



Atiya Health and Education Foundation

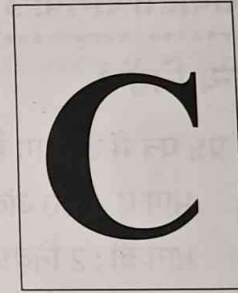
Entrance Examination for UPSC CSE 2026

Time allotted : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 300

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- ❖ The question paper has two sections as given below.
Part A : 100 MCQs for 200 Marks
Part B : 2 Essays, 50 Marks each
- ❖ OMR will be collected after 2 hours of the commencement of the Exam



Instructions for Part B : Essay Writing

- ❖ The Essay must be written in either English / Hindi which must be clearly started on the cover of the Answer Booklet in the space provided.
- ❖ Word limit as specified must be adhered to.
- ❖ Any page or the portion of the page left blank in the Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
- ❖ Choose one topic from each section and write two essays of about 500-600 words each.

***** BEST WISHES *****

Handwritten notes at the top of the page include: "Honesty or best Policy in any field", "Honesty", "Success", "USE", "action", and a circled "10".

Part B : Essay

Section I

1. AI Governance: Who Programs the Programmer?
2. Balancing National Security with Civil Liberties in the Age of Surveillance
3. Beyond MSP: Reimagining Indian Agriculture for the 21st Century.
4. Education is the Manifestation of the Perfection Already in Man.

Section II

1. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.
2. Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.
3. Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it.
4. The function of freedom is to free someone else.

भाग बी: निबंध

अनुभाग I

1. कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता शासन: प्रोग्रामर को कौन प्रोग्राम करता है?
2. निगरानी के युग में राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा और नागरिक स्वतंत्रताओं के बीच संतुलन।
3. न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य से आगे: 21वीं सदी के लिए भारतीय कृषि की पुनःकल्पना।
4. शिक्षा मनुष्य में निहित पूर्णता की अभिव्यक्ति है।

अनुभाग II

1. समग्र, उसके हिस्सों के योग से अधिक होता है।
2. ईमानदारी बुद्धिमत्ता की पुस्तक का पहला अध्याय है।
3. हर चीज़ में सुंदरता होती है, लेकिन हर कोई उसे देख नहीं पाता।
4. स्वतंत्रता का कार्य है - किसी और को मुक्त करना

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page include: "Beck's msp", "AI horror", "Before small child", "TAR/KE", "Cancer Rises", "Hindon engineer", "Rise World", "Whaggo civil", "Hanyan J", and "Rise".

SET-C

1. With reference to the State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, consider the following statements:

1. It is the 18th edition published biennially by the Forest Survey of India, under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. India's forest and tree cover together now account for over 25% of the country's geographical area.
3. The report highlights a loss in total mangrove cover compared to the previous assessment.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

2. If a company uses "captive power plants" running on solar energy for its own manufacturing operations, which benefits can it claim under current Indian policies?

1. Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)
2. Priority sector lending benefits
3. Tax deductions under Section 80-IA of the Income Tax Act

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

3. A country deploys a satellite with both Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and multispectral optical sensors for "maritime domain awareness."

Given India's security concerns, which combination of uses would be most plausible?

1. Detecting unregistered fishing vessels in cloudy monsoon months.
2. Identifying algal blooms affecting coastal economies.
3. Monitoring troop movement across high-altitude borders at night.

4. Tracking ballistic missile re-entry trajectories.

How many of the above statements is/are correct:

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

4. India plans to regulate Artificial Intelligence in defence applications.

Which approach balances national security with ethical safeguards most effectively?

- (a) Ban all autonomous weapons but allow AI in logistics and maintenance.
- (b) Mandate human-in-the-loop control for any AI-assisted target engagement.
- (c) Leave AI deployment to defence contractors' internal protocols.
- (d) Allow AI weapons in counter-insurgency but not in conventional war.

5. Consider the following scenario:

India joins a global consortium for rare-earth mineral processing, where member countries specialise in different processing stages

Which two risks should India prioritize mitigation for?

- (a) Supply disruption and environmental degradation from domestic mining.
- (b) Currency fluctuation in export markets and loss of tariff revenue
- (c) Labour unrest in foreign mines and WTO litigation risk
- (d) Excess capacity in domestic steel plants and low refining efficiency

6. **Assertion (A):** The Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) emphasizes "maritime ecology" alongside "maritime security."

Reason (R): Securing maritime trade routes is impossible without maintaining ecological sustainability.

- (a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation.
- (b) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation.
- (c) A is correct, R is incorrect.
- (d) A is incorrect, R is correct.

7. **India's space debris mitigation strategy must account for the "Kessler Syndrome."**

If a defunct Indian satellite fragments in low-Earth orbit, what is the most likely cascade sequence?

- (a) Debris impacts cause chain collisions → orbit becomes unusable → ISS evacuation
- (b) Debris slowly decays → atmospheric burn-up → orbit clears in weeks
- (c) Debris triggers radiation belt expansion → affects GPS constellations
- (d) Fragments fall to Earth and cause immediate ground damage

8. **A private Indian company develops a CRISPR-based diagnostic kit for a contagious disease.**

Which regulatory and ethical considerations must be addressed before mass deployment?

- 1. Biosafety clearance from appropriate national authority.
- 2. Compliance with patient data privacy norms.
- 3. Export control compliance if technology is dual-use.

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

9. **A new UN cybercrime treaty requires signatories to criminalise "data interference."**

In the Indian context, which existing legal provision is closest to this obligation?

- (a) Section 66 of the IT Act
- (b) Section 69A of the IT Act
- (c) Section 124A of IPC
- (d) Section 43B of the Companies Act

10. **The Strait of Hormuz and the Malacca Strait are both critical chokepoints.**

Which factor differentiates their strategic relevance to India's energy security?

- (a) Only the Malacca Strait is vulnerable to piracy.
- (b) Oil imports from West Asia pass mainly through Hormuz, while Malacca is key for trade from East Asia.
- (c) Hormuz is entirely outside India's naval reach, unlike Malacca.
- (d) Malacca carries more of India's crude imports than Hormuz.

11. **Suppose India faces a naval blockade in the Andaman Sea by an adversary.**

Which strategic response would be most consistent with its current doctrine and capabilities?

- (a) Use Andaman & Nicobar Command for sea control operations.
- (b) Launch land-based ballistic missiles at adversary ports.
- (c) Seek immediate UNSC intervention without force deployment.
- (d) Reroute all trade via Cape of Good Hope.

12. In climate diplomacy, a "border carbon adjustment" by developed countries could indirectly affect India's:

1. Export competitiveness of steel and aluminium.
2. Domestic renewable energy subsidies.
3. WTO dispute exposure.

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

13. Assertion (A): India has increased investment in anti-submarine warfare (ASW) aircraft.

Reason (R): Chinese submarine activity in the Indian Ocean has grown in both frequency and duration.

- (a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation.
(b) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation.
(c) A is correct, R is incorrect.
(d) A is incorrect, R is correct.

14. Consider the following about international export control regimes:

1. MTCR deals with missile technology; Wassenaar Arrangement deals with dual-use goods.
2. India is a member of all four major regimes.
3. Membership ensures automatic technology transfer from other members.

How many of the above are correct?

- (a) One only
(b) Two only
(c) All three
(d) None

15. You are advising a developing country with extensive mangroves and coral reefs on climate resilience.

Which integrated approach would be most effective?

- (a) Expand tourism in these areas to generate revenue for adaptation.
- (b) Use mangroves for coastal defence while restricting destructive fishing near reefs.
- (c) Replace mangroves with seawalls and allow unrestricted reef fishing.
- (d) Focus only on coral transplantation and ignore mangrove restoration.

16. The "Quad" and "ASEAN" differ fundamentally in their operational models.

Which difference matters most for India's strategic calculus?

- (a) Quad is a military alliance, ASEAN is economic only.
- (b) ASEAN's consensus model limits rapid response, Quad's flexible coordination allows faster action.
- (c) ASEAN excludes China, Quad includes it.
- (d) ASEAN has a collective defence clause, Quad does not.

17. A transnational terror group uses cryptocurrency for funding operations in South Asia.

Which enforcement measures are most aligned with FATF guidelines?

1. Licensing and monitoring of crypto exchanges.
2. KYC requirements for digital wallets.
3. Blanket ban on all blockchain applications.

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

18. In a wargame simulation, an adversary disables India's GPS signals during a crisis.

Which indigenous system provides immediate backup for navigation?

- (a) IRNSS/NavIC
- (b) GAGAN
- (c) GSAT
- (d) Astrosat

A

19. Assertion (A): India has prioritised Chabahar Port development in Iran despite US sanctions.

Reason (R): It offers India direct access to Afghanistan and Central Asia bypassing Pakistan.

- (a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation.
- (b) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation.
- (c) A is correct, R is incorrect.
- (d) A is incorrect, R is correct.

A

20. Consider the following statements:

1. Interpol's Red Notices require member states to arrest and extradite suspects.
2. India's CBI is the designated National Central Bureau for Interpol.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

C

21. A cyberattack disables railway signalling systems in multiple Indian states.

Which layered defence approach would most effectively reduce vulnerability?

- (a) Real-time intrusion detection and segmentation of operational networks from corporate IT.
- (b) Increased bandwidth capacity and free public Wi-Fi at stations.
- (c) Outsourcing IT security to cheapest vendor.
- (d) Hague Tribunal ruling on maritime boundaries.

A

22. In the South China Sea dispute, India supports "freedom of navigation" principles.

What is the primary legal basis for this stance?

- (a) United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
- (b) ASEAN Charter
- (c) Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative
- (d) Hague Tribunal ruling on maritime boundaries

A

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23. Consider this situation:

India must choose between a high-orbit early-warning satellite and expanding its low-orbit reconnaissance constellation.

Which trade-off is most valid?

- (a) Early-warning improves missile defence; low-orbit improves tactical intelligence.
- (b) High-orbit improves imagery resolution; low-orbit increases coverage of deep space.
- (c) Low-orbit improves weather monitoring; high-orbit improves agricultural mapping.
- (d) Both have identical capabilities but different launch costs.

24. A breakthrough in fusion energy promises commercial viability within two decades.

For India, which policy shift would be most prudent?

- (a) Reduce investment in renewables to divert funds to fusion research.
- (b) Integrate fusion prospects into long-term energy planning without cutting near-term renewables.
- (c) Ban all coal-based power projects immediately.
- (d) Wait for global adoption before making any changes.

25. Assertion (A): The Biological Weapons Convention lacks a verification mechanism.

Reason (R): States could not agree on intrusive inspection protocols.

- (a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation.
- (b) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation.
- (c) A is correct, R is incorrect.
- (d) A is incorrect, R is correct.

26. Which combination of measures would most effectively strengthen India's defence manufacturing under "Atmanirbhar Bharat"?

- 1. Increasing FDI in defence manufacturing.
- 2. Expanding negative import list for defence items.
- 3. Mandatory domestic content in all capital procurement.

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

27. In internal security planning, which is the most likely unintended risk of extensive drone use by state police forces?

- (a) Public desensitisation to aerial surveillance
- (b) Overreliance on imported drone components
- (c) Reduction in human intelligence gathering capacity
- (d) All of the above

Passage 1

Polymakers increasingly use predictive models to allocate scarce public resources (health, policing, social assistance). A model's predictive accuracy on historical data can be high while its policy value low. Three reasons occur repeatedly in case studies: (i) models optimize for proxies (like past utilisation) that are imperfect substitutes for the underlying social need; (ii) models trained on historical administrative records reproduce past exclusionary practices; (iii) optimization for aggregate accuracy can hide subgroup harms. Remedies tried include audit frameworks, participatory evaluation with affected communities, and counterfactual impact assessments where simulated alternative allocations are tested against fairness metrics.

28. Which of the following statements best captures a central normative concern raised in the passage?

- (a) High historical predictive accuracy guarantees equitable outcomes if models are widely used.
- (b) Models that rely on administrative proxies risk perpetuating historical exclusion even when technically accurate.
- (c) Aggregate accuracy is preferable to subgroup fairness because it maximises total welfare.
- (d) Participatory evaluation replaces the need for technical audits.

29. A city uses a model whose high-scoring neighborhoods receive additional health workers. After deployment, measured health utilisation rises in those neighborhoods while measured morbidity does not decrease.

The most plausible explanation in the passage's framework is:

- (a) The model successfully targeted real need and health outcomes will lag utilisation.
 (b) The model optimised for utilisation (a proxy), so staffing increased use but not underlying morbidity.
 (c) Community engagement was probably sufficient but the audit frameworks failed.
 (d) Counterfactual impact assessments always mislead in these settings.

30. The passage suggests the following packages as robust practice. Which combination is best supported?

1. Counterfactual simulation of allocation alternatives.
 2. Sole reliance on historical accuracy metrics.
 3. Community-participatory evaluation focusing on subgroup outcomes.
 4. Removing all proxy variables to avoid bias.

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

Passage 2

An urban authority debates a policy mix to reduce congestion: ownership taxation, congestion pricing, expansion of high-capacity bus rapid transit (BRT), and targeted parking restrictions. Past pilots indicate (i) ownership taxes reduce new vehicle registrations but have modest immediate effect on peak-hour vehicle-km, (ii) congestion pricing reduces peak-hour vehicle-km in central zones but displaces traffic to peripheral corridors unless complemented by high-quality public transit, (iii) BRT adoption reduces mode-share for cars in served corridors only if frequency and reliability meet threshold standards. Political feasibility, equity (impact on lower-income commuters), and administrative costs vary greatly across instruments.

31. A pragmatic policy package that minimises peak-hour vehicle-km with limited funds and high equity priority is most likely to include:

- (a) High ownership taxes with no BRT investment.
 (b) Modest congestion pricing targeted at central business district and BRT corridors with high frequency serving low-income commuters.
 (c) Heavy parking restrictions alone in the city center.
 (d) Universal ownership subsidy removal plus unguided BRT rollouts.

32. A counterfactual analysis shows congestion pricing reduced central-zone car trips by 30% but increased peripheral congestion by 10%.

Which inference is best supported?

- (a) Congestion pricing is net harmful and should be abandoned.
- (b) Pricing should be coupled with peripheral public transit improvements to avoid displacement.
- (c) Peripheral congestion increase proves drivers are price-inelastic.
- (d) Ownership taxes would have avoided displacement entirely.

33. Suppose political constraints mean only one instrument is feasible for immediate roll-out. If equity for low-income commuters is the primary constraint, which single instrument fits best?

- (a) High ownership tax (revenue-neutral via transfers)
- (b) Congestion pricing with exemptions for low-income passes
- (c) Rapid BRT deployment on a single high-demand corridor with subsidised fares
- (d) Strict parking bans in the city center

and insurance markets are nascent for ecological damages.

34. Which governance design most directly addresses the "future generations" concern highlighted by critics?

- (a) Regional agreements among immediate neighbours only
- (b) Short-duration pilot tests with rollback triggers
- (c) Incorporation of long-term ecological monitoring and adaptive governance into deployment conditions
- (d) Relying solely on insurance markets to compensate harms

35. If a nation-state adopts a governance approach that allows unilateral release after domestic community approval but without regional coordination, the most likely risk is:

- (a) Rapid socio-economic benefits with no drawbacks.
- (b) Transboundary ecological effects harming neighbours and diplomatic friction.
- (c) Immediate legal clarity on liability across borders.
- (d) Insurance coverage becoming cheaper due to unilateral action.

Passage 3

Gene drives and other ecosystem-engineering interventions raise irreversibility concerns. Governance frameworks emphasise phased trials, regional (cross-border) agreements for transboundary risks, clear adverse-event triggers for rollback, and meaningful consent from communities likely affected. Yet critics argue "meaningful consent" is complicated in ecological interventions where downstream harms accrue to non-participating populations and future generations. Legal liability frameworks remain underdeveloped,

36. Which legal or policy instrument could strengthen liability clarity for such ecological interventions?

- (a) Multilateral treaties with defined compensation mechanisms for cross-border ecological harm
- (b) National labelling requirements for genetically modified crops only
- (c) Voluntary industry codes without legal enforceability
- (d) Short-term indemnity clauses limited to developer companies

Passage 4

Critical infrastructure operates with industrial control systems (ICS) that were originally designed for reliability, not security. Patching or network segmentation may interrupt industrial operations; yet, failing to address cyber vulnerabilities risks catastrophic outages. A layered approach—air-gapping the most critical elements, network segmentation, real-time anomaly detection, supplier vetting, and regular simulation exercises—can balance continuity and security. However, air-gapping is not foolproof (supply-chain vectors, human insider risks) and can impede remote monitoring that improves efficiency.

37. The passage implies the primary governance dilemma for ICS operators is:

- (a) Choosing between efficiency gains from connectivity and the security risks that such connectivity introduces. **A**
- (b) Whether to outsource all cybersecurity to third parties.
- (c) Eliminating all human access to critical systems.
- (d) Making all systems open-source to increase transparency.

38. Which combination best balances operational continuity with improved cyber security?

- (a) Air-gap everything and ban remote monitoring.
- (b) Network segmentation, real-time anomaly detection, supplier vetting and periodic simulation drills. **B**
- (c) Rely on patching only when incidents occur.
- (d) Replace ICS with consumer-grade IoT devices for easier updates.

39. A small regional grid operator reports that implementing segmentation increases mean time to repair (MTTR) by 20% but reduces probability of a catastrophic outage by 60%. Which decision rule aligns with the passage's risk-management tone?

- (a) Reject segmentation because MTTR increase harms operational efficiency.
- (b) Adopt segmentation because it substantially lowers catastrophic risk, with targeted procedures to manage MTTR.
- (c) Wait for perfect solutions with zero MTTR impact.
- (d) Outsource segmentation decisions to vendors with no oversight.

40. Positive integers x, y satisfy: $x*y = 288$. Which of the following statements alone is sufficient to uniquely determine (x, y) up to order?

- I. $x - y = 10$
- II. $x + y = 34$
- III. x is even and y is a perfect square

Choose the best answer:

- (a) I alone sufficient
- (b) II alone sufficient
- (c) III alone sufficient **C**
- (d) None alone; combination of II and III sufficient

41. Let N be the least positive integer divisible by all integers from 1 through 10. Let S be the sum of distinct prime factors of N .

What is S ?

- (a) $2 + 3 + 5 + 7 = 17$
- (b) $2 + 3 + 5 + 7 + 11 = 28$
- (c) $2 + 3 + 5 + 7 + 13 = 30$
- (d) $2 + 3 + 5 + 7 + 11 + 13 = 41$

42. For real numbers a, b satisfying $a + b = 6$ and $a^2 + b^2 = 20$, find ab . Then determine the value of $(a^3 + b^3)$.
Which option is correct?

- (a) $ab = 7, a^3 + b^3 = 6^3 - 3 \cdot 6 \cdot 7 = 216 - 126 = 90$
(b) $ab = 8, a^3 + b^3 = 216 - 144 = 72$
(c) $ab = 9, a^3 + b^3 = 216 - 162 = 54$
(d) $ab = 5, a^3 + b^3 = 216 - 90 = 126$

43. A courier route: City $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C$. Distance $A \rightarrow B = 60$ km; courier travels $A \rightarrow B$ at average speed 40 km/h.
On $B \rightarrow C$ the courier slows to 80% of the speed used on $A \rightarrow B$ for operational reasons. If the actual total travel time $A \rightarrow C$ is 20% longer than the time it would have taken had both legs been travelled at 40 km/h.

Find the distance $B \rightarrow C$.

- (a) 30 km
(b) 40 km
(c) 240 km
(d) 60 km

44. From digits 1–9, choose a 5-digit number with strictly increasing digits (left to right).

How many such numbers are there whose digit-sum is even?

- (a) 126
(b) 63
(c) 70
(d) 35

45. Five researchers (A–E) each presented at one of five symposia (S1–S5) and work in five separate fields (F1–F5).

Consider the following information

- A presented at S3; A does not work in F1 or F4.

- The researcher at S1 works in F2.
- E works in F5 and did not present at S2.
- The person working in F4 presented immediately after the person working in F3 (in symposium numerical order).
- B presented at S5 and does not work in F2 or F5.

Which of the following is a necessary conclusion?

- (a) C works in F3
(b) D presented at S2
(c) The F4 researcher presented at S2 if F3 researcher presented at S1
(d) B works in F1

46. Two boxes: Box 1 has 2 red, 3 blue, Box 2 has 1 red, 4 blue. A box is chosen at random; then a ball drawn at random.

Given the drawn ball is red, what is the probability it came from Box 1?

- (a) 0.571
(b) 0.444
(c) 0.667
(d) 0.500

47. A firm produces two products P and Q with profits 50 and 70 per unit respectively. Each unit of P requires 2 hours of machine time and 1 hour of labour. Each unit of Q requires 1 hour of machine time and 2 hours of labour. Total available machine time = 100 hours; labour = 120 hours. Units non-negative.

What is the maximum profit?

- (a) ₹4600
(b) ₹6200
(c) ₹6300
(d) ₹6400

48. Four distinct positive reals $w > x > y > z$ satisfy $w + z = x + y$ and $wz = xy$.

Which must be true?

- (a) $w = x$
(b) $w = x$ or $z = y$
(c) $(w - x) = (y - z)$
(d) None of the above must hold

1 2 3 4

(D)

$1 + 4 = 2 + 3$
 $5 = 5$

Q49-Q50

Month	Alpha	Beta	Gamma	Delta
Jan	420	300	180	100
Feb	360	420	300	120
Mar	480	360	240	200
Apr	540	240	360	300

49. Which product line shows the most consistent month-to-month percentage growth, in terms of standard deviation?

- (a) Alpha
(b) Beta
(c) Gamma
(d) Delta

(D)

50. If profit per unit (₹) is Alpha=12, Beta=10, Gamma=8, Delta=20, which month yields the highest profit margin contribution from Delta as a percentage of that month's total profit?

- (a) Jan
(b) Feb
(c) Mar
(d) Apr

1 1 1 1 1
b b b b b
2 3 1
1 1 1 1 1
b b b b b
16
2
18
b = 3
b = 7

51. A school has 6 boys and 4 girls. A team of 5 students is to be formed such that:

- At least 2 boys are always present.
- If the team contains more than 3 boys, then it must include the head girl (one specific girl).

If all students are equally eligible otherwise, and every valid selection is equally likely, what is the probability that the team contains exactly 3 boys?

- (a) 12/37
(b) 15/41

- (c) 18/43
(d) 20/47

52. A company has 4 managers and 6 engineers. A project team of 4 people is to be selected such that:

- At least 1 manager must be included.
- If exactly 2 managers are chosen, no two of them can have the same first letter in their name (each manager's name starts with one of the letters A, B, B, C).
- The order of seating in the team matters (permutations).

How many distinct ordered arrangements of the team are possible under these rules?

- (a) 2760
(b) 2880

- (c) 3000
(d) 3120

(C)

6 boy + 4 girls = 5 student

53. Historians use archaeological evidence to reconstruct Harappan trade patterns.

If seals with Mesopotamian inscriptions are found in Gujarat, which inference is most consistent with current scholarly consensus?

- (a) Harappans were importing finished Mesopotamian goods.
- (b) Harappan traders travelled to Mesopotamia and adopted their writing system.
- (c) Harappans participated in long-distance trade where goods and cultural symbols moved both ways.
- (d) The site in Gujarat was under Mesopotamian political control.

54. In early Buddhist councils, the division between Sthaviravadins and Mahasanghikas is sometimes compared to later Protestant-Catholic differences in Europe.

Which similarity is most valid?

- (a) Both splits were purely theological without organisational consequences.
- (b) Both involved disputes over textual authority and interpretation.
- (c) Both resulted from foreign political interference.
- (d) Both emerged after translations of scriptures into vernacular languages.

55. The Chola naval expeditions to Southeast Asia are often cited as examples of "soft imperialism."

Which of the following reasons supports that label?

- 1. They aimed at controlling maritime trade routes rather than direct colonisation.
- 2. They used cultural diplomacy alongside military force.
- 3. They permanently annexed large territories in modern Indonesia.

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

- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) All three

56. Which of the following developments best illustrates the integration of India into the global economy in the late medieval period?

- (a) Introduction of the Persian wheel in irrigation.
- (b) Circulation of silver from New World mines via the Middle East into the Mughal economy.
- (c) Use of punch-marked coins.
- (d) Spread of Sanskrit inscriptions in Southeast Asia.

57. Consider the following statements:

1. In several rebel-controlled territories, village panchayats assumed administrative functions, levying grain contributions instead of cash revenue.
2. Contemporary British reports from eastern Uttar Pradesh mention that women from lower-caste communities sometimes acted as messengers and intelligence gatherers for rebel bands.
3. The Gwalior proclamations of 1858 promised restoration of zamindari rights to hereditary landlords without reference to peasant grievances.
4. In Bundelkhand, rebel mobilisation drew heavily upon traditional caste councils and religious fairs as spaces for coordination, bypassing princely leadership.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?

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

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

58. Consider the following statements regarding phases of the Indian nationalist movement:

1. The Swadeshi Movement was the first major phase to combine economic boycott with cultural revival as a tool for mass mobilisation.
2. The Indian Councils Act agitation of 1892 is widely regarded as a shift from elite-led constitutional politics to sustained mass participation across provinces.
3. The INA trials, while generating mass support, directly preceded and inspired the Non-Cooperation Movement.

How many of the above statements are incorrect?

- (a) Only one (c) All three
(b) Only two (d) None

59. The Non-Cooperation Movement was suspended after Chauri Chaura, but the official reasons and real political calculations may have differed. Which combination best explains the decision?

- (a) Fear of escalating violence and need to preserve moral authority.
(b) Internal Congress divisions and the British offers of partial concessions.
(c) Severe economic depression and the influenza pandemic.
(d) Direct request from Ali brothers to withdraw

60. Which of the following best represents a continuity in Indian rural society from the late colonial period to the early decades after independence?

- (a) Zamindari as a legal institution.
(b) Dominance of local elites in controlling agrarian surplus.
(c) Forced cultivation of cash crops.
(d) State monopoly over forest produce.

61. If the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms are considered a "half-step" towards self-government, which feature best supports that view?

- (a) Provincial dyarchy with limited subjects under Indian ministers.
(b) Complete fiscal autonomy to provinces.
(c) Full control of defence by elected representatives.
(d) Simultaneous introduction of proportional representation.

62. In the Constituent Assembly debates, some members argued against preventive detention clauses in the Constitution. Which reasoning aligns most with liberal-democratic theory?

- (a) Such powers inevitably lead to abuse and undermine rule of law.
(b) They are essential for maintaining public order in a diverse society.
(c) They must be retained only during wartime.
(d) They are valid if authorised by a supermajority in Parliament.

63. Regarding social reform and temple entry in modern India:

1. Vaikom Satyagraha sought entry of all castes into the sanctum of temples in Travancore.
2. Brahmo Samaj opposed caste discrimination but avoided temple entry issues due to its rejection of idol worship.
3. Arya Samaj's shuddhi campaigns occasionally faced resistance from orthodox groups when reconverted members sought temple access.

Which of above statements are correct.

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

64. Consider the difference between the Quit India Movement and the Civil Disobedience Movement:

1. Quit India was launched in a context of global war; Civil Disobedience was not.
2. Quit India involved clearer instructions for local governance structures post-British withdrawal.
3. Civil Disobedience focused more on symbolic acts like salt making.

Which of them above are correct?

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

65. Consider the following statements about the Nehru Report (1928):

1. It recommended dominion status for India within the British Commonwealth, along with fundamental rights and joint electorates.
2. It was prepared by an all-British committee appointed after the Simon Commission boycott.
3. It rejected separate electorates for minorities.
4. It resulted in the Gandhi-Irwin Pact of 1931.

Which of the above statements is/are correct.

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

66. Consider the following statements about the Permanent Settlement .

1. It encouraged absentee landlordism as zamindars often lived away from their estates, collecting rent through intermediaries.
2. It accelerated commercialisation of agriculture by mandating cash revenue payments in a fixed amount.
3. It led to a steady decline in zamindar political influence in Bengal's rural society.

4. It increased the bargaining power of tenants due to legally guaranteed occupancy rights.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct

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

67. Regarding the Khilafat Movement's decline:

1. The Caliphate was abolished in 1924, removing its central cause.
2. The Hijrat Movement boosted rural prosperity in Punjab and NWFP.

Which of the above is/are incorrect?

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

68. A district in central India shows both black cotton soil and lateritic patches.

Which factor most likely explains this?

- (a) Variation in parent rock and seasonal rainfall distribution.
(b) Uniform basaltic origin with uneven erosion rates.
(c) Migration of soils due to river flooding.
(d) Recent volcanic activity altering soil minerals.

69. Which climatic phenomenon would have the greatest long-term impact on wheat yields in northwest India?

- (a) Weakening of western disturbances.
(b) Shift in ITCZ during summer
(c) Increased El Niño frequency.
(d) Expansion of tropical cyclones in Arabian Sea.

70. In a coastal region where mangroves and coral reefs coexist, consider the following statements

1. Such coasts are typically found in low-latitude regions between 25° N and 25° S due to the thermal requirements of reef-building corals.
2. Mangrove-coral reef systems are often linked by "blue carbon" pathways, where mangrove leaf litter supports reef food webs.
3. Strong upwelling zones with cold, nutrient-rich currents are essential for sustaining both ecosystems year-round.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

71. While changing the course of the river, from a meandering to a braided channel. Which sequence of factors is most plausible?

- (a) Increased sediment load $\rightarrow$ reduced bank stability $\rightarrow$ multiple channels.
(b) Reduction in gradient $\rightarrow$ erosion dominance $\rightarrow$ braiding.
(c) Lower rainfall $\rightarrow$ narrower channel $\rightarrow$ braiding.
(d) Earthquake uplift $\rightarrow$ channel deepening $\rightarrow$ braiding.

72. If a region gets >200 cm rainfall but has poor soil depth and steep slopes. Which farming system would be most sustainable?

- (a) Shifting cultivation with controlled cycles.
(b) Intensive paddy monoculture.
(c) Rainfed wheat farming.
(d) Plantation of drought-tolerant millets.

73. Which of these river-tributary pairs is correct?

1. Yamuna – Ken

2. Godavari – Indravati
3. Krishna – Bhavani
4. Brahmaputra – Subansiri

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

74. In plate tectonics, why do some transform faults like the San Andreas become sites of intense earthquakes despite no subduction or volcanism?

- (a) They accumulate stress due to horizontal plate movement until sudden release.
(b) They are associated with mantle plume hotspots.
(c) They form above subducted oceanic crust.
(d) They cause uplift that triggers volcanic activity.

75. If a state's agriculture relies heavily on canal irrigation from a glacier-fed river, which risk would be most serious under climate change scenarios?

- (a) Increased glacial melt initially boosting supply followed by sharp decline.
(b) Salinity intrusion in river water.
(c) Replacement of monsoon crops with winter crops.
(d) Decline in groundwater recharge.

76. Which soil management practice is most effective for lateritic soils in high-rainfall zones?

- (a) Addition of organic matter to improve humus content.
(b) Liming to neutralise acidity.
(c) Controlled flooding for paddy cultivation.
(d) Deep ploughing during monsoon

77. If a country is both landlocked and part of the Mekong River basin, it must be:

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

A

78. In the Indian constitutional scheme, the division of powers between the Union and States is based primarily on:

- (a) Doctrine of territorial jurisdiction
- (b) Residual powers model similar to Canada
- (c) Federal supremacy with enumerated state powers
- (d) Symmetrical federalism with equal autonomy to all states

B

79. Consider the following statements about the Inter-State Council (ISC) in India:

1. The Inter-State Council is a permanent constitutional body under Article 263, and its composition cannot be altered.
2. The Council was constituted in 1990 on the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission (1983–1988).
3. Its recommendations are binding on the Union and the States when they pertain to subjects in the Union List.
4. Although the ISC cannot itself amend the Constitution, it may recommend changes to constitutional provisions for consideration by Parliament.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

A

80. Which one of the following is NOT correct regarding the basic structure doctrine?

- (a) It evolved through multiple cases, beginning with Kesavananda Bharati
- (b) Free and fair elections, separation of powers, and independence of the judiciary are part of it.
- (c) It was first hinted at in Golaknath v. State of Punjab, where the Court used the term basic structure.
- (d) It serves as a constitutional limitation on the Parliament

C

81. Assertion (A): The President of India can return a non-money Bill to Parliament for reconsideration only once.

Reason (R): The Constitution mandates that if the Bill is passed again, the President is bound to give assent.

Which of the following is correct in respect of above

- (a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation.
- (b) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation.
- (c) A is correct, R is incorrect.
- (d) A is incorrect, R is correct.

C

82. Which of the following is/are correct about the role of the Finance Commission in India?

1. Recommending the distribution of net tax proceeds between the Union and the States.
2. Determining the principles governing grants-in-aid.
3. Fixing the borrowing limits of States.

Which of the above statements is/are correct

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

B

83. The concept of "Money Bill" in India is derived from:

- (a) US Constitution
- (b) British parliamentary practice
- (c) Canadian Constitution
- (d) Government of India Act, 1935

D

84. A state government wants to ban an agricultural pesticide citing health risks.

Which constitutional provision will most likely determine the validity of the state's action?

- (a) Doctrine of harmonious construction
- (b) Principle of proportionality
- (c) Doctrine of repugnancy under Article 254
- (d) Article 368 provisions.

85. Arrange the following committees in chronological order of their establishment:

1. Narasimham Committee on Financial Sector Reforms
2. Kelkar Task Force on Indirect Taxes
3. Chakravarty Committee on Monetary Policy
4. Rajan Committee on Financial Sector Reforms

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

fiscal def.

2 1

1 2

3 3 2 4
2 2 1

86. Which of the following best explains the "Dutch Disease" in economics?

- (a) Inflation caused by excessive imports of luxury goods
- (b) Currency appreciation due to natural resource boom harming manufacturing exports
- (c) Collapse of domestic agriculture due to cheap imports
- (d) Long-term fiscal deficit from welfare spending

B

87. If India experiences a sharp fall in crude oil prices while maintaining the same consumption level, which immediate macroeconomic outcomes are most likely?

1. Reduced current account deficit ✓
2. Lower wholesale price index inflation
3. Fall in foreign exchange reserves

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

A

88. Assertion (A): A "Fiscal Deficit" implies an increase in public debt.

Reason (R): Fiscal deficit represents the gap between total expenditure and total receipts excluding borrowings.

- (a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation.
- (b) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation.
- (c) A is correct, R is incorrect.
- (d) A is incorrect, R is correct.

89. Which of the following steps can directly reduce the problem of "twin balance sheet" in the Indian economy?

- (a) Aggressive monetary easing by RBI
- (b) Recapitalisation of public sector banks and faster insolvency resolution
- (c) Raising import tariffs on steel
- (d) Increasing FDI limits in multi-brand retail

(B)

90. Consider the following statements regarding India's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS):

- 1. Sulphur dioxide and ozone are both listed as pollutants under NAAQS.
- 2. Ammonia is included in NAAQS, but methane is not.
- 3. Carbon monoxide is excluded from NAAQS as it is a greenhouse gas.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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



91. Consider the following statements:

- 1. A wetland listed in the Montreux Record continues to be a Ramsar site but requires priority conservation measures.
- 2. Keoladeo National Park was removed from the Montreux Record in 2024 after successful ecological restoration.
- 3. India has more than 90 Ramsar sites as of 2025.

Which of the above statements is/are correct

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

(B)

92. Arrange the following international environmental agreements in chronological order:

- 1. Kyoto Protocol
- 2. Montreal Protocol
- 3. Ramsar Convention - 1971
- 4. Paris Agreement - 2015

(a) 3-2-1-4

(b) 2-3-1-4

(c) 3-1-2-4

(d) 2-1-3-4

(C)

1-2 3-4

93. Which of the following best explains the concept of "Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)"?

- (a) Trading in carbon credits under the Kyoto Protocol
- (b) Direct monetary incentives to landowners for maintaining ecological order
- (c) Taxing polluters based on pollution levels
- (d) Government subsidies for organic farming

(C)

94. Assertion (A): In India, the Biological Diversity Act provides for the creation of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at local levels.

Reason (R): This is to ensure decentralised documentation and sustainable use of biological resources.

- (a) Both A and R are correct, and R is the correct explanation.
- (b) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation.
- (c) A is correct, R is incorrect.
- (d) A is incorrect, R is correct.

(A)

A

95. With reference to COP30 (2025) in Belém, Brazil, consider the following statements:

1. Infrastructure built for the summit has drawn criticism for causing Amazon deforestation.
2. Most of the member countries have already submitted updated NDCs.
3. Brazil plans to shift the venue due to high costs.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) One only
- (b) Two only
- (c) All three
- (d) None

B

96. Which one of the following is the correct sequence from largest to smallest in terms of global greenhouse gas contribution?

- (a) Agriculture > Transport > Industry > Waste
- (b) Electricity > Agriculture > Industry > Waste
- (c) Energy > Land use > Agriculture > Industry
- (d) Industry > Energy > Waste > Agriculture

97. Which of the following can be classified as "public goods" in economic theory?

1. National defence
2. Street lighting
3. Irrigation water in a canal network
4. Air quality

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

D

98. Which of the following is the main objective of "Green Credit Programme" launched in India?

- (a) To provide tradable credits for environmentally beneficial actions
- (b) To finance start-ups in renewable energy sector
- (c) To replace carbon tax with voluntary credits
- (d) To monitor credit flow to green manufacturing units

99. Consider the following statements:

1. All the disasters recognised under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, involve a sudden and violent onset.
2. Events like droughts, which evolve gradually, are not included in the official disaster notifications in India.
3. In 2024, the Government of India included "heatwaves" in the list of notified disasters eligible for State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) assistance.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are incorrect?

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

100. Consider the following statements regarding "Blue Carbon" in the context of COP29 discussions:

1. It aims to integrate mangrove restoration targets into countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
2. Blue carbon ecosystems sequester carbon at rates significantly higher per unit area than most terrestrial forests.
3. The UNFCCC currently excludes blue carbon accounting from national greenhouse gas inventories.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) One only
- (b) Two only
- (c) All three
- (d) None

C