreign cloth.

• Later stages: non-payment of taxes.

• Constructive side: national schools (Jamia Millia, Kashi Vidyapith), khadi, Hindu-Muslim unity and the Tilak Swaraj Fund.

SIGNIFICANCE

It was the first truly mass movement, reaching peasants, workers, women and Muslims (through Khilafat). Swaraj was not achieved within a year as promised, but the movement made the Congress a mass organisation.

Non-Cooperation timeline

Date	Event
Sept 1920	Calcutta special session approves non-cooperation
Dec 1920	Nagpur session endorses; linguistic PCCs
5 Feb 1922	Chauri Chaura
12 Feb 1922	Bardoli resolution - movement withdrawn
1 Jan 1923	Swaraj Party formed

Calcutta special session (approved) → Nagpur (endorsed and reorganised). Chauri Chaura → Bardoli resolution. Swarajists (council entry) vs no-changers.

55 **With reference to the final phase of the national movement (1946-47), consider the following statements:**

1. The Cabinet Mission rejected the demand for a full-fledged sovereign Pakistan.
2. The Cabinet Mission proposed grouping the provinces into three sections.
3. Members of the Constituent Assembly from the provinces were to be elected indirectly by the provincial legislative assemblies.
4. The Indian Independence Act, 1947 provided for the creation of two independent dominions, India and Pakistan.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All four ✓

Well prepared is not the same as competitive. Know which one you are.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (d) All four. Each statement correctly describes the Cabinet Mission Plan or the Indian Independence Act.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. The Mission arrived in March 1946 (Pethick-Lawrence, Stafford Cripps, A.V. Alexander) and announced its plan on 16 May 1946. It rejected a separate Pakistan, arguing that it would not solve the communal minority problem and would be economically and administratively unviable.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. It proposed:

- a weak Union in charge of defence, foreign affairs and communications;
- provinces grouped into Section A (Hindu-majority provinces), Section B (Punjab, NWFP, Sind) and Section C (Bengal, Assam);
- residuary powers with the provinces.

The Congress and the League disagreed on whether grouping was compulsory.

• Statement 3 - CORRECT. Seats were allotted by population, roughly one per million, among General, Muslim and Sikh categories. Members were chosen by the provincial assemblies through single transferable vote, and princely States were to nominate representatives. Elections were held in July 1946.

• Statement 4 - CORRECT. The Act (passed July 1947, effective 15 August 1947) ended British paramountcy over the princely States. It also gave the Constituent Assemblies full sovereign powers.

TOPIC REVISION - FROM CABINET MISSION TO PARTITION

• The League withdrew its acceptance and called for Direct Action Day (16 August 1946), leading to the Great Calcutta Killings.

• An Interim Government under Nehru was formed in September 1946, and the League joined in October.

• Attlee's statement of 20 February 1947 set June 1948 as the deadline for transfer of power.

• Mountbatten became Viceroy in March 1947. His plan of 3 June 1947 provided for partition, with provinces deciding their future, and advanced the date to 15 August 1947.

• The Radcliffe Commission drew the boundaries of Punjab and Bengal.

Road to independence

Date	Event
16 May 1946	Cabinet Mission Plan
16 Aug 1946	Direct Action Day
Sept 1946	Interim Government
3 June 1947	Mountbatten Plan
15 Aug 1947	Independence (Indian Independence Act)

The Cabinet Mission rejected Pakistan; the Mountbatten Plan accepted partition. Constituent Assembly members were elected indirectly, not by universal adult franchise.

56 **With reference to Mahatma Gandhi's early struggles in India, consider the following statements:**

1. The Champaran Satyagraha of 1917 is regarded as Gandhi's first civil disobedience movement in India.
2. The Ahmedabad mill strike of 1918 was Gandhi's first civil disobedience movement in India.
3. The Kheda Satyagraha of 1918 is regarded as Gandhi's first non-cooperation movement in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only ✓

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation

The correct answer is (c) 1 and 3 only. Statement 2 is wrong: the Ahmedabad mill strike (1918) is remembered as the occasion of Gandhi's first HUNGER STRIKE in India. Champaran was his first civil disobedience.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Under the 'tinkathia' system, peasants in Champaran (Bihar) had to grow indigo on 3/20ths of their land for European planters. At the invitation of Raj Kumar Shukla, Gandhi went to Champaran and defied an order to leave the district - his first civil disobedience in India. He was accompanied by Rajendra Prasad, Mazharul Haq, J.B. Kripalani, Narhari Parekh and Mahadev Desai. The government appointed an inquiry committee with Gandhi as a member, and the tinkathia system was abolished.

• Statement 2 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. The dispute between mill owners and workers was over the discontinuance of the plague bonus. Gandhi advised a strike and a 35% wage increase, and fasted when the workers wavered. Anasuya Sarabhai supported the workers, though her brother Ambalal Sarabhai was a mill owner. The tribunal awarded the 35% increase.

• Statement 3 - CORRECT. Crops failed in Kheda (Gujarat), but the government refused to remit revenue even though the yield was below a quarter of normal, which entitled peasants to remission under the revenue code. Gandhi asked peasants to withhold revenue - his first non-cooperation. Sardar Patel, Indulal Yagnik and others joined. The government eventually instructed that revenue be recovered only from those who could pay.

TOPIC REVISION - WHAT THESE STRUGGLES ACHIEVED

• Gandhi became known as a leader of the masses.

• He recruited a loyal band of followers.

• His technique of satyagraha - truth, non-violence and open defiance with acceptance of punishment - was tested in Indian conditions, having been developed in South Africa (1893-1914).

NEXT STEP

The Rowlatt Satyagraha (1919) was his first all-India campaign, organised through the Satyagraha Sabha. It led to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 13 April 1919.

Gandhi's early satyagrahas

Struggle	Year	Issue	Described as
Champaran	1917	Indigo (tinkathia)	First civil disobedience
Ahmedabad	1918	Mill workers' wages	First hunger strike
Kheda	1918	Revenue remission	First non-cooperation
Rowlatt Satyagraha	1919	Rowlatt Act	First all-India satyagraha

Champaran = first civil disobedience. Ahmedabad = first hunger strike. Kheda = first non-cooperation. Rowlatt = first all-India satyagraha.

The exam doesn't ask how much you studied. It asks where you stand among everyone who studied too.

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57 **With reference to the Civil Disobedience Movement and the events connected with it, consider the following statements:**

1. Gandhi began the Dandi March from Sabarmati Ashram in March 1930 and broke the salt law at Dandi in April 1930.
2. The Gandhi-Irwin Pact of 1931 led to the suspension of the Civil Disobedience Movement.
3. Gandhi attended the First Round Table Conference as the sole representative of the Congress.
4. The Poona Pact replaced separate electorates for the depressed classes with reserved seats in a joint electorate.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three ✓

(d) All four

A limited number of places. One honest question: are you holding yours?

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Explanation

The correct answer is (c) Only three. Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong: the Congress boycotted the First Round Table Conference (1930-31). Gandhi attended the SECOND Round Table Conference (September-December 1931) as the sole Congress representative.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Gandhi set out from Sabarmati on 12 March 1930 with 78 followers and broke the salt law at Dandi on 6 April 1930. Salt was chosen because the tax affected every Indian, cut across classes and communities, and offered a simple, symbolic act. The movement spread through:
- C. Rajagopalachari's march from Trichy to Vedaranyam;
- the Dharasana salt works raid (Sarojini Naidu, Imam Sahib);
- Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan's Khudai Khidmatgars in the North-West Frontier Province;
- Rani Gaidinliu in Manipur and Nagaland.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Under the pact (5 March 1931), the government agreed to release political prisoners not convicted of violence and to permit the making of salt for consumption in coastal villages. The Congress suspended civil disobedience and agreed to attend the Second RTC. The Karachi session (March 1931), under Patel, endorsed the pact and adopted resolutions on Fundamental Rights and economic policy.

• Statement 3 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. The Second RTC failed, mainly over the minorities question, and civil disobedience resumed in 1932.

• Statement 4 - CORRECT. Ramsay MacDonald's Communal Award (August 1932) gave separate electorates to the depressed classes. Gandhi fasted in Yerawada jail. The Poona Pact (24 September 1932) with B.R. Ambedkar replaced them with reserved seats - more seats than under the Award - in a joint electorate.

TOPIC REVISION - THE THREE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCES

• First (Nov 1930-Jan 1931): the Congress was absent.
• Second (Sept-Dec 1931): Gandhi attended.
• Third (Nov-Dec 1932): the Congress was absent.
• Ambedkar attended all three. The White Paper (1933) that followed led to the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE MOVEMENT'S END

Civil disobedience was finally withdrawn in 1934.

Round Table Conferences

Conference	Dates	Congress participation
First	Nov 1930 - Jan 1931	Boycotted
Second	Sept - Dec 1931	Gandhi attended
Third	Nov - Dec 1932	Did not attend

Gandhi attended only the SECOND Round Table Conference. Communal Award (August 1932) → Poona Pact (September 1932).

58 **In the following question, an Assertion (A) is followed by a Reason (R). Select the correct option from the codes given below.**

Assertion (A): In the early decades after the Permanent Settlement, a large number of zamindari estates in Bengal were auctioned.

Reason (R): Revenue had to be paid in full by a fixed date, failing which the estate could be sold to recover the arrears.

(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

Explanation

The correct answer is (A): both A and R are true, and R correctly explains A. The rigid payment rule (often called the 'sunset law'), together with a very high fixed demand, made default common and led to auctions of estates.

ASSERTION - TRUE

• In the 1790s and early 1800s, many zamindars failed to pay and their estates were put up for auction. Old, established families lost their estates; the Burdwan Raj is the case NCERT discusses.

REASON - TRUE, AND IT EXPLAINS A

• The revenue was fixed at a high level - the Company wanted to maximise its income - and payment was due by sunset on the fixed day.
• Harvests fluctuated, prices of agricultural produce were low in the early years, and ryots often defaulted on rents to the zamindar.
• Zamindars also had limited power to collect rent: they lost their police powers and could not easily coerce ryots through courts. Default and auction followed.

TOPIC REVISION - HOW ZAMINDARS RESPONDED

• Fictitious sales: estates were transferred to female relatives to escape auction, and agents bought back the estates at auctions.
• Jotedars - rich peasants in the villages - strengthened their hold and sometimes resisted zamindars.

LONG-TERM EFFECTS

• By the 19th century, with rising prices and land under cultivation, the fixed demand became light for zamindars. Revenue stagnated for the government, while zamindars and intermediaries prospered.
• Many zamindars became absentee landlords, creating chains of intermediaries (subinfeudation, as in patni tenures).
• Cultivators faced rack-renting and insecurity.
• The Fifth Report (1813), submitted to the British Parliament, documented these problems.

UPSC CONNECTION

This is drawn from NCERT Class XII, Themes in Indian History Part III, 'Colonialism and the Countryside'.

> The fixed demand was HIGH at the outset. It became light only later, with rising prices. The sales were often 'fictitious'.

59 With reference to the Regulating Act of 1773, which one of the following statements is correct?

(a) It created the office of the Governor-General of India, first held by Warren Hastings.

(b) It provided for the establishment of a Supreme Court of Judicature at Calcutta. ✓

(c) It abolished the Court of Directors and placed the Company directly under the Crown.

(d) It placed the Presidencies of Bombay and Madras under a new Board of Control.

Explanation

The correct answer is (b). The Regulating Act provided for a Supreme Court at Calcutta. It was set up in 1774, with Sir Elijah Impey as Chief Justice.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - WRONG. The Act made the Governor of Bengal the 'Governor-General of Bengal' (Warren Hastings the first), with an executive council of four. The title 'Governor-General of India' came with the Charter Act of 1833 (Lord William Bentinck).

• Option (b) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict. Its jurisdiction and its relationship with the Governor-General's Council caused frequent conflicts. The Act of Settlement (1781) clarified its jurisdiction.

• Option (c) - WRONG. The Court of Directors continued until 1858. The Crown took over direct rule only under the Government of India Act, 1858, after the Revolt.

• Option (d) - WRONG. The Board of Control was created by Pitt's India Act, 1784. The Regulating Act did make the Governors of Bombay and Madras subordinate to the Governor-General of Bengal.

TOPIC REVISION - WHY THE ACT WAS PASSED

• After the Diwani (1765), there was corruption among Company servants ('nabobs'), the Bengal famine of 1770 and a financial crisis. The Company had to seek a loan from the British government.

• Parliament responded with the first step towards regulating the Company and centralising administration in India.

OTHER PROVISIONS

• Company servants were barred from private trade and from accepting presents or bribes.

• The Court of Directors had to report on revenue, civil and military affairs to the British government.

PITT'S INDIA ACT (1784)

• It created a 'double government': the Board of Control (political) and the Court of Directors (commercial).

• For the first time, the Company's territories were called 'British possessions in India'.

Early Acts regulating the Company

Act	Key feature
Regulating Act, 1773	Governor-General of Bengal; Supreme Court at Calcutta
Pitt's India Act, 1784	Board of Control; double government
Charter Act, 1833	Governor-General of India

1773 = Governor-General of BENGAL plus a Supreme Court at Calcutta. 1784 = Board of Control. 1833 = Governor-General of INDIA.

The exam ranks everyone together, whatever language they write in. So does this.

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60 Consider the following developments:
1. Abolition of sati by regulation
2. Treaty of Bassein
3. English Education Act following Macaulay's Minute
4. Annexation of Punjab
Which one of the following is the correct chronological order of the above?

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

Explanation

The correct answer is (d) 2 - 1 - 3 - 4: Treaty of Bassein (1802) → abolition of sati (1829) → English Education Act (1835) → annexation of Punjab (1849).

STEP-BY-STEP CHRONOLOGY
• 2. Treaty of Bassein (31 December 1802), under Wellesley. Peshwa Baji Rao II, fleeing Holkar, accepted a Subsidiary Alliance. It triggered the Second Anglo-Maratha War.
• 1. Abolition of sati (Bengal Regulation XVII, 4 December 1829), under Lord William Bentinck. Raja Rammohan Roy's long campaign prepared the ground. The ban was extended to Madras and Bombay in 1830.
• 3. English Education Act (1835), also under Bentinck. Macaulay's Minute (February 1835) argued that Western learning through English should be funded in place of oriental learning. This settled the Orientalist-Anglicist controversy in favour of the Anglicists and aimed at a class 'Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste'. The 'downward filtration' theory was associated with this policy.
• 4. Annexation of Punjab (March 1849), under Dalhousie, after the Second Anglo-Sikh War. Maharaja Duleep Singh was pensioned off.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS
• Option (a) 1-2-3-4 - WRONG. It puts the abolition of sati (1829) before Bassein (1802).
• Option (b) 2-3-1-4 - WRONG. It puts the English Education Act (1835) before the abolition of sati (1829).
• Option (c) 1-2-4-3 - WRONG. Sati comes first again, and the annexation of Punjab (1849) is placed before 1835.
• Option (d) 2-1-3-4 - CORRECT.

TOPIC REVISION - BENTINCK'S REFORMS (1828-35)
• Abolition of sati (1829).
• Suppression of thuggee (with William Sleeman).
• Suppression of female infanticide.
• English as the medium of higher education (1835).
• Use of Indians in subordinate judicial posts.
Under Dalhousie (1848-56) came railways (1853), the telegraph and the Doctrine of Lapse.

Governors-General and landmark events

Governor-General	Event	Year
Wellesley	Treaty of Bassein	1802
Bentinck	Abolition of sati	1829
Bentinck	English Education Act	1835
Dalhousie	Annexation of Punjab	1849

Wellesley's alliances (1798-1805) precede Bentinck's reforms (1828-35), which precede Dalhousie's annexations (1848-56).

61 With reference to Wood's Despatch of 1854, which one of the following statements is correct?

(a) It recommended English as the only medium of instruction at every level, from village schools upwards.

(b) It was issued during the tenure of Lord William Bentinck as Governor-General.

(c) It recommended universities at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras modelled on the University of London. ✓

(d) It opposed grants-in-aid to private and missionary schools and favoured only government-run institutions.

Write in your language. Be ranked against everyone. Nothing here is measured in a smaller room.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (c). Wood's Despatch recommended universities on the London model at the three Presidency towns. They were established in 1857.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - WRONG. The Despatch recommended English as the medium for higher education and the VERNACULAR languages at the school level. This was a departure from the narrow Anglicist emphasis of 1835.
• Option (b) - WRONG. It was sent by Sir Charles Wood, President of the Board of Control, in 1854, during Lord Dalhousie's governor-generalship. Bentinck had left in 1835.
• Option (c) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict. The universities of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras were established in 1857. They were affiliating and examining bodies, not teaching universities.
• Option (d) - WRONG. It explicitly recommended a system of grants-in-aid to encourage private enterprise, including missionary and Indian-run schools.

TOPIC REVISION - OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

• A Department of Public Instruction in every province.
• A graded system: primary village schools, Anglo-vernacular high schools and colleges, then universities.
• Teacher training institutions.
• Promotion of women's education.
• Secular education in government institutions.
• It is often called the 'Magna Carta of English education in India'.

LATER LANDMARKS

• Hunter Commission (1882): primary and secondary education; transfer of primary education to local bodies.
• Raleigh Commission (1902), leading to the Indian Universities Act, 1904 (Curzon).
• Sadler Commission (1917-19): university education.
• Hartog Committee (1929).
• Sargent Plan (1944).

SIGNIFICANCE

The Despatch produced an English-educated middle class. Ironically, this class later led the national movement.

Milestones of colonial education policy

Year	Milestone
1813	Charter Act: Rs 1 lakh for education
1835	Macaulay's Minute; English Education Act
1854	Wood's Despatch
1882	Hunter Commission
1904	Indian Universities Act

> Wood's Despatch = 1854, Dalhousie, vernacular at school level, grants-in-aid, universities in 1857. Do not confuse it with Macaulay's Minute (1835, Bentinck).

The costliest mistake in this exam isn't a wrong answer. It's a year you can't get back.

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62 **With reference to the land revenue systems introduced by the British, consider the following statements:**

1. Under the Permanent Settlement of 1793, the revenue demand on zamindars was fixed in perpetuity.
2. The Ryotwari system is associated with Thomas Munro and Alexander Read and was first applied in the Madras Presidency.
3. Under the Ryotwari system, the revenue demand on each cultivator was also fixed permanently.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation

The correct answer is (a) 1 and 2 only. Statement 3 is wrong: Ryotwari settlements were temporary and were revised periodically (usually every 20-30 years), with the demand often raised at each revision.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Lord Cornwallis introduced the Permanent Settlement in Bengal and Bihar in 1793, building on the ten-year settlement of 1789-90 (John Shore played a key role). Zamindars were recognised as owners of the land, and the revenue they paid to the Company was fixed for ever. The aims were a stable, predictable income for the Company and a loyal landed class that would invest in improvement.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Alexander Read began the system in the Baramahal district, and Thomas Munro extended it as Governor of Madras (1820-27). It later spread to Bombay, Berar and other areas. Revenue was settled directly with the ryot (cultivator), who was treated as the proprietor of the land.

• Statement 3 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict.

TOPIC REVISION - THE THIRD SYSTEM: MAHALWARI

• Introduced in the North-Western Provinces under Holt Mackenzie (Regulation VII of 1822), and revised under William Bentinck with Robert Merttins Bird in 1833.

• Also used in Punjab and parts of central India.

• The settlement was made with the village or estate (mahal) as a whole, through headmen or landlords, and was periodically revised.

COMMON EFFECTS

• Very high revenue demands, rigid collection dates and growing indebtedness.

• Transfer of land to moneylenders and traders.

• Commercialisation of agriculture.

• Weakening of village institutions.

AREA COVERED

Roughly, Permanent Settlement covered about 19% of British India, Ryotwari about 51% and Mahalwari about 30%.

Three land revenue systems

System	Settled with	Associated with	Duration
Permanent Settlement	Zamindar	Cornwallis (1793)	Fixed for ever
Ryotwari	Cultivator (ryot)	Read, Munro	Periodic revision
Mahalwari	Village/estate (mahal)	Holt Mackenzie (1822)	Periodic revision

Only the Permanent Settlement fixed revenue for ever. Ryotwari and Mahalwari were temporary and revisable.

63 **Consider the following pairs:**
Treaty : War it concluded or led to

1. Treaty of Salbai : First Anglo-Maratha War
2. Treaty of Mangalore : Third Anglo-Mysore War
3. Treaty of Bassein : Third Anglo-Maratha War
4. Treaty of Lahore (1846) : Second Anglo-Sikh War

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) Only one ✓ | (b) Only two | (c) Only three | (d) All four

Explanation

The correct answer is (a) Only one. Only pair 1 is correctly matched. The Treaty of Mangalore (1784) ended the SECOND Anglo-Mysore War. The Treaty of Bassein (1802) led to the SECOND Anglo-Maratha War. The Treaty of Lahore (1846) ended the FIRST Anglo-Sikh War.

PAIR-WISE (STATEMENT-WISE) ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 (pair 1) - CORRECT. The Treaty of Salbai (1782) ended the First Anglo-Maratha War (1775-82). It restored the status quo and brought about twenty years of peace. Mahadji Scindia played a key role in negotiating it.

• Statement 2 (pair 2) - WRONG. The Treaty of Mangalore (1784) ended the Second Anglo-Mysore War, fought by Haidar Ali and then Tipu Sultan. Both sides restored conquered territories. The Third Anglo-Mysore War ended with the Treaty of Seringapatam (1792), under which Tipu ceded about half his kingdom to the Company and its allies.

• Statement 3 (pair 3) - WRONG. By the Treaty of Bassein (December 1802), Peshwa Baji Rao II accepted a Subsidiary Alliance. The Scindia and Bhonsle chiefs saw this as a surrender of Maratha independence, which led to the Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803-05). The Third Anglo-Maratha War (1817-18) ended the Peshwaship.

• Statement 4 (pair 4) - WRONG. The Treaty of Lahore (March 1846) ended the First Anglo-Sikh War. Jalandhar Doab was annexed, Kashmir was sold to Gulab Singh (Treaty of Amritsar, 1846), and the army was cut down. After the Second Anglo-Sikh War (1848-49), Dalhousie annexed Punjab in 1849.

TOPIC REVISION - THE ANGLO-MYSORE WARS

• First: ended by the Treaty of Madras, 1769.
• Second: ended by the Treaty of Mangalore, 1784.
• Third: ended by the Treaty of Seringapatam, 1792.
• Fourth: 1799, Tipu killed.

FREQUENTLY CONFUSED

Treaty of Amritsar (1809): Ranjit Singh and Metcalfe; the Sutlej fixed as the boundary. Treaty of Amritsar (1846): sale of Kashmir to Gulab Singh.

Wars and their treaties

War	Ending treaty / outcome
First Anglo-Maratha (1775-82)	Salbai (1782)
Second Anglo-Mysore (1780-84)	Mangalore (1784)
Third Anglo-Mysore (1790-92)	Seringapatam (1792)
First Anglo-Sikh (1845-46)	Lahore (1846)
Second Anglo-Sikh (1848-49)	Annexation of Punjab (1849)

Mangalore = Second Mysore war; Seringapatam = Third. Bassein triggered the Second Maratha war. Lahore 1846 = First Sikh war. There are two Treaties of Amritsar (1809 and 1846).

A test tells you where you stand. Daily practice is how you move.

Both are in the Testogram app.

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64 **With reference to the establishment of British power in Bengal, consider the following statements:**

1. At the Battle of Plassey (1757), the English East India Company under Robert Clive defeated Siraj-ud-Daulah.
2. At the Battle of Buxar (1764), the Company defeated the combined forces of Mir Qasim, Shuja-ud-Daulah and Shah Alam II.
3. By the Treaty of Allahabad (1765), the Mughal emperor granted the Company the Diwani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.
4. The system of 'dual government' in Bengal was abolished by Lord Cornwallis.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three ✓

(d) All four

Explanation

The correct answer is (c) Only three. Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong: dual government was ended by Warren Hastings in 1772, when the Company took over revenue collection directly. Cornwallis came later (1786-93).

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. On 23 June 1757, Clive defeated Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah at Plassey. The victory owed more to conspiracy than to fighting: Mir Jafar (the commander), the banker Jagat Seth and Rai Durlabh had been won over. Mir Jafar was made Nawab and paid huge sums to the Company and its officials.
• Statement 2 - CORRECT. On 22 October 1764, Major Hector Munro defeated the three-way alliance of Mir Qasim (the deposed Nawab of Bengal), Shuja-ud-Daulah (Nawab of Awadh) and the Mughal emperor Shah Alam II. Historians regard Buxar as more decisive than Plassey, because it was a real military contest against the major north Indian powers.
• Statement 3 - CORRECT. Under the Treaty of Allahabad (August 1765), negotiated by Clive, Shah Alam II gave the Company the Diwani - the right to collect revenue - of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. In return he received Kora and Allahabad and an annual tribute. A separate treaty restored Awadh to Shuja-ud-Daulah.
• Statement 4 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict.

TOPIC REVISION - DUAL GOVERNMENT (1765-72)

• The Company held the Diwani (revenue) while the Nawab held the Nizamat (police and judicial functions).
• In practice the Company exercised both through Indian deputies (Muhammad Reza Khan in Bengal, Shitab Rai in Bihar), enjoying power without responsibility.
• The result was administrative breakdown and the Bengal famine of 1770.

WHY IT MATTERS

Plassey brought political control; Buxar and the Diwani brought the legal right to Bengal's revenues, which financed the Company's later wars of expansion.

From Plassey to the end of dual government

Event	Year	Significance
Battle of Plassey	1757	Mir Jafar installed; Company becomes kingmaker
Battle of Buxar	1764	Defeat of Mir Qasim, Shuja-ud-Daulah, Shah Alam II
Treaty of Allahabad	1765	Diwani of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa
End of dual government	1772	Warren Hastings takes direct control of revenue

Warren Hastings ended dual government (1772), not Cornwallis. Buxar, not Plassey, brought the Diwani.

65 **With reference to the Charter Acts passed for the East India Company, consider the following statements:**

1. The Charter Act of 1813 ended the Company's monopoly of trade with India, except for trade in tea and trade with China.
2. The Charter Act of 1813 provided for spending one lakh rupees a year on the education of Indians.
3. The Charter Act of 1833 ended the Company's monopoly of trade with India for the first time.
4. The open competition for the civil services introduced in 1853 was held simultaneously in India and England from the beginning.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one	**(b) Only two ✓**
(c) Only three	(d) All four

If you only find out on result day, you found out too late.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (b) Only two. Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong because the monopoly of trade with India was ended in 1813; the 1833 Act ended the Company's commercial activities altogether. Statement 4 is wrong because the examination was held only in London. Simultaneous examinations in India began only in 1922.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Under pressure from British manufacturers and free-trade ideas, the 1813 Act threw the Indian trade open to all British merchants. It kept the Company's monopoly only over tea and the China trade.
• Statement 2 - CORRECT. It set aside Rs 1 lakh a year 'for the revival and improvement of literature and the encouragement of learned natives' - the first acknowledgement of State responsibility for education. The Act also allowed Christian missionaries to come to India.
• Statement 3 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict.
• Statement 4 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. Indians found it very hard to compete, also because of a low maximum age. Satyendranath Tagore became the first Indian to enter the ICS, in 1863-64.

TOPIC REVISION - THE CHARTER ACT OF 1833

• The Governor-General of Bengal became the Governor-General of India (Lord William Bentinck the first).
• All legislative power was centralised in him.
• A Law Member was added (Macaulay), leading to the first Law Commission.
• It ended the Company's tea and China monopolies and its role as a commercial body; it became purely administrative.
• It declared that no Indian would be barred from office on grounds of religion, birth, descent or colour.

THE CHARTER ACT OF 1853

• It separated the Governor-General's legislative and executive functions, creating a Legislative Council.
• It introduced open competition for the civil services (the Macaulay Committee, 1854).
• It did not renew the charter for a fixed period - a sign that Crown rule was near.

Charter Acts compared

Act	Key provisions
1813	Indian trade opened (except tea, China); Rs 1 lakh for education; missionaries allowed
1833	Governor-General of India; Company ends commerce; Law Member
1853	Separate Legislative Council; open competition for civil services

> 1813 ended the Indian trade monopoly; 1833 ended all commercial activity. ICS exams were held only in London until 1922.

66 **With reference to the instruments of British territorial expansion in India, consider the following statements:**

1. Lord Wellesley formalised the system of Subsidiary Alliance, and the Nizam of Hyderabad was the first to accept it in 1798.
2. A ruler who accepted a Subsidiary Alliance had to keep a British Resident at his court.
3. Satara, Jhansi and Nagpur were annexed under the Doctrine of Lapse.
4. Lord Dalhousie annexed Awadh in 1856 on the ground of misgovernment.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four ✓

Practise daily, and the test stops being a surprise.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (d) All four. Each statement correctly describes Wellesley's Subsidiary Alliance or Dalhousie's annexation policy.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Wellesley (Governor-General 1798-1805) turned an older practice - first tried by the French under Dupleix - into a system. Hyderabad accepted it in 1798. It was followed by Mysore (1799, after Tipu's defeat), Tanjore, Awadh (1801), the Peshwa (1802, Treaty of Bassein), the Bhonsle and the Scindia.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. The terms of the alliance:

- the ruler maintained a British force in his territory and paid for it in cash or by ceding territory;
- he accepted a British Resident;
- he could not employ other Europeans without British approval;
- he could not negotiate with other powers except through the Company.

The ruler lost control over foreign policy and defence.

• Statement 3 - CORRECT. Under the Doctrine of Lapse, if a ruler of a dependent State died without a natural heir, the State passed to the Company, and adoption was not recognised for succession. Dalhousie applied it to Satara (1848), Jaitpur and Sambalpur (1849), Udaipur (1852), Jhansi (1853) and Nagpur (1854).

• Statement 4 - CORRECT. Awadh was NOT annexed under the Doctrine of Lapse - Nawab Wajid Ali Shah had heirs. Dalhousie annexed it in February 1856 citing misgovernment (on the basis of Resident Outram's report).

TOPIC REVISION - WHY IT MATTERED IN 1857

• The annexation of Awadh deeply angered the sepoys, many of whom came from Awadh.

• The Doctrine of Lapse turned Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi and Nana Saheb (whose pension was stopped) into leaders of the revolt.

• After 1857, the Queen's Proclamation (1858) abandoned the policy of annexation.

Two tools of expansion

Feature	Subsidiary Alliance	Doctrine of Lapse
Associated with	Wellesley (1798-1805)	Dalhousie (1848-56)
Mechanism	Protection for subordination	No adoption for succession
First instance	Hyderabad (1798)	Satara (1848)

> Awadh was annexed for alleged misgovernment, not under the Doctrine of Lapse. The Subsidiary Alliance was Wellesley's; the Doctrine of Lapse was Dalhousie's.

67 **In the following question, an Assertion (A) is followed by a Reason (R). Select the correct option from the codes given below.**

Assertion (A): Swami Dayanand Saraswati gave the call 'Go back to the Vedas'.

Reason (R): Dayanand Saraswati rejected idol worship and opposed caste based on birth.

(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

Explanation

The correct answer is (B): both A and R are true, but R does not explain A. The call to go back to the Vedas came from his belief that the Vedas are the infallible source of true knowledge. His rejection of idolatry and caste by birth followed from that belief - it is not the reason for it.

ASSERTION - TRUE

• Dayanand (1824-83), founder of the Arya Samaj (Bombay, 1875; Lahore became its main centre), held the Vedas to be eternal and infallible.
• He rejected later Puranic Hinduism and called for a return to the 'pure' Vedic religion.
• His main work, 'Satyarth Prakash' (1875), sets out his ideas.

REASON - TRUE, BUT IT DOES NOT EXPLAIN A

• He opposed idol worship, polytheism, ritualism, the priestly monopoly, child marriage and untouchability.
• He held that the four varnas should be based on merit and qualities, not birth.
• These are CONSEQUENCES of his Vedic doctrine - he claimed the Vedas did not sanction such practices. They are not the reason he called for a return to the Vedas. So the answer is (B).

TOPIC REVISION - THE ARYA SAMAJ

• Shuddhi: a ritual for reconverting people to Hinduism.
• It supported widow remarriage, inter-caste marriage and women's education.
• After Dayanand's death, the movement split over education. Lala Hansraj led the Anglo-Vedic DAV schools (first DAV school, Lahore, 1886). Swami Shraddhanand founded the Gurukul at Kangri, Haridwar (1902), on traditional lines.
• Lala Lajpat Rai was closely associated with the Arya Samaj.

KEY DISTINCTION

• Brahmo Samaj: reason and the Upanishads; it rejected Vedic infallibility.
• Arya Samaj: upheld Vedic infallibility, but used reason against later practices.
• Both opposed idolatry.

> Rejecting idolatry is a consequence of 'Back to the Vedas', not the reason for it. The Arya Samaj upheld Vedic infallibility; the Brahmos rejected it.

68 **In the following question, an Assertion (A) is followed by a Reason (R). Select the correct option from the codes given below.**

Assertion (A): After the Revolt of 1857, the British reorganised the Indian army to increase the proportion of European soldiers.

Reason (R): The Peel Commission recommended a larger European component in the army and keeping artillery in European hands.

(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

Explanation

The correct answer is (A): both A and R are true, and R correctly explains A. The post-revolt reorganisation followed the Peel Commission's recommendations, which aimed to prevent another sepoy rising.

ASSERTION - TRUE

• The revolt had shown the danger of an army dominated by Indian sepoys, especially the high-caste Bengal army drawn from Awadh and Bihar.

• The British raised the ratio of European to Indian troops and kept key positions and strategic areas under European control.

REASON - TRUE, AND IT EXPLAINS A

• The Peel Commission (1858-59) reported on army reorganisation.

• Its recommendations included a higher European ratio, European control of artillery and of key geographic points, and later of arsenals and modern weapons.

• Because the reorganisation was carried out on the basis of these recommendations, R explains A.

TOPIC REVISION - OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE NEW MILITARY POLICY

• 'Divide and rule' within the army: regiments were mixed by caste, community and region so that no single group could unite, a policy of 'balance and counterpoise'.

• The 'martial races' theory: recruitment shifted towards Sikhs, Gurkhas, Pathans and Punjabi Muslims, who had stayed loyal in 1857. Recruitment from Awadh, Bihar and central India was reduced.

• Indians were kept out of the officer corps.

• The army was isolated from civilian life; newspapers and nationalist literature were kept out of barracks.

BROADER POST-1857 SHIFTS

• The Crown took over direct rule (Government of India Act, 1858).

• Annexation was abandoned (Queen's Proclamation).

• Social reform was approached more cautiously.

• Princes were cultivated as allies.

• Communal divisions in politics were encouraged.

> The Peel Commission is about army reorganisation after 1857. Do not confuse it with the Peel Commission on Palestine (1937).

Stamina is a skill. Marathon is where you build it before the exam asks for it.

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69 **With reference to Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, which one of the following statements is correct?**

(a) He founded the Arya Samaj and campaigned for the revival of Vedic learning in Bengal.

(b) His campaign was instrumental in the passing of the Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act of 1856. ✓

(c) He was a founder of the Deccan Education Society in Pune along with Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Agarkar.

(d) He wrote 'Gulamgiri', comparing the condition of the lower castes in India with slavery in America.

Explanation

The correct answer is (b). Vidyasagar's sustained campaign, backed by petitions and by arguments from the shastras, led to the Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act (Act XV of 1856).

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - WRONG. The Arya Samaj was founded by Swami Dayanand Saraswati (Bombay, 1875). Its stronghold was Punjab and north India, not Bengal.
• Option (b) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict. He argued from Hindu texts that widow remarriage was permissible, and personally arranged widow marriages, including that of his own son.
• Option (c) - WRONG. The Deccan Education Society (1884) was founded in Pune by Tilak, Agarkar, Chiplunkar and others. It later set up Fergusson College.
• Option (d) - WRONG. 'Gulamgiri' (1873) was written by Jyotiba Phule.

TOPIC REVISION - VIDYASAGAR'S CONTRIBUTIONS

• As Principal of Sanskrit College, Calcutta, he opened it to non-Brahmin students and introduced Western thought.
• He wrote 'Barna Parichay', a Bengali primer still used, and is regarded as a father of modern Bengali prose.
• Women's education: as a government inspector of schools he set up many girls' schools, and he was associated with the Bethune School (1849).
• He campaigned against child marriage and polygamy.
• His title 'Vidyasagar' (ocean of learning) was conferred by Sanskrit College.

RELATED LAWS

• Abolition of sati, 1829.
• Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act, 1856.
• Native Marriage Act, 1872 (Keshab Chandra Sen).
• Age of Consent Act, 1891 (B.M. Malabari's campaign).
• Sarda Act, 1929 (child marriage restraint).

UPSC CONNECTION

Questions often pair reformers with their texts and laws. Gulamgiri = Phule; Satyarth Prakash = Dayanand; Tuhfat-ul-Muwahhidin = Rammohan Roy.

Reform laws and their champions

Law	Year	Associated reformer
Abolition of sati	1829	Rammohan Roy
Widow Remarriage Act	1856	Vidyasagar
Native Marriage Act	1872	Keshab Chandra Sen
Age of Consent Act	1891	B.M. Malabari

Widow Remarriage Act 1856 = Vidyasagar. Age of Consent 1891 = Malabari. Sarda Act = 1929. Gulamgiri = Phule.

70 **With reference to Sayyid Ahmad Khan and the Aligarh Movement, which one of the following statements is correct?**

(a) He was one of the founders of the Dar-ul-Uloom seminary at Deoband in 1866.

(b) He encouraged Muslims to join the Indian National Congress from its founding.

(c) He rejected Western science as incompatible with Islam and opposed English education.

(d) He founded the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh in 1875. ✓

Explanation

The correct answer is (d). Sayyid Ahmad Khan founded the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh in 1875. It became Aligarh Muslim University in 1920.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - WRONG. The Deoband seminary (1866) was founded by Muhammad Qasim Nanautavi and Rashid Ahmad Gangohi. It was a traditionalist, revivalist movement aimed at preserving classical Islamic learning, and it opposed British rule. Deoband later welcomed the Congress. Aligarh and Deoband represented opposite responses.

• Option (b) - WRONG. He opposed the Congress, fearing that representative government would mean Hindu majority rule and that agitation would harm Muslims' relations with the British. He urged Muslims to concentrate on education.

• Option (c) - WRONG. The opposite is true. He sought to reconcile Islam with modern science and reason. He founded the Scientific Society (Ghazipur, 1864, later moved to Aligarh) to translate Western works into Urdu, and his journal 'Tahzib-ul-Akhlaq' promoted liberal social ideas.

• Option (d) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict.

TOPIC REVISION - THE ALIGARH MOVEMENT

• Aims: modern education for Muslims, removal of purdah and polygamy, easier divorce, and loyalty to the British after the post-1857 suspicion of Muslims.

• Associates: Chiragh Ali, Altaf Hussain Hali, Nazir Ahmed, Shibli Numani.

• Theodore Beck, principal of the college, encouraged separatist politics.

• The movement contributed to a distinct Muslim political identity and, later, to the Muslim League (1906).

OTHER MUSLIM REFORM MOVEMENTS

• Ahmadiya: Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, 1889.

• Faraizi: Haji Shariatullah, Bengal.

• Wahabi/Walliullah movement: Syed Ahmad of Rae Bareli.

Aligarh vs Deoband

Feature	Aligarh	Deoband
Founder(s)	Sayyid Ahmad Khan	Nanautavi, Gangohi
Year	1875	1866
Approach	Modern, Western education	Traditional Islamic learning
Attitude to British	Loyal	Opposed

> Do not confuse Sayyid Ahmad Khan (Aligarh, pro-British, modernist) with Syed Ahmad of Rae Bareli (Wahabi). Deoband was anti-British and traditionalist.

A year is too long to wait for feedback.
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71 **In the following question, an Assertion (A) is followed by a Reason (R). Select the correct option from the codes given below.**

Assertion (A): The India-European Union Free Trade Agreement entered into force in 2026.

Reason (R): A trade agreement negotiated by the European Commission requires the consent of the European Parliament before it can enter into force.

(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 ✓

Explanation

The correct answer is (D): A is false, but R is true. The India-EU FTA was concluded on 27 January 2026. As of mid-2026, both sides were targeting signature by the end of 2026 and entry into force in 2027. It had not entered into force in 2026.

ASSERTION - FALSE

• Negotiations were relaunched in 2022 after a long pause from 2013, and concluded on 27 January 2026. The two sides also agreed their first Security and Defence Partnership.

• On 16 July 2026, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said the agreement would be signed before the end of 2026 and was expected to enter into force in the first quarter of 2027. The EU Trade Commissioner spoke of targeting entry into force in 2027.

• So it was NOT in force in 2026.

REASON - TRUE

• Under the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (Article 218), the Commission negotiates, the Council authorises signature and conclusion, and the European Parliament must give consent.

• If an agreement covers areas of shared competence (a 'mixed' agreement), national parliaments must also ratify. That is why the EU sometimes splits agreements into an EU-only trade part.

• Since A is false, the answer is (D).

STATIC REVISION - THE EU'S INSTITUTIONS

• European Commission: executive; negotiates trade.

• Council of the EU: member-state ministers.

• European Council: heads of government.

• European Parliament: directly elected.

• Court of Justice of the EU.

• Trade policy is an exclusive EU competence under the Common Commercial Policy.

ISSUES FOR INDIA

• The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), whose definitive phase began in 2026, affects steel and aluminium exporters.

• Other issues: data adequacy, geographical indications, the EU Deforestation Regulation, and India's sensitivities on dairy and agriculture.

DISTINGUISH

• India-UK CETA: in force on 15 July 2026.

• India-EFTA TEPA: in force on 1 October 2025.

• India-EU FTA: concluded, not yet in force.

> 'Concluded' ≠ 'signed' ≠ 'in force'. The India-EU FTA was concluded in January 2026, with entry into force targeted for 2027. The UK CETA is the one that came into force in 2026.

A wrong answer you understand is worth more than a right one you guessed.

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72 The Prime Minister attended the G7 summit held at Evian, France, in June 2026 as an invited outreach participant. With reference to the G7, which one of the following statements is correct?

(a) It has a permanent secretariat in Paris that drafts the leaders' summit communiqués each year.

(b) Russia's membership of the group was suspended after its 2008 conflict with Georgia.

(c) India became a permanent member of the group after attending several of its outreach sessions.

(d) The European Union participates in its summits but is not counted among its seven members. ✓

Explanation

The correct answer is (d). The G7 comprises the US, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Canada. The EU takes part fully in summits as a 'non-enumerated member' but is not one of the seven.

THE DEVELOPMENT

• France held the G7 presidency in 2026 and hosted the leaders' summit at Evian-les-Bains in June 2026.
• India attended as an outreach invitee. On the sidelines, India and the UK announced that the CETA would enter into force on 15 July 2026.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - WRONG. The G7 has NO permanent secretariat or charter. The rotating presidency organises meetings and drafts outcomes through sherpas. (The OECD, by contrast, has its secretariat in Paris - a common confusion.)
• Option (b) - WRONG. Russia, which had joined in 1997-98 to form the G8, was suspended in 2014 after it annexed Crimea, not after the 2008 Georgia war.
• Option (c) - WRONG. India is not a member. It has attended many G7 summits as a guest country, beginning with Evian in 2003 under the French presidency.
• Option (d) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict.

STATIC REVISION - THE G7

• Origin: the 1975 Rambouillet meeting (G6) after the oil shock; Canada joined in 1976.
• It is an informal forum of advanced democracies on the economy, security and global issues.
• Initiatives include the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) and climate and AI governance discussions (the Hiroshima AI Process, 2023).

COMPARE WITH THE G20

• The G20 (1999, leaders' summits from 2008) includes major emerging economies, among them India. The African Union became a permanent member at the 2023 New Delhi summit.
• Like the G7, it has no permanent secretariat; it works through a troika.

G7 vs G20

Feature	G7	G20
Founded	1975	1999 (leaders from 2008)
India's status	Outreach invitee	Member
Secretariat	None	None (troika)
EU	Non-enumerated participant	Member

> Neither the G7 nor the G20 has a permanent secretariat. Russia was suspended in 2014 (Crimea). The EU attends the G7 but is not 'one of the seven'.

73 **The 26th meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State was held at Bishkek on 31 August-1 September 2026, marking the organisation's 25th anniversary. Which one of the following statements about the SCO is correct?**

(a) Its Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) has its executive committee located in Tashkent. ✓

(b) India became a full member of the organisation at the Astana summit held in the year 2005.

(c) The Council of Heads of Government is the supreme decision-making body of the organisation.

(d) Its Secretariat, the main permanent executive body of the organisation, is located in Bishkek.

Explanation

The correct answer is (a). The executive committee of the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure is based in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

THE DEVELOPMENT

• Kyrgyzstan, chair for 2025-26, hosted the summit. Its theme marked 25 years of the SCO.
• The leaders adopted the Bishkek Declaration and 27 other documents, 28 in all. These included a protocol amending the SCO Charter (of 7 June 2002), and statements on energy, nuclear security, climate and drugs.
• The Declaration rejected double standards on terrorism and backed action against narco-terrorism, consistent with India's positions.
• The presidency passed to Pakistan for 2026-27.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict.
• Option (b) - WRONG. India and Pakistan became full members at the Astana summit in JUNE 2017. India had been an observer since 2005.
• Option (c) - WRONG. The supreme body is the Council of HEADS OF STATE (CHS), which meets annually. The Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) deals mainly with economic matters and the budget.
• Option (d) - WRONG. The Secretariat is in BEIJING. Bishkek was only the 2026 summit venue.

STATIC REVISION - THE SCO

• Founded 15 June 2001 at Shanghai by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It grew out of the 'Shanghai Five' (1996).
• Members (10): the six founders plus India, Pakistan (2017), Iran (2023) and Belarus (2024).
• Official languages under the Charter: Russian and Chinese.
• India hosted the summit virtually in July 2023.

INDIA'S STANDPOINT

India uses the SCO for Central Asian connectivity (Chabahar, INSTC) and counter-terrorism. It has refused to endorse China's Belt and Road Initiative because CPEC passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

SCO at a glance

Feature	Detail
Founded	15 June 2001, Shanghai
Secretariat	Beijing
RATS	Tashkent
Members	10 (India and Pakistan joined 2017)
2026-27 chair	Pakistan

SCO Secretariat = Beijing; RATS = Tashkent. India became a full member in 2017 (Astana). Supreme body = Council of Heads of State.

The same mistake, made twice, is a habit. This is where you catch it the first time.

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74 **Leaders of the expanded BRICS adopted the New Delhi Declaration in September 2026. Which one of the following countries is NOT a full member of BRICS?**

(a) Indonesia

(b) Ethiopia

(c) Argentina ✓

(d) UAE

Explanation

The correct answer is (c) Argentina. It was invited at the Johannesburg summit (2023) but declined in December 2023, after a change of government, so it never became a member.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) Indonesia - A MEMBER. It joined as a full member in January 2025, the first South-East Asian member.

• Option (b) Ethiopia - A MEMBER. It joined from 1 January 2024 with Egypt, Iran and the UAE. Ethiopia and Egypt brought in the African Union's headquarters country and a major Arab-African state.

• Option (c) Argentina - NOT A MEMBER, for the reason in the verdict.

• Option (d) UAE - A MEMBER. It joined from January 2024.

TOPIC REVISION - HOW BRICS EXPANDED

• BRIC: Brazil, Russia, India, China (first summit 2009).

• BRICS: South Africa joined in 2010-11.

• Johannesburg (2023): invitations to six countries - Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE.

• Saudi Arabia has not formally confirmed membership, though it participates in some meetings. This is why different sources count 10 or 11 members.

• Kazan (2024): a 'partner country' category was created. Several countries, such as Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda and Uzbekistan, accepted partner status.

WHY EXPANSION MATTERS FOR INDIA

• Opportunity: a larger Global South voice, alternatives in development finance (NDB), and a platform for UN reform.

• Challenge: consensus is harder. In May 2026, the BRICS foreign ministers meeting in New Delhi ended with a Chair's Statement instead of a joint declaration, because of differences on West Asia.

• India has stressed that BRICS is non-Western, not anti-Western, and has been cautious about common-currency proposals.

NDB MEMBERSHIP

This is distinct from BRICS membership: Bangladesh, the UAE, Egypt and Algeria joined the NDB.

BRICS membership timeline

Year	Change
2009	BRIC first summit
2010-11	South Africa joins
Jan 2024	Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE join
Jan 2025	Indonesia joins
Dec 2023	Argentina declines invitation

Argentina declined BRICS membership in 2023. Saudi Arabia's status is unconfirmed. Indonesia joined in 2025. Partner countries (Kazan, 2024) are not full members.

75 **The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) entered into force on 15 July 2026. With reference to this agreement, consider the following statements:**

1. The agreement was signed in July 2025 and entered into force about a year later.
2. A Double Contribution Convention entered into force alongside it, exempting Indian workers temporarily in the UK from UK social security contributions for a limited period.
3. The United Kingdom negotiated the agreement as a member of the European Free Trade Association.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Reading a solution shows you the answer. Sitting the test shows you yourself.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (a) 1 and 2 only. Statement 3 is wrong: the UK is not a member of EFTA, whose members are Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. India's separate Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with EFTA came into force on 1 October 2025.

THE DEVELOPMENT

• The CETA was signed in London on 24 July 2025 during the Prime Minister's visit. On 17 June 2026, on the sidelines of the G7 summit at Evian, the two governments announced it would enter into force on 15 July 2026.
• Indian official statements describe duty-free access for about 99% of India's exports to the UK by value. On the Indian side, tariffs are phased down on items such as Scotch whisky and automobiles.
• It is expected to raise bilateral trade substantially. The UK government's estimate is about £25.5 billion a year in the long run.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. The gap between signing and entry into force reflects domestic ratification procedures - in the UK, parliamentary scrutiny under the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act, 2010.
• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Under the Double Contribution Convention, Indian workers temporarily posted to the UK, and their employers, are exempt from UK social security contributions for up to three years, and vice versa. This avoids paying twice into two systems. It is a separate treaty that came into force with the CETA.
• Statement 3 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. The UK left the EU in 2020 and negotiates independently. TEPA carries an investment commitment of USD 100 billion over 15 years.

STATIC REVISION - INDIA'S RECENT TRADE AGREEMENTS

• India-UAE CEPA (in force May 2022).
• India-Australia ECTA (December 2022).
• India-EFTA TEPA (October 2025).
• India-UK CETA (July 2026).
• India-EU FTA concluded in January 2026, with signing targeted by the end of 2026.

KEY TERMS

Rules of origin, tariff-rate quotas, mutual recognition agreements, and a CBAM-style carbon border tax (an EU concern) are frequent exam themes.

India's recent trade pacts

Agreement	Partner	Status
CEPA	UAE	In force May 2022
TEPA	EFTA	In force 1 Oct 2025
CETA	UK	In force 15 July 2026
FTA	EU	Concluded Jan 2026; signing targeted 2026

> EFTA ≠ EU, and the UK is in neither. The CETA was signed in 2025 and took effect in 2026. The Double Contribution Convention is a separate social-security treaty.

Whoever sent you this knows their strengths, understands their gaps, and knows where they're headed. They're preparing with clarity and confidence—not fear. They know their edge. You can too.

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76 **The 18th BRICS Summit was held in New Delhi on 12-13 September 2026 and adopted the New Delhi Declaration. With reference to BRICS, consider the following statements:**

1. The 2026 summit was held under India's fourth BRICS Chairship.
2. The theme of India's Chairship was 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'.
3. China is to hold the BRICS Chairship in 2027.
4. BRICS has a permanent secretariat that supervises implementation of summit declarations.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three ✓

(d) All four

Explanation

The correct answer is (c) Only three. Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong: BRICS has NO permanent secretariat. It works through a rotating chairship, sherpa meetings and ministerial tracks. The summit noted a mechanism to follow up outcomes through the Troika (past, present and next chairs).

THE DEVELOPMENT

• The 18th BRICS Summit was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on 12-13 September 2026. It also marked the 20th anniversary of BRICS.

• The leaders unanimously adopted the New Delhi Declaration on the first day. Reports describe a document of about 140 paragraphs.

• Its contents included:

- support for comprehensive UN reform, including a greater role for Brazil and India in the Security Council;
- condemnation of the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack;
- concern over unilateral tariffs;
- resilient supply chains, including for critical minerals;
- a BRICS-New Development Bank knowledge portal.

• The Declaration is a political statement, not a legally binding treaty.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. India earlier chaired BRICS in 2012, 2016 and 2021.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. The four priorities spell 'RICS'.

• Statement 3 - CORRECT. The chair rotates in the order of the original acronym (B-R-I-C-S), so China follows India.

• Statement 4 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict.

STATIC REVISION - BRICS

• The first BRIC foreign ministers' meeting was in 2006 and the first summit at Yekaterinburg in 2009. South Africa joined in 2010-11.

• Expansion: Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the UAE joined from January 2024, and Indonesia from January 2025. Saudi Arabia's status has remained ambiguous, and Argentina declined.

• The New Development Bank (Fortaleza agreement, 2014) is headquartered in Shanghai; K.V. Kamath was its first president.

• The Contingent Reserve Arrangement provides a liquidity backstop.

• A category of 'partner countries' was created at Kazan (2024).

India's BRICS Chairships

Year	Summit	Venue
2012	4th	New Delhi
2016	8th	Goa
2021	13th	Virtual
2026	18th	New Delhi

BRICS has no permanent secretariat (unlike the SCO). 2026 = India's 4th chairship. The chair rotates in acronym order, so China is next.

77 **In the following question, an Assertion (A) is followed by a Reason (R). Select the correct option from the codes given below.**

Assertion (A): The GSLV, which launched EOS-05 in September 2026, can place heavier satellites into geosynchronous transfer orbit than the PSLV.

Reason (R): Unlike the PSLV, the GSLV uses solid-fuel strap-on boosters around its first stage.

(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

The exam will ask what you avoided. Find out what that is while it still costs nothing.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (C): A is true, but R is false. The GSLV's GTO capability comes mainly from its indigenous CRYOGENIC upper stage. Its four strap-on boosters (L40) are LIQUID-fuelled. It is the PSLV that uses solid strap-ons.

ASSERTION - TRUE
• The GSLV (Mk II) can place about 2-2.5 tonnes into GTO; GSLV-F17 lifted the roughly 2,367 kg EOS-05 into sub-GTO.
• The PSLV, India's workhorse for low and polar orbits, can carry only about 1.4 tonnes to sub-GTO.
• The GSLV's advantage comes from its Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS). Liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen give the highest specific impulse - thrust per unit of propellant - of chemical rockets.

REASON - FALSE
• GSLV Mk II configuration:
- first stage: S139, a solid motor;
- four L40 strap-ons: liquid, using Vikas engines with UDMH/N2O4;
- second stage: GS2, liquid (Vikas);
- third stage: the cryogenic CUS.
• PSLV configuration (PSLV-XL):
- PS1: solid, with six SOLID strap-ons (PSOM-XL);
- PS2: liquid (Vikas);
- PS3: solid - the stage implicated in the 2025 and 2026 PSLV failures;
- PS4: liquid.
• R inverts the facts, so the answer is (C).

TOPIC REVISION - THE CRYOGENIC STORY
• The 1990s Russian deal for cryogenic technology transfer was curtailed under the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) pressure.
• India developed its own CUS. It first flew successfully on GSLV-D5 in January 2014.
• LVM3 (formerly GSLV Mk III) uses the larger C25 cryogenic stage with S200 solid boosters. It is human-rated as HLVM3 for Gaganyaan and can lift about 4 tonnes to GTO.
• India joined the MTCR in 2016.
• Cryogenic propellants must be stored at very low temperatures (LH2 at about −253 °C), which makes the engineering difficult.

WHY IT MATTERS
Heavy-lift capability determines self-reliance for communications, navigation (NavIC) and geo-imaging satellites.

> PSLV = solid strap-ons. GSLV Mk II = liquid L40 strap-ons plus a cryogenic upper stage. LVM3 = S200 solid boosters plus the C25 cryogenic stage.

78 **The 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel for discoveries of light-gated ion channels and their use in optogenetics. Optogenetics refers to:**

(a) controlling the activity of genetically modified cells, such as neurons, using light-sensitive proteins ✓

(b) editing faulty genes in living cells using a guide RNA and the bacterial Cas9 enzyme as molecular scissors

(c) imaging the living brain by detecting changes in blood oxygen levels through a magnetic resonance scanner

(d) treating diseased tissue by activating a photosensitising drug with light so that it kills abnormal cells

Explanation

The correct answer is (a). In optogenetics, genes for light-sensitive ion channels such as channelrhodopsin are introduced into specific cells. Pulses of light then switch those cells on or off with millisecond precision.

THE DEVELOPMENT

• The Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institutet announced the prize on 5 October 2026.
• Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel identified channelrhodopsins - light-gated ion channels from green algae such as Chlamydomonas, which use them for phototaxis.
• Karl Deisseroth (Stanford) showed, from about 2005, that inserting these genes into mammalian neurons lets researchers control the neurons with light, creating the field of optogenetics.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict. When light of the right wavelength (often blue) hits channelrhodopsin, the channel opens and positive ions flow in, so the neuron fires. Other proteins, such as halorhodopsin, silence neurons. Scientists can test which circuits cause behaviours, memories or symptoms.
• Option (b) - WRONG. That is CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing (Chemistry Nobel 2020, Charpentier and Doudna).
• Option (c) - WRONG. That is functional MRI (fMRI), which uses the BOLD (blood-oxygen-level-dependent) signal.
• Option (d) - WRONG. That is photodynamic therapy, a clinical cancer and skin treatment unrelated to ion channels.

WHY IT MATTERS

• Research: mapping neural circuits in Parkinson's disease, depression, addiction and memory.
• Clinical promise: partial restoration of vision in retinitis pigmentosa by making surviving retinal cells light-sensitive; early trials have reported results.
• Limitations: it needs gene delivery (often viral vectors), there are safety concerns, and light must reach deep tissue.

STATIC REVISION - KEY TERMS

• Ion channels: membrane proteins that let ions flow; nerve impulses depend on Na+ and K+ channels.
• Viral vectors (AAV) deliver genes.
• The 2021 Medicine Nobel was for temperature and touch receptors (TRPV1, Piezo).

Bio-tools that are often confused

Technique	What it does
Optogenetics	Light controls cells expressing light-gated channels
CRISPR-Cas9	Edits DNA at chosen sites
fMRI	Images brain activity via blood oxygen
Photodynamic therapy	Light activates a drug to kill abnormal cells

Optogenetics = light plus genetically targeted ion channels. Do not confuse it with CRISPR (editing), fMRI (imaging) or photodynamic therapy (drug activation).

Every explanation here was written to teach, not to justify an answer key.

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79 **On 4 September 2026, ISRO's GSLV-F17 launched EOS-05 (GISAT-1A), described as India's first geosynchronous Earth-imaging satellite. What is the main advantage of imaging from geosynchronous orbit compared with a low Earth orbit?**

(a) It gives much finer spatial resolution than any satellite orbiting in low Earth orbit can achieve.

(b) It allows repeated, near-continuous imaging of the same large region, aiding real-time monitoring. ✓

(c) It provides complete coverage of the polar regions in a single pass over the Earth every day.

(d) It removes the need for station-keeping manoeuvres over the whole operational life of the satellite.

Explanation

The correct answer is (b). A satellite in geosynchronous orbit (about 35,786 km up) keeps pace with the Earth's rotation, so it can image the same region again and again. This suits monitoring of cyclones, floods, forest fires and border areas in near real time.

THE DEVELOPMENT

• GSLV-F17 lifted off from the Second Launch Pad at Sriharikota at 02:55 IST on 4 September 2026. It placed the roughly 2,367 kg EOS-05 into a sub-geosynchronous transfer orbit, from which the satellite raises itself to its final orbit.
• EOS-05 replaces GISAT-1 (EOS-03), lost when GSLV-F10's cryogenic stage failed in August 2021.
• This was ISRO's first successful launch of 2026, after the failures of PSLV-C61 (May 2025) and PSLV-C62 (January 2026), both traced to third-stage anomalies.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - WRONG. Resolution falls with distance. Low Earth orbit satellites (500-800 km), such as the Cartosat series, give much finer images than a satellite at about 36,000 km.
• Option (b) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict.
• Option (c) - WRONG. Geosynchronous satellites sit near the equatorial plane and see the poles poorly, if at all. Polar sun-synchronous orbits give global coverage, including the poles.
• Option (d) - WRONG. Station-keeping is needed against perturbations from the Moon, the Sun and the Earth's non-spherical shape. Fuel for it often sets the satellite's lifetime.

STATIC REVISION - ORBITS

• Geostationary: a geosynchronous orbit over the equator with zero inclination - it appears fixed in the sky (INSAT/GSAT communications).
• Geosynchronous: same period as the Earth's rotation (about 23 h 56 min); it may be inclined.
• GTO: an elliptical transfer orbit; 'sub-GTO' has a lower apogee.
• Sun-synchronous polar: a fixed local solar time for imaging (Resourcesat, Cartosat).
• The PSLV is used for low and polar orbits; the GSLV and LVM3 for GTO.

Orbits for Earth observation

Orbit	Altitude	Strength	Limitation
Low Earth / Sun-synchronous	500-800 km	High resolution, global coverage	Revisit gaps
Geosynchronous	~35,786 km	Near-continuous view of one region	Lower resolution, poor polar view

Geosynchronous imaging = frequent revisits over the same area at lower resolution. LEO = higher resolution with infrequent revisits. Geostationary is a special, zero-inclination case.

Well prepared is not the same as competitive. Know which one you are.

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80 **The 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to Francis Halzen for decisive contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the discovery of high-energy neutrinos of astrophysical origin. Consider the following statements:**

1. The IceCube Neutrino Observatory is embedded deep in the Antarctic ice at the South Pole.
2. Neutrinos are electrically neutral and interact only very weakly with matter, which makes them difficult to detect.
3. The phenomenon of neutrino oscillation shows that neutrinos are completely massless.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Explanation

The correct answer is (a) 1 and 2 only. Statement 3 is wrong: neutrino oscillation - a neutrino changing flavour as it travels - is possible only if neutrinos have mass. Its discovery won the 2015 Nobel Prize (Takaaki Kajita and Arthur McDonald).

THE DEVELOPMENT

• The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced the prize on 6 October 2026. The citation was 'for decisive contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the discovery of high-energy neutrinos of astrophysical origin'.

• Halzen (University of Wisconsin-Madison) led the effort to turn a cubic kilometre of Antarctic ice into a particle detector.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. IceCube, operating since about 2010-11 at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, has thousands of light sensors strung on cables between roughly 1.45 and 2.45 km deep in the ice.

- A rare neutrino interaction produces charged particles moving faster than light does in ice. They emit Cherenkov radiation (blue light), which the sensors record.
- The deep ice is very clear and dark, and the Earth screens out background particles.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Neutrinos are leptons with no charge and a tiny mass. Trillions pass through each of us every second, almost never interacting. Because they are not deflected by magnetic fields or absorbed by matter, they point straight back to their sources - blazars, active galaxies and the galactic plane - opening 'neutrino astronomy' alongside light, cosmic rays and gravitational waves.

• Statement 3 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. The three flavours are electron, muon and tau.

STATIC REVISION - INDIA'S CONNECTION

• The proposed India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) is an underground lab in the Bodi West Hills, Theni district, Tamil Nadu. Its iron calorimeter (ICAL) was designed for atmospheric neutrinos. The project has faced environmental and legal delays.

• India was a pioneer: Kolar Gold Fields detected atmospheric neutrinos in 1965.

OTHER 2026 SCIENCE NOBELS

Medicine - optogenetics; Chemistry - non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric synthesis.

Neutrino observatories

Observatory	Location	Medium
IceCube	South Pole	Antarctic ice
Super-Kamiokande	Japan	Water
Kolar Gold Fields (1965)	Karnataka, India	Deep mine
INO (proposed)	Theni, Tamil Nadu	Iron calorimeter

Neutrino oscillation PROVES non-zero mass (2015 Nobel). IceCube = South Pole ice (Cherenkov light). INO = Theni, Tamil Nadu (proposed).

81 **The 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai for discoveries concerning non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis. With reference to the underlying concepts, consider the following statements:**

1. A chiral molecule and its mirror image cannot be superimposed on each other.
2. The two mirror-image forms (enantiomers) of a drug molecule can have very different effects in the human body.
3. In asymmetric autocatalysis, a chiral product acts as a catalyst for its own formation and can amplify a small initial excess of one enantiomer.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

The exam doesn't ask how much you studied. It asks where you stand among everyone who studied too.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (d) 1, 2 and 3. All three statements correctly describe chirality, its pharmacological importance and the principle of asymmetric autocatalysis.

THE DEVELOPMENT

• The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced the prize on 7 October 2026.
• Henri Kagan (France) showed 'non-linear effects': the enantiomeric purity of a product need not be proportional to that of the chiral catalyst used.
• Kenso Soai (Japan) discovered a reaction - the 'Soai reaction' - in which the product catalyses its own formation with strong amplification of enantiomeric excess.
• The work bears on catalyst design, drug manufacture and the origin of biological homochirality.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Like left and right hands, chiral molecules - typically those with a carbon atom bonded to four different groups - exist as non-superimposable mirror images called enantiomers. They have identical physical properties, except that they rotate plane-polarised light in opposite directions.
• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Enzymes and receptors are themselves chiral, so they distinguish between enantiomers. The classic case is thalidomide (1950s-60s): one form relieved morning sickness, while the other was linked to severe birth defects. Today regulators often require single-enantiomer drugs or a full study of both forms.
• Statement 3 - CORRECT. Autocatalysis is positive feedback: the more product there is, the faster it forms. When the product is chiral, a tiny initial imbalance can grow into near-pure single-handedness. This is relevant to why life uses only L-amino acids and D-sugars (homochirality).

STATIC REVISION

• Catalysts speed up reactions without being consumed, by lowering activation energy.
• The 2001 Chemistry Nobel (Knowles, Noyori, Sharpless) honoured chirally catalysed reactions.
• The 2021 Chemistry Nobel (List, MacMillan) honoured asymmetric organocatalysis.
• Applications: pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, flavours and fragrances.

Nobel Prizes on chiral chemistry

Year	Laureates	Contribution
2001	Knowles, Noyori, Sharpless	Chirally catalysed hydrogenation / oxidation
2021	List, MacMillan	Asymmetric organocatalysis
2026	Kagan, Soai	Non-linear effects; asymmetric autocatalysis

Enantiomers share most physical properties but differ in optical rotation and biological activity. Autocatalysis = the product catalyses its own formation.

82 **On 15 October 2026, the Environment Ministry announced that Sukhna Wetland (Chandigarh) and Sauj Jheel (Uttar Pradesh) had been added to the Ramsar List, taking India's tally to 103. Consider the following statements:**

1. Sukhna Wetland lies at the foothills of the Shivalik range and is the first Ramsar Site in Chandigarh.
2. Sauj Jheel is located in Mainpuri district and is part of the Saman wetland complex in the Ganga floodplain.
3. India became a Contracting Party to the Ramsar Convention in 1982.
4. A site once placed on the Montreux Record cannot subsequently be removed from it.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three ✓
(d) All four

Explanation

The correct answer is (c) Only three. Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Statement 4 is wrong: sites are removed from the Montreux Record once their ecological character is restored. Chilika Lake was added in 1993 and removed in 2002.

THE DEVELOPMENT (PIB, MoEFCC, 15-16 October 2026)

• Sukhna Wetland and Sauj Jheel were announced as Ramsar Sites, taking India's network to 103.
• The Ramsar register lists Sukhna as Site No. 2602 and Sauj as Site No. 2603. Their formal designation dates in the register are earlier (March and June 2026), with publication on 15 October.
• Glaw Lake (Arunachal Pradesh) had become the 101st site in August 2026.
• India's network grew from 26 sites in 2014 to 103 in October 2026.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Sukhna Lake is a man-made reservoir at the base of the Shivaliks (Outer Himalaya). It was created in 1958 by damming the Sukhna Choe, a seasonal stream, as part of Le Corbusier's plan for Chandigarh. Siltation from its fragile catchment is a key management issue.
• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Sauj Jheel is a shallow floodplain lake in Mainpuri, near the Saman Bird Sanctuary (itself a Ramsar Site). It supports migratory waterbirds, and local fishing and grazing must be balanced with conservation.
• Statement 3 - CORRECT. The Convention was signed at Ramsar, Iran, on 2 February 1971 (World Wetlands Day). It entered into force for India on 1 February 1982, and Chilika and Keoladeo were the first Indian sites.
• Statement 4 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict.

STATIC REVISION

• The Montreux Record (1990) lists Ramsar Sites where ecological change has occurred or is likely. Indian sites currently on it: Keoladeo National Park and Loktak Lake.
• Criteria for designation include supporting 20,000 or more waterbirds, or 1% of a population.
• Domestic law: the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, with State Wetland Authorities.
• The Amrit Dharohar initiative (2023) promotes Ramsar Sites.

India's Ramsar journey

Year	Milestone
1971	Convention signed at Ramsar, Iran
1982	India joins; Chilika, Keoladeo listed
2014	26 sites
Aug 2026	Glaw Lake - 101st
Oct 2026	Sukhna, Sauj Jheel - total 103

Removal from the Montreux Record is possible (Chilika, 2002). India joined in 1982; the Convention dates from 1971. 103 = tally as of October 2026.

A limited number of places. One honest question: are you holding yours?
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83 **In the following question, an Assertion (A) is followed by a Reason (R). Select the correct option from the codes given below.**

Assertion (A): The Norwegian Nobel Committee credited Navi Pillay with helping to establish that rape can constitute an act of genocide under international law.

Reason (R): As a judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, she was part of the Trial Chamber that, in the Akayesu case (1998), recognised rape and sexual violence as acts of genocide.

(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

Explanation

The correct answer is (A): both A and R are true, and R correctly explains A. The landmark Akayesu judgment of the ICTR, in which Pillay sat as a judge, is the basis of this recognition.

ASSERTION - TRUE

• The 2026 Peace Prize announcement and coverage highlighted Pillay's role in developing international criminal law, including the recognition that sexual violence can be an instrument of genocide.
• The Committee described her as one of the most respected international jurists of her time.

REASON - TRUE, AND IT EXPLAINS A

• In Prosecutor v. Jean-Paul Akayesu (2 September 1998), an ICTR Trial Chamber of three judges, including Pillay, convicted a former Rwandan mayor of genocide.
• It was the first conviction for genocide by an international court. It held that rape and sexual violence, committed with intent to destroy a group (here the Tutsi), can constitute genocide under the 1948 Genocide Convention, through 'causing serious bodily or mental harm'.
• It also gave the first definition of rape in international law.
• Because this judgment is the source of the recognition in A, R explains A.

STATIC REVISION - THE GENOCIDE CONVENTION (1948)

• Genocide is defined by the INTENT to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.
• It can be committed by killing members, causing serious harm, imposing destructive conditions of life, preventing births, or forcibly transferring children.
• The term was coined by Raphael Lemkin (1944).
• India ratified the Convention in 1959 but has no specific domestic law on genocide.

RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

• The ICTY (Foca cases) recognised rape as a crime against humanity.
• The Rome Statute (1998) lists sexual violence as a crime against humanity and a war crime.
• UN Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008) addresses sexual violence in conflict.

UPSC CONNECTION

Links human rights institutions, international tribunals and the jurisprudence of the international legal order, which the 2026 prize emphasised.

> Akayesu (ICTR, 1998) = the first international genocide conviction and rape recognised as genocide. Genocide hinges on intent to destroy a protected group.

The exam ranks everyone together, whatever language they write in. So does this.

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84 Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay was awarded the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize 'for her efforts to promote peace and international law'. Which one of the following statements is correct?

(a) She served as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. ✓

(b) The Nobel Peace Prize is selected by a committee of the Swedish Academy in Stockholm.

(c) She was the first woman to be elected President of the International Court of Justice.

(d) She was the first person from Africa ever to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Explanation

The correct answer is (a). Navi Pillay, a South African jurist born in Durban in 1941, served as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights from 2008 to 2014.

THE DEVELOPMENT

• The Norwegian Nobel Committee announced the prize in Oslo on 9 October 2026. It praised Pillay as 'instrumental in ensuring that war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide are prosecuted' and stressed the link between peace and international law.
• The prize was to be presented on 10 December, the anniversary of Nobel's death.
• The Committee had received 287 nominations.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict. Her career:
- lawyer defending anti-apartheid activists in South Africa;
- judge of the South African High Court;
- judge and later President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR);
- judge of the International Criminal Court (ICC);
- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2008-14).
• Option (b) - WRONG. The Peace Prize is decided by the five-member Norwegian Nobel Committee, appointed by the Norwegian Parliament (Storting), and announced in Oslo. The Swedish Academy selects the Literature prize.
• Option (c) - WRONG. Pillay never served on the ICJ. The first woman ICJ President was Rosalyn Higgins of the UK (2006-09).
• Option (d) - WRONG. Africans had won before - for example Albert Luthuli (1960), Desmond Tutu (1984), Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk (1993), Kofi Annan (2001) and Wangari Maathai (2004).

STATIC REVISION - INTERNATIONAL COURTS

• ICJ (The Hague, 1945): the UN's principal judicial organ; disputes between States.
• ICC (The Hague, Rome Statute 1998, in force 2002): individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and aggression. India is NOT a party.
• ICTR (Arusha) and ICTY: ad hoc UN Security Council tribunals of the 1990s.
• OHCHR (Geneva) supports the Human Rights Council; the High Commissioner post was created in 1993.

ICJ vs ICC

Feature	ICJ	ICC
Founded	1945 (UN Charter)	2002 (Rome Statute)
Tries	Disputes between States	Individuals
Seat	The Hague	The Hague
India	UN member, hence party	Not a party

Peace Prize = Norwegian Nobel Committee (Oslo). Pillay = ICTR, ICC and UN human rights chief - never the ICJ. India is not a party to the ICC's Rome Statute.

85 **Consider the following statements about the Nobel Prizes announced in October 2026 and the related concepts:**

1. The 2026 prize in Economic Sciences, awarded to Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford, recognised work on the microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation.
2. The prize in Economic Sciences was instituted by Sweden's central bank, the Sveriges Riksbank, in 1968.
3. The 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded to the Canadian poet and classicist Anne Carson.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3 ✓

Write in your language. Be ranked against everyone. Nothing here is measured in a smaller room.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (d) 1, 2 and 3. All three statements are correct.

THE DEVELOPMENT

• Economic Sciences (announced 12 October 2026): Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford, 'for microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation'. Their models help governments and central banks manage economic fluctuations.

• Literature (announced in October 2026): Anne Carson, the Canadian poet, essayist and translator of Greek classics.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Woodford is a leading figure of New Keynesian economics. His work, including 'Interest and Prices' (2003), grounds monetary policy in models with sticky prices and forward-looking households and firms. It explains why credible, rule-based inflation targeting and clear communication (forward guidance) matter.

Hall's work spans labour markets, business cycles and the measurement of recessions; he long chaired the NBER business-cycle dating committee.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. It is formally the 'Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel'. It was established in 1968, on the bank's 300th anniversary, and first awarded in 1969 (Frisch and Tinbergen). The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences selects the laureates. It is not one of the five prizes in Nobel's 1895 will.

• Statement 3 - CORRECT. Carson's works include 'Autobiography of Red' and 'Nox'.

STATIC CONNECTION - INFLATION TARGETING IN INDIA

• India adopted flexible inflation targeting through the 2016 amendment of the RBI Act. The target is CPI inflation of 4% within a 2-6% band, set by the Central Government in consultation with the RBI for five-year periods.

• It is implemented by the six-member MPC.

• The theory honoured in 2026 underpins such frameworks, including the use of a policy rate and of stance-based forward guidance, as in the RBI's October 2026 'calibrated tightening'.

OTHER 2026 PRIZES

• Peace: Navi Pillay.

• Physics: Francis Halzen (IceCube).

• Chemistry: Kagan and Soai.

• Medicine: Deisseroth, Hegemann and Nagel (optogenetics).

• The prize money was 12 million Swedish kronor each.

Nobel Prizes 2026

Category	Laureate(s)
Physiology or Medicine	Deisseroth, Hegemann, Nagel
Physics	Francis Halzen
Chemistry	Henri B. Kagan, Kenso Soai
Literature	Anne Carson
Peace	Navi Pillay
Economic Sciences	Robert E. Hall, Michael Woodford

The Economics prize is the Riksbank's 1968 prize, not one of Nobel's original five. The Peace prize is decided in Oslo; the others in Stockholm.

86 **On 31 August 2026, the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation announced Tommy Koh (Singapore), Runa Khan (Bangladesh) and Bo Kyi (Myanmar) as the 2026 awardees. Consider the following statements:**

1. Tommy Koh presided over the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, which produced UNCLOS.
2. Vinoba Bhave was among the first recipients of the award in 1958.
3. The award is conferred by the Government of the Philippines through its Department of Foreign Affairs.
4. One of the three 2026 awardees is an Indian citizen.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one	**(b) Only two ✓**
(c) Only three	(d) All four

The costliest mistake in this exam isn't a wrong answer. It's a year you can't get back.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (b) Only two. Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong because the award is conferred by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, a private, non-government body. Statement 4 is wrong because the 2026 awardees are from Singapore, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

THE DEVELOPMENT

• The RMAF announced the 2026 awardees on 31 August 2026, the 119th birth anniversary of President Ramon Magsaysay.

• The awardees:

- Tommy Koh: Singaporean diplomat and legal scholar, recognised for leadership in international law and diplomacy.
- Runa Khan: Bangladeshi social development leader working with remote, climate-vulnerable communities.
- Bo Kyi: Myanmar human rights advocate and former political prisoner.

• The awards were to be presented at the 68th presentation ceremony in Manila on 15 November 2026.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Koh presided over UNCLOS III (1980-82), which produced the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, often called a 'constitution for the oceans'. He also chaired the main committee preparing for the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.

- UNCLOS defines the 12-nautical-mile territorial sea, the 24-nm contiguous zone, the 200-nm EEZ and the continental shelf.
- It created ITLOS (Hamburg) and the International Seabed Authority (Kingston).
- India ratified it in 1995.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Vinoba Bhave (Bhoodan movement) received it in 1958 for Community Leadership.

• Statement 3 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. The Foundation was set up in 1957, initially with support from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund; the Ford Foundation also supports it.

• Statement 4 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict.

STATIC REVISION - INDIAN AWARDEES (select)

Mother Teresa (1962), Satyajit Ray (1967), M.S. Subbulakshmi (1974), Kiran Bedi (1994), Arvind Kejriwal (2006), Ravish Kumar (2019), and Educate Girls (2025, an organisation).

NOTE

The award is often called 'Asia's Nobel Prize'.

2026 Ramon Magsaysay awardees

Awardee	Country	Field
Tommy Koh	Singapore	International law and diplomacy
Runa Khan	Bangladesh	Social development
Bo Kyi	Myanmar	Human rights

> The Magsaysay Award is given by a private foundation (RMAF), not the Philippine government. Tommy Koh = UNCLOS III president. No Indian among the 2026 awardees.

A test tells you where you stand. Daily practice is how you move.
Both are in the Testogram app.
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87 **In the following question, an Assertion (A) is followed by a Reason (R). Select the correct option from the codes given below.**

Assertion (A): On 29 October 2026, the Supreme Court struck down a 2022 Karnataka law that sought to revive a recruitment process whose cancellation had been upheld by the courts.

Reason (R): A legislature cannot directly annul a judicial decision; it can only remove the legal basis of the decision by validly changing the law.

(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

Explanation

The correct answer is (A): both A and R are true, and R correctly explains A. The 2022 Act cured no legal defect and only tried to nullify judgments. It was therefore an encroachment on judicial power.

ASSERTION - TRUE

• In Srinivasa T. v. State of Karnataka (2026 INSC 1173; Bench including Justice J.B. Pardiwala), the Court struck down the Karnataka Civil Services (Validation of Selection and Appointment of 2011 Batch Gazetted Probationers) Act, 2022.
• The selection had been cancelled because of irregularities, and the cancellation had been upheld by the High Court and the Supreme Court. The Act sought to restore the selection anyway.
• The Court ordered fresh recruitment, with limited age relaxation for candidates who were not tainted.

REASON - TRUE, AND IT EXPLAINS A

• Settled law: a legislature may enact a validating law, even retrospectively, that removes the defect identified by a court, so that the decision could not have been given under the amended law (Shri Prithvi Cotton Mills, 1969; Indian Aluminium Co., 1996).
• But a law that merely declares a judgment ineffective, or overrides a writ without changing the underlying law, usurps judicial power (Madan Mohan Pathak, 1978).
• Because the Karnataka Act did only the latter, R explains why A happened.

STATIC REVISION - SEPARATION OF POWERS

• India has a functional, not rigid, separation of powers.
• Judicial review and separation of powers are basic features (Kesavananda, 1973).
• In Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain (1975), the Court struck down Article 329A(4), inserted by the 39th Amendment, which had validated an election by declaration.
• Article 50 (a DPSP) directs separation of the judiciary from the executive.
• Hardship to beneficiaries of an illegal process does not save an unconstitutional validating law.

UPSC LINK

Distinguish 'legislative overruling by changing the law' (permitted) from 'legislative annulment of a judgment' (not permitted).

> Changing the LAW behind a judgment is permitted; annulling the JUDGMENT is not. Both statements are true, and R is the ground of the decision - answer (A).

88 **The sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court was raised from 34 to 38 (including the Chief Justice of India) in 2026. Which one of the following statements regarding this change is correct?**

(a) The strength is fixed by the Constitution itself and was changed by an amendment under Article 368.

(b) The change required ratification by at least half of the State Legislatures before taking effect.

(c) The President cannot promulgate an ordinance on this subject because it concerns the higher judiciary.

(d) The increase was first made through an ordinance and was later given effect by an Act of Parliament. ✓

Explanation

The correct answer is (d). The strength was first raised by the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026. Five judges were sworn in on 2 June 2026 under it. The change was then enacted as an Act, which received Presidential assent in August 2026.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - WRONG. Article 124(1) provides for a CJI and 'until Parliament by law prescribes a larger number' seven other judges. The number is therefore fixed by an ordinary law - the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 - not by a constitutional amendment. The 2026 change raised the judges other than the CJI from 33 to 37.

• Option (b) - WRONG. Since this is ordinary legislation and not an amendment under Article 368, no State ratification is involved.

• Option (c) - WRONG. Under Article 123, the President can promulgate an ordinance on any matter on which Parliament can legislate, when either House is not in session and the President is satisfied that immediate action is needed.

• Option (d) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict.

STATIC REVISION - ORDINANCES

• An ordinance has the same force as an Act. It must be laid before both Houses and ceases six weeks after Parliament reassembles, unless disapproved earlier.

• The President's satisfaction is not immune from judicial review (Cooper, 1970). Re-promulgating ordinances is a fraud on the Constitution (Krishna Kumar Singh, 2017; D.C. Wadhwa, 1987).

• Ordinances can be made only on matters within Parliament's competence. They cannot amend the Constitution.

HISTORY OF THE COURT'S STRENGTH

8 (1950) → 11 (1956) → 14 (1960) → 18 (1978) → 26 (1986) → 31 (2008) → 34 (2019) → 38 (2026).

WHY IT MATTERS

Pendency of over 90,000 cases and the need to constitute regular Constitution Benches drove the expansion.

Supreme Court strength over time

Year	Sanctioned strength (incl. CJI)
1950	8
1956	11
1986	26
2008	31
2019	34
2026	38

> The Supreme Court's strength is set by an Act of Parliament (Article 124(1)), not by a constitutional amendment. Ordinances are valid on any subject within Parliament's competence.

If you only find out on result day, you found out too late.

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89 **In August 2026, the chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee examining the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024 ('One Nation, One Election') said a 2029 rollout was possible if the Constitution is amended and States agree. Which one of the following is proposed in the Bill?**

(a) An Assembly elected after a premature dissolution would get a fresh full term of five years from its first sitting.

(b) Elections to municipalities and panchayats would be synchronised with Lok Sabha elections in the first phase itself.

(c) An Assembly elected after a premature dissolution would continue only for the unexpired part of the full term. ✓

(d) A State whose Assembly is dissolved early would automatically come under President's Rule until the next cycle.

Explanation

The correct answer is (c). To keep elections synchronised, the Bill provides that a House elected after a premature dissolution serves only the 'unexpired term' of the full five years, by amending Articles 83 and 172 and inserting Article 82A.

THE DEVELOPMENT

• The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 17 December 2024 and referred to a JPC chaired by P.P. Chaudhary.
• On 24 August 2026, he said a 2029 rollout was possible if Parliament amends the Constitution by 2028 and the States agree.
• Status: the Bill is PENDING before the JPC. It is not law.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - WRONG. This is the PRESENT position under Article 172: every newly elected Assembly gets five years from its first meeting, which is why cycles drifted apart after 1967-70.
• Option (b) - WRONG. Local bodies are not covered. The Kovind Committee (2024) proposed them as a second phase, which would need ratification by the States because Parts IX and IXA would be affected.
• Option (c) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict.
• Option (d) - WRONG. There is no automatic President's Rule. Article 356 has its own conditions and is subject to judicial review (S.R. Bommai, 1994).

KEY FEATURES OF THE BILL

• It inserts Article 82A: the President notifies an 'appointed date' at the first sitting of the Lok Sabha after a general election, and Assemblies elected after that date end with the Lok Sabha's term.
• It amends Article 327 to cover 'conduct of simultaneous elections'.

THE DEBATE

• Supporters cite lower costs and less policy paralysis from the Model Code of Conduct.
• Critics argue that curtailed Assembly terms hurt federalism and accountability, and that the change may need State ratification.

HISTORY

Elections were simultaneous in 1951-52, 1957, 1962 and 1967.

Assembly term: present vs proposed

Situation	Present Constitution	129th Amendment Bill
Normal term	5 years from first meeting	Ends with the Lok Sabha's term
After premature dissolution	Fresh 5 years	Only the unexpired term
Local bodies	Separate cycles	Not covered (later phase)

The Bill is pending, not enacted. A mid-term House gets only the unexpired term (proposed). Local bodies are excluded from phase one.

90 **On 20 August 2026, a nine-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, by a 5:4 majority, refined the 'triple test' for 'industry' laid down in Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board v. A. Rajappa (1978). Consider the following statements:**

1. The 1978 judgment that laid down the triple test was delivered by a seven-judge Bench.
2. Under Article 141, the law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all courts within India.
3. Because it was decided by a 5:4 split, the 2026 ruling carries less precedential weight than a unanimous seven-judge decision.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only ✓

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Practise daily, and the test stops being a surprise.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (a) 1 and 2 only. Statement 3 is wrong: precedential weight depends on the STRENGTH of the Bench, not the margin of the majority. A majority judgment of nine judges binds all smaller Benches. Kesavananda Bharati itself was decided 7:6.

THE DEVELOPMENT

• In State of U.P. v. Jai Bir Singh (20 August 2026), a nine-judge Constitution Bench answered a long-pending reference on the meaning of 'industry' under Section 2(j) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
• By majority, it upheld the reference as maintainable, and by 5:4 it refined - not overruled - the Bangalore Water Supply triple test.
• Pending disputes continue to be decided under the earlier test. The definition in the Industrial Relations Code, 2020 was not decided.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, for a seven-judge Bench, held that an activity is an 'industry' if there is:
- systematic activity;
- organised by cooperation between employer and employee;
- for the production or distribution of goods and services calculated to satisfy human wants.
This brought hospitals, educational institutions and many government departments within labour law. Only a larger Bench could revisit it, hence the nine judges.
• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Article 141 binds courts below the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court itself can depart from its precedents through larger Benches.
• Statement 3 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict.

STATIC REVISION

• Article 145(3): substantial questions of constitutional interpretation need at least five judges.
• Smaller Benches must follow larger ones and may only refer doubts upward (Dawoodi Bohra, 2005).
• Prospective overruling was first used in Golaknath (1967). The 2026 ruling's protection of pending cases reflects a similar concern for settled expectations.

CONTEXT

The Supreme Court Observer counts 21 nine-judge Benches since 1950.

The 'industry' question

Case	Bench	Outcome
Bangalore Water Supply (1978)	7 judges	Triple test; wide meaning of industry
Jai Bir Singh (2026)	9 judges	Test refined by 5:4; pending cases under old test

> Bangalore Water Supply = seven judges (1978). Bench size, not the vote margin, decides binding force. The 2026 ruling refined the test rather than overruling it.

Stamina is a skill. Marathon is where you build it before the exam asks for it.

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91 On 1 July 2026, the Supreme Court held that a remission policy framed by a State in exercise of the Governor's power under Article 161 cannot be overridden by a later statutory remission policy. With reference to the clemency powers under the Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. The power of the Governor under Article 161 includes the power to remit and to commute a sentence.
2. The Governor exercises the power under Article 161 on the aid and advice of the State Council of Ministers.
3. The Governor can grant a pardon in respect of a sentence passed by a court martial.
4. The exercise of the power under Article 161 is wholly immune from judicial review.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one	**(b) Only two ✓**
(c) Only three	(d) All four

Explanation

The correct answer is (b) Only two. Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong because only the PRESIDENT can pardon sentences by court martial (Article 72(1)(a)). Statement 4 is wrong because clemency decisions are open to limited judicial review (Epuru Sudhakar, 2006).

THE DEVELOPMENT

• In Parveen Kumar v. State of Haryana (1 July 2026; Justices Sanjay Karol and N. Kotiswar Singh), the Court held that a remission policy issued under the Governor's constitutional power in Article 161 cannot be overridden by a subsequent policy framed under the statutory remission power of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
• The Court also explained the narrow scope of the 'per incuriam' doctrine.
• The case highlights the difference between the constitutional clemency power and the statutory remission power - now in the BNSS, previously Sections 432-433 CrPC.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Article 161 empowers the Governor to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment, or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of a person convicted of an offence against a law relating to a matter within the State's executive power.
• Statement 2 - CORRECT. In Maru Ram (1980) and Kehar Singh (1989), the Court held that the clemency power is exercised on the advice of the Council of Ministers, not in the Governor's or President's personal discretion.
• Statement 3 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. The President alone can also pardon a sentence of death under Article 72.
• Statement 4 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. A decision can be quashed if it was taken mala fide, on irrelevant grounds, without application of mind, or arbitrarily.

STATIC CONTRAST - PRESIDENT vs GOVERNOR

• The President covers Union-law offences, court martial and death sentences.
• The Governor covers State-law offences.
• Both act on ministerial advice.

Clemency powers compared

Feature	President (Art. 72)	Governor (Art. 161)
Offences covered	Union laws; court martial; death sentence	State laws
Court-martial sentences	Yes	No
Basis of exercise	Aid and advice	Aid and advice
Judicial review	Limited	Limited

> Court-martial sentences = President only (Article 72). Clemency is exercised on ministerial advice and is reviewable on limited grounds.

92 **On 15 October 2026, in Just Rights for Children Alliance v. S. Harish, the Supreme Court held that the right to access and use the internet is a fundamental right. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Court located the right in Article 21 read with Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.
2. In Anuradha Bhasin (2020), the Supreme Court had held that orders suspending internet services must satisfy the test of proportionality.
3. The rights under Article 19 are available to all persons in India, including foreigners.
4. Having been recognised as a fundamental right, the right to internet access cannot be subjected to any restriction.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two ✓
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Explanation

The correct answer is (b) Only two. Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong because Article 19 rights are available only to CITIZENS. Statement 4 is wrong because the right remains subject to reasonable, proportionate restrictions - the Court itself endorsed safeguards for children.

THE DEVELOPMENT

• A Bench including Justice J.B. Pardiwala was hearing applications on child sexual exploitation and abuse material online. It held that every individual, including children irrespective of age, has a fundamental right to access and use the internet under Article 21 read with Article 19(1)(a).
• It rejected blanket age-based bans as a solution, while supporting proportionate safeguards.
• The Union was asked to file a progress affidavit.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict.
• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India (2020) concerned the internet shutdown in J&K. It held that freedom of speech and the freedom to carry on trade through the internet are protected under Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(g). Suspension orders must be published, be temporary and be proportionate, and they are subject to review.
• Statement 3 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. Article 21 (life and personal liberty), by contrast, protects every person, including foreigners - which is why the Court read the two Articles together.
• Statement 4 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. Article 19(2) permits reasonable restrictions, and Article 21 allows deprivation by a procedure that is fair, just and reasonable (Maneka Gandhi, 1978).

RELATED JURISPRUDENCE

• Faheema Shirin (Kerala High Court, 2019): internet access is part of the rights to education and privacy.
• Puttaswamy (2017): privacy is a fundamental right.
• Shreya Singhal (2015): Section 66A of the IT Act was struck down.
• Cricket Association of Bengal (1995): Article 19(1)(a) includes the right to receive and impart information.

WHY IT MATTERS

Shutdowns, age-verification and the digital divide now have to be justified against a recognised fundamental right.

Internet and the courts

Case	Year	Holding
Shreya Singhal	2015	Section 66A IT Act struck down
Anuradha Bhasin	2020	Shutdowns must be proportionate and reviewable
Just Rights for Children Alliance v. S. Harish	2026	Internet access a fundamental right (Art. 21 r/w 19(1)(a))

Article 19 = citizens only; Article 21 = all persons. Fundamental rights (other than a few absolute ones like Article 17) are subject to reasonable restrictions.

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93 **On 6 October 2026, three High Court Chief Justices took oath as judges of the Supreme Court, a week after the Collegium recommended them on 28 September 2026. With reference to the appointment of Supreme Court judges, consider the following statements:**

1. Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal under Article 124(2).
2. A person must have been a judge of a High Court for at least ten years to be eligible for appointment to the Supreme Court.
3. Before entering office, a Supreme Court judge makes an oath before the President or a person appointed by the President for that purpose.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only ✓

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation

The correct answer is (c) 1 and 3 only. Statement 2 is wrong: Article 124(3) requires five years as a High Court judge, OR ten years as an advocate of a High Court, OR being a distinguished jurist in the President's opinion.

THE DEVELOPMENT

• The Collegium headed by CJI Surya Kant recommended Justices Sunita Agarwal, Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Aparesh Kumar Singh on 28 September 2026. The Union notified their appointments on 5 October, and they took oath on 6 October 2026.
• The working strength rose to 37, against the new sanctioned strength of 38 (including the CJI).
• Justice Agarwal's elevation took the number of sitting women judges to three.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. Under Article 124(2), the President appoints Supreme Court judges after consultation with judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, and the CJI must always be consulted. In practice the recommendation comes from the Collegium (CJI plus four senior-most judges), a system evolved in the Second (1993) and Third (1998) Judges cases.
• Statement 2 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. All three appointees qualified through High Court service.
• Statement 3 - CORRECT. Article 124(6) read with the Third Schedule provides for this oath. In practice the CJI administers it, as Justice Surya Kant did on 6 October.

STATIC REVISION

• Supreme Court judges retire at 65 (Article 124(2)).
• Removal is by an address of both Houses on proved misbehaviour or incapacity (Article 124(4)), with the procedure under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.
• The NJAC, created by the 99th Amendment, was struck down in 2015 (Fourth Judges case), restoring the Collegium.
• Under the Memorandum of Procedure, the government may return a recommendation once; a reiterated recommendation is ordinarily accepted.

Supreme Court appointments, 2026

Date	Event
2 June 2026	Five judges sworn in after the strength was raised by Ordinance
28 Sept 2026	Collegium recommends three HC Chief Justices
5 Oct 2026	Appointments notified
6 Oct 2026	Oath; working strength 37 of 38

Eligibility = 5 years as an HC judge / 10 years as an HC advocate / a distinguished jurist. The oath is made before the President or the President's appointee (in practice the CJI).

Explanation

The correct answer is (B): both A and R are true, but R does not explain A. R explains what the stance MEANS. It does not explain WHY the MPC adopted it - that was the worsening inflation outlook from higher food and energy prices and geopolitical risks.

ASSERTION - TRUE

• On 7 October 2026, alongside raising the repo rate to 5.50%, the MPC shifted its stance to 'calibrated tightening'.
• The RBI cited upward revisions to growth and inflation forecasts, food and energy price pressures, and volatile crude prices amid geopolitical tensions.
• Some reports described the stance decision as a 4-2 majority, although the rate decision was unanimous.

REASON - TRUE, BUT IT DOES NOT EXPLAIN A

• The stance is forward guidance about the direction of future policy:
- Accommodative: willing to cut or hold rates to support growth.
- Neutral: free to move either way depending on data.
- Calibrated tightening: the bias is towards increases, and cuts are off the table, but hikes may be spaced out.
• The RBI used this stance once before, in October 2018, and did not raise rates further after adopting it.
• R defines the stance; the trigger for the change lies elsewhere. So the answer is (B).

STATIC REVISION - MONETARY POLICY TOOLS

• Quantitative: repo, reverse repo, SDF, MSF, CRR, SLR, open market operations, variable-rate repo and reverse repo auctions.
• Qualitative: moral suasion, margin requirements, selective credit controls.
• The policy corridor (SDF-MSF) anchors the weighted average call rate (the operating target).

WHY IT MATTERS

A tightening bias raises borrowing costs for home and business loans and supports the rupee by narrowing interest differentials, but it can slow growth - the classic trade-off.

> R defines the stance; it does not give the reason for adopting it. 'Calibrated tightening' rules out cuts but does not require a hike at every meeting.

95 **At its meeting of 5-7 October 2026, the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee raised the policy repo rate by 25 basis points. Which one of the following correctly describes the position after this decision?**

(a) The Standing Deposit Facility rate stood 25 basis points above the new policy repo rate, at 5.75 per cent.

(b) The Marginal Standing Facility rate and the Bank Rate both stood at 5.75 per cent, above the 5.50 per cent repo rate. ✓

(c) The decision required the prior approval of the Central Board of the RBI before it could take effect.

(d) The MPC is a five-member body in which the Governor has no casting vote in the event of a tie in voting.

A wrong answer you understand is worth more than a right one you guessed.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (b). With the repo rate at 5.50%, the corridor was: SDF 5.25% (floor), and MSF and Bank Rate 5.75% (ceiling).

THE DEVELOPMENT (RBI Monetary Policy Statement, 7 October 2026)
• The MPC (63rd meeting) unanimously raised the repo rate under the LAF by 25 bps to 5.50%, from the 5.25% it had held in August 2026.
• It changed the stance from neutral to 'calibrated tightening'.
• The RBI cited higher food and energy prices and geopolitical risks.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS
• Option (a) - WRONG. The SDF is the floor of the corridor, 25 bps BELOW the repo rate (5.25%). Introduced in April 2022, it lets the RBI absorb liquidity without giving collateral.
• Option (b) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict. The MSF lets banks borrow overnight against government securities, including from their SLR holdings. The Bank Rate is aligned with the MSF.
• Option (c) - WRONG. Under Section 45ZB of the RBI Act, 1934, the MPC determines the policy rate and its decision is binding on the RBI. No Central Board approval is needed.
• Option (d) - WRONG. The MPC has SIX members: the Governor (chair), the Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, one RBI officer nominated by the Central Board, and three external members appointed by the Central Government for four years. The Governor has a casting vote.

STATIC REVISION
• Flexible inflation targeting: a CPI target of 4% within a 2-6% band, set by the Central Government in consultation with the RBI under Section 45ZA.
• Failure to meet the target for three consecutive quarters requires a report to the government.
• Minutes are published on the 14th day after the meeting (Section 45ZL); the October minutes came on 21 October 2026.
• A repo hike transmits through lending and deposit rates, compressing demand and inflation expectations.

Policy rates after October 2026

Rate	August 2026	October 2026
Policy repo rate	5.25%	5.50%
SDF rate (floor)	5.00%	5.25%
MSF rate / Bank Rate (ceiling)	5.50%	5.75%
Stance	Neutral	Calibrated tightening

Corridor: SDF = repo – 25 bps; MSF = Bank Rate = repo + 25 bps. MPC = six members, Governor's casting vote, decisions binding on the RBI.

96 **The Union Cabinet approved 'Samudra Manthan' with an outlay of ₹84,084 crore on 31 July 2026. This scheme primarily aims to:**

(a) mine polymetallic nodules from the Central Indian Ocean Basin using a crewed deep-sea submersible

(b) generate electricity by harnessing the temperature gradient between surface and deep ocean waters

(c) accelerate offshore exploration of oil and gas to add to India's domestic hydrocarbon reserves ✓

(d) set up large seawater desalination plants along the coasts of water-stressed peninsular States

The same mistake, made twice, is a habit. This is where you catch it the first time.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (c). Samudra Manthan - the National Offshore Exploration Scheme - is a Central Sector scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. It runs up to 2030-31 and aims to accelerate offshore oil and gas exploration and add to domestic reserves.

THE DEVELOPMENT

• Approved on 31 July 2026 with an outlay of ₹84,084 crore, for implementation up to FY 2030-31.
• It covers the offshore exploration value chain: seismic data acquisition, deepwater and ultra-deepwater exploratory drilling with government risk-sharing, and supporting infrastructure.
• On 25 July 2026, ONGC spudded its first deepwater well in the Mahanadi Offshore Basin under the campaign.
• It builds on the National Deep Water Exploration Mission announced on Independence Day 2025.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - WRONG. This describes the DEEP OCEAN MISSION of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (2021). Its Samudrayaan project uses the crewed submersible Matsya-6000 to reach 6,000 m. India holds exploration rights from the International Seabed Authority for polymetallic nodules in the Central Indian Ocean Basin. 'Samudrayaan' and 'Samudra Manthan' are easy to confuse.
• Option (b) - WRONG. That is Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC). The National Institute of Ocean Technology has piloted it, including at Kavaratti.
• Option (c) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict.
• Option (d) - WRONG. Desalination is not this scheme's aim. Low-temperature thermal desalination plants have run in Lakshadweep.

STATIC REVISION

• India imports over 85% of its crude oil.
• The Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (2016) introduced revenue sharing and the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP), under which companies bid for blocks they select.
• The National Data Repository holds seismic data.
• Offshore basins include Mumbai High, KG, Cauvery, Mahanadi and the Andaman basins.
• The Directorate General of Hydrocarbons is the regulator and adviser.

Ocean initiatives compared

Initiative	Ministry	Focus
Samudra Manthan (2026)	Petroleum & Natural Gas	Offshore oil & gas exploration
Deep Ocean Mission (2021)	Earth Sciences	Deep-sea minerals; Samudrayaan
OTEC pilots	Earth Sciences (NIOT)	Ocean thermal energy

Samudra Manthan (MoPNG, oil and gas) ≠ Samudrayaan / Deep Ocean Mission (MoES, deep-sea minerals and the crewed submersible).

97 **On 31 July 2026, the Union Cabinet approved continuation of the PM-KISAN scheme for 2026-27 to 2030-31. Which one of the following statements about PM-KISAN is correct?**

(a) It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in which the Centre and the States share its costs in the ratio 60:40.

(b) It is restricted to small and marginal farmers who own up to two hectares of cultivable land in total.

(c) Institutional landholders and farmers who hold constitutional posts are among its eligible beneficiaries.

(d) It provides ₹6,000 a year to landholding farmer families in three equal instalments through DBT. ✓

Explanation

The correct answer is (d). PM-KISAN gives ₹6,000 a year in three instalments of ₹2,000, credited directly to the bank accounts of eligible landholding farmer families.

THE DEVELOPMENT

• On 31 July 2026, the Cabinet approved continuing PM-KISAN from 2026-27 to 2030-31 with an outlay of about ₹3.15 lakh crore (₹3,15,614 crore in the PIB cabinet briefing).
• It covers all landholding farmer families, subject to exclusion criteria.

OPTION-WISE ANALYSIS

• Option (a) - WRONG. PM-KISAN is a CENTRAL SECTOR scheme, 100% funded by the Union. States identify the beneficiaries and verify land records.
• Option (b) - WRONG. The scheme was launched in February 2019 (benefits from December 2018) for small and marginal farmers, but it was extended to ALL landholding farmer families from June 2019.
• Option (c) - WRONG. These are among the EXCLUDED categories, along with present and former ministers, MPs and MLAs, income-tax payers, certain pensioners and registered professionals such as doctors and lawyers.
• Option (d) - CORRECT, for the reason in the verdict.

STATIC REVISION - SCHEME CATEGORIES

• Central Sector schemes: fully funded and implemented by the Union (PM-KISAN, PM-KUSUM components).
• Centrally Sponsored schemes: cost-shared with States, usually 60:40, or 90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan States (MGNREGS, NHM, Samagra Shiksha). Core-of-the-core schemes have special status.

RELATED INCOME-SUPPORT IDEAS

• State schemes such as Rythu Bandhu (Telangana) and KALIA (Odisha).
• Criticism: tenant farmers and landless labourers are excluded because benefits are linked to land records.

DBT LINK

Aadhaar-seeded payments through the JAM trinity (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) reduce leakages.

Central Sector vs Centrally Sponsored

Feature	Central Sector scheme	Centrally Sponsored scheme
Funding	100% Union	Shared (e.g. 60:40)
Implementation	Union (often via States)	States
Example	PM-KISAN	MGNREGS

PM-KISAN = Central Sector (100% Union funding), all landholding families since 2019, ₹6,000 in three instalments. Tenants and landless labourers are not covered.

98 **On 6 August 2026, the Union Cabinet approved GOBARdhan, the National Circular Bioenergy Scheme, with an outlay of ₹23,731 crore. With reference to this scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. It is to be implemented from 2026-27 to 2035-36, with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas as the nodal ministry.
2. Compressed Biogas is biogas purified to near-natural-gas quality and compressed, so that it can substitute for CNG.
3. The scheme is administered by the Ministry of Jal Shakti as a component of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Reading a solution shows you the answer. Sitting the test shows you yourself.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (a) 1 and 2 only. Statement 3 is wrong: the 2026 national scheme brings the CBG value chain under one framework, administered by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The original GOBARdhan initiative of 2018 sat under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) of the Jal Shakti Ministry.

THE DEVELOPMENT (PIB backgrounder, 6 August 2026)
• Approved: 6 August 2026. Outlay: ₹23,731 crore, for FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36.
• Aim: a nearly ten-fold increase in domestic Compressed Biogas (CBG) production by 2035-36.
• Instruments:
- assured offtake and stable pricing;
- capital assistance;
- pipeline-connectivity support;
- biomass aggregation machinery support;
- a CBG Ecosystem Challenge Fund for district-level work.
• As of 6 August 2026, 1,908 plants were registered on the unified portal, 217 were commissioned and 339 were under construction.
• Context: India imports nearly half of its natural gas.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS
• Statement 1 - CORRECT, as above.
• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Biogas from the anaerobic digestion of cattle dung, crop residue, press mud and municipal organic waste is mainly methane and CO2. Scrubbing out CO2, H2S and moisture gives a methane-rich gas that can be compressed and blended into city gas networks or used as transport fuel. The by-product, fermented organic manure, replaces chemical fertiliser.
• Statement 3 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict.

STATIC REVISION - RELATED INITIATIVES
• SATAT (2018, MoPNG): CBG plants with offtake by oil marketing companies.
• National Bioenergy Programme (MNRE).
• CBG blending obligations for city gas distribution.
• Links to environment: less stubble burning, lower methane emissions from waste, and India's net-zero 2070 goal.

GOBARdhan 2018 vs 2026

Feature	2018 initiative	2026 national scheme
Anchor	Swachh Bharat Mission (G)	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
Focus	Village waste to energy	Nationwide CBG industry
Period	-	2026-27 to 2035-36
Outlay	-	₹23,731 crore

GOBARdhan began in 2018 under SBM-G (Jal Shakti), but the 2026 national scheme is run by MoPNG. CBG substitutes for CNG; it is not LPG.

99 **On 14 October 2026, the Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for 2026-27 to 2030-31. With reference to the NSAP, consider the following statements:**

1. The NSAP was launched in 1995 and gives effect to the Directive Principle in Article 41 on public assistance in old age, sickness and disablement.
2. The NSAP is administered by the Ministry of Rural Development.
3. The National Family Benefit Scheme provides lump-sum assistance to a household on the death of its primary breadwinner.
4. The Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme covers persons aged 60 years and above belonging to below-poverty-line households.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All four ✓

Whoever sent you this knows their strengths, understands their gaps, and knows where they're headed. They're preparing with clarity and confidence—not fear. They know their edge. You can too.

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Explanation

The correct answer is (d) All four. Each statement correctly describes the NSAP's origin, constitutional basis, administering ministry and components.

THE DEVELOPMENT

• On 14 October 2026, the Cabinet approved continuing the NSAP for five years (2026-27 to 2030-31), co-terminus with the Sixteenth Finance Commission period.

• The reported outlay is about ₹53,428 crore, covering about 3.2 crore beneficiaries in all States and UTs.

• Reports of the PIB release also mention a lower disability threshold for the disability pension. Verify the exact eligibility change against the PIB release before relying on it.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. The NSAP was launched on 15 August 1995. Article 41 directs the State to make effective provision for public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, within the limits of its economic capacity. Article 42 (just and humane conditions of work, maternity relief) is a related DPSP.

• Statement 2 - CORRECT. It is run by the Department of Rural Development and implemented through the States and UTs, which often top up the central assistance.

• Statement 3 - CORRECT. The NFBS gives one-time assistance to a BPL household on the death of its primary breadwinner aged 18-59.

• Statement 4 - CORRECT. The IGNOAPS gives a monthly pension to BPL persons aged 60 and above, at a higher rate at 80 years.

STATIC REVISION - NSAP COMPONENTS

• IGNOAPS: old age pensions.

• IGNWPS: widows' pensions.

• IGNDPS: disability pensions.

• NFBS: family benefit.

• Annapurna: free foodgrains for eligible elderly persons not covered by the pension.

WHY IT MATTERS

Non-contributory social pensions are India's main safety net for the elderly poor. Debates centre on the low central contribution and the outdated BPL identification.

NSAP components

Component	Beneficiary
IGNOAPS	BPL persons aged 60+
IGNWPS	BPL widows
IGNDPS	BPL persons with disabilities
NFBS	BPL household on death of breadwinner
Annapurna	Eligible elderly not on pension

> NSAP = Ministry of Rural Development (not Social Justice), launched 1995, rooted in Article 41. NFBS is a one-time payment, not a pension.

The exam will ask what you avoided. Find out what that is while it still costs nothing.

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100 On 31 August 2026, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released GDP estimates for Q1 (April-June) of 2026-27, showing real growth of 7.8 per cent. With reference to these estimates and national accounts concepts, consider the following statements:

1. The estimates are based on the new national accounts series with 2022-23 as the base year.
2. A double-deflation approach has been used to estimate the gross value added of the manufacturing sector.
3. Gross Value Added is obtained by adding net product taxes to Gross Domestic Product.
4. Nominal GDP growth exceeding real GDP growth in the quarter implies a positive change in the GDP deflator.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three ✓

(d) All four

Explanation

The correct answer is (c) Only three. Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. Statement 3 reverses the identity: GDP = GVA + product taxes – product subsidies, so GVA is GDP minus net product taxes.

THE DEVELOPMENT (MoSPI press note, 31 August 2026)

• Real GDP: ₹81.36 lakh crore, growth 7.8%, against 6.9% in Q1 2025-26.
• Nominal GDP growth: 10.3%.
• Real GVA growth: 8.2%. Tertiary sector 10.0% (financial, real estate, IT and professional services 12.1%); secondary 8.6%; primary 2.9% (agriculture 3.6%).
• Gross fixed capital formation grew 11.9%.
• The print beat the RBI's 7% projection for the quarter. The next release (Q2) was scheduled for 30 November 2026.

STATEMENT-WISE ANALYSIS

• Statement 1 - CORRECT. The new series with base year 2022-23 was released on 27 February 2026, replacing 2011-12. Provisional estimates for 2025-26 followed on 5 June 2026.
• Statement 2 - CORRECT. Under double deflation, output and inputs are deflated separately with their own price indices, and real value added is their difference. This is more accurate than single deflation when input and output prices move differently. The new series also uses an output Producer Price Index.
• Statement 3 - WRONG, for the reason in the verdict. GVA measures output from the production side at basic prices; GDP is at market prices.
• Statement 4 - CORRECT. Nominal growth ≈ real growth + inflation measured by the GDP deflator. Nominal 10.3% against real 7.8% implies deflator inflation of roughly 2.3%.

STATIC REVISION

• The National Statistical Office (NSO) under MoSPI compiles the national accounts.
• Quarterly estimates come out about two months after a quarter ends.
• Base years are revised to reflect a changed economic structure.
• Expenditure components: private consumption (PFCE), government consumption (GFCE), GFCF, net exports.

Q1 2026-27 at a glance (MoSPI)

Indicator	Q1 2026-27	Q1 2025-26
Real GDP growth	7.8%	6.9%
Nominal GDP growth	10.3%	8.1%
Real GVA growth	8.2%	-
GFCF growth	11.9%	5.8%

> GDP = GVA + net product taxes - not the reverse. The new base year is 2022-23. Nominal minus real growth approximates deflator inflation.

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FOUNDER'S NOTE

Why I built Testogram

Why I Built Testogram

I appeared for the UPSC Civil Services Examination four times and reached the interview stage on three occasions. Although my journey through the examination did not end with a final selection, it gave me firsthand experience of the challenges, uncertainty and determination that define the UPSC journey.

I went on to build a career in the technology industry, working with some of the world's leading multinational companies and progressing into AI Solution Architecture.

Alongside my professional career, I spent over a decade teaching UPSC aspirants. During those years, I noticed a recurring problem. It wasn't a lack of hard work or ambition. Even capable, dedicated students often struggled to understand whether their preparation was actually improving.

They would study consistently, attempt tests and put in months of effort, yet have little clarity about where they stood, what they needed to improve or whether they were moving closer to their goal.

I had experienced that uncertainty as an aspirant. I witnessed it repeatedly as an educator. And I realised that students needed more than another question bank or test series. They needed a reliable way to measure their preparation, understand their performance and make better decisions about what to do next.

That conviction led me to build Testogram.

Testogram won't make competitive examinations easier. It is designed to make your preparation more measurable, structured and informed.

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Sai Vinay Sunkara
Founder, Testogram
You can reach me on LinkedIn:
https://www.linkedin.com/in/sai-vinay-sunkara/

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