Day 26 | 20 MCQs with complete explanations

English

IAS with Dr Ravi · APPSC Group 1 · 1,000 Topics in 100 Days

Topics 251–260. Updated 1 November 2026. Pictographs are supplied separately; these notes preserve the full teaching sequence.

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Questions

Topic 251 | Arya Samaj, Ramakrishna Mission and Theosophical Society

Q1. Consider the following statements about the reform movements of the late nineteenth century:

1. According to NCERT, the Arya Samaj set up schools for girls in Punjab.
2. The motto of the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission means: for one's own salvation and for the welfare of the world.
3. Ramakrishna Paramahamsa was alive when Swami Vivekananda founded the Ramakrishna Mission.
4. Helena Blavatsky and Henry Steel Olcott had settled in India before the permanent headquarters of the Theosophical Society was set up at Adyar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(1) 1 and 3 only

(2) 2 and 4 only

(3) 2, 3 and 4 only

(4) 1, 2 and 4 only

Q2. Match List I (Person) with List II (What the person did):

List I (Person)	List II (What the person did)
A. Lala Hansraj	1. Founded a college at Benares in 1898 that later became the nucleus of Banaras Hindu University
B. Annie Besant	2. Was one of the founders of the Theosophical Society in New York City in 1875
C. Swami Shraddhanand	3. Was the first headmaster of the DAV school opened at Lahore in 1886 and became honorary principal of the DAV College, Lahore, in 1889
D. Henry Steel Olcott	4. Founded a Gurukul in 1902 that grew into the Gurukula Kangri university of Haridwar

(1) A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2

(2) A-3, B-2, C-4, D-1

(3) A-4, B-1, C-3, D-2

(4) A-4, B-2, C-3, D-1

Topic 252 | Kakatiya administration and tank irrigation

Q1. Match List I (Kakatiya tank) with List II (What the records say about it):

List I (Kakatiya tank)	List II (What the records say about it)
A. Pakhal lake	1. Lies close to the temple at Palampet begun by the general Recherla Rudra
B. Bayyaram tank	2. Named Dharmakirti-Maila-Samudra after the title of Mailama, a sister of Ganapatideva
C. Ramappa lake	3. A 13th-century Kakatiya lake in Govindaraopet mandal of Mulugu district
D. Laknavaram lake	4. Built in the reign of Ganapatideva; lies about 50 km east of Warangal city

(1) A-1, B-2, C-4, D-3

(2) A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3

(3) A-1, B-3, C-4, D-2

(4) A-4, B-3, C-1, D-2

Q2. Consider the following statements about Kakatiya administration:

1. The karanam, who kept the village accounts and land records, was one of the ayagars of the Kakatiya village.
2. Prataparudra ruled the Kakatiya kingdom from Kalyani.
3. Under Prataparudra, a nayankara was the tax-free land that a village servant held in return for hereditary service.
4. Kakatiya inscriptions record the building of irrigation tanks, and digging a tank was counted as an act of religious merit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(1) 1 and 2 only

(2) 2 and 3 only

(3) 1 and 4 only

(4) 3 and 4 only

Topic 253 | Parliamentary and presidential systems compared

Q1. Consider the following statements about the parliamentary and presidential systems:

1. Dr B.R. Ambedkar told the Constituent Assembly that the Draft Constitution recommended the parliamentary system because it gives the executive more stability.
2. Under the US Constitution, a person holding any office under the United States cannot be a member of either House of Congress while continuing in that office.
3. Under the US Constitution, the Senate brings the impeachment of a President, and the House of Representatives decides whether to convict him.
4. The NCERT textbook gives Brazil as an example of a semi-presidential system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(1) 2 only

(2) 1 and 3 only

(3) 2, 3 and 4 only

(4) 1 and 4 only

Q2. Match List I (Article of the Constitution of India) with List II (What it provides):

List I (Article of the Constitution of India)	List II (What it provides)
A. Article 61	1. The executive power of the Union is vested in the President, to be exercised by him directly or through officers subordinate to him
B. Article 74(1)	2. The procedure for impeaching the President for violation of the Constitution, on a charge that either House of Parliament may prefer
C. Article 85(2)(b)	3. The President may dissolve the House of the People
D. Article 53(1)	4. The President may require the Council of Ministers to reconsider its advice, but must act on the advice tendered after reconsideration

(1) A-3, B-4, C-2, D-1

(2) A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4

(3) A-3, B-1, C-2, D-4

(4) A-2, B-4, C-3, D-1

Topic 254 | Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Union executive:

1. The Supreme Court has held that a person who is not a member of either House of Parliament may be appointed Prime Minister.
2. Article 352 describes the Union Cabinet as the Council consisting of the Prime Minister and other Ministers of Cabinet rank appointed under Article 75.
3. Article 77 requires the President to make rules for the allocation among Ministers of the business of the Government of India.
4. Article 88 gives every Minister the right to vote in either House of Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(1) 1 and 4 only

(2) 2, 3 and 4 only

(3) 1, 2 and 3 only

(4) 2 and 3 only

Q2. Match List I (Clause of Article 75 of the Constitution) with List II (What the clause provides):

List I (Clause of Article 75 of the Constitution)	List II (What the clause provides)
A. Article 75(1A)	1. The total number of Ministers, including the Prime Minister, shall not exceed 15 per cent of the total number of members of the House of the People
B. Article 75(1B)	2. The Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the President
C. Article 75(2)	3. The Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of the People
D. Article 75(3)	4. A member of either House disqualified under the Tenth Schedule is also disqualified to be appointed a Minister for a period

(1) A-4, B-1, C-2, D-3

(2) A-1, B-4, C-2, D-3

(3) A-4, B-1, C-3, D-2

(4) A-1, B-4, C-3, D-2

Topic 255 | Planning in India: objectives and types of planning

Q1. Consider the following statements about the goals of planning and the Planning Commission in India:

1. NCERT explains that modernisation, as a goal of the five year plans, meant not only the adoption of new technology but also a change in social outlook, such as recognising that women should have the same rights as men.
2. According to NCERT, planning in the real sense began with the First Five Year Plan, which was based on the ideas of Mahalanobis.
3. The 1950 resolution setting up the Planning Commission asked it, among other things, to indicate the factors that were tending to retard economic development.
4. NCERT explains self-reliance, as a goal of the plans, as earning enough from exports to pay for imports of food.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(1) 1 only

(2) 2 and 4 only

(3) 2, 3 and 4

(4) 1 and 3 only

Q2. Match List I (Type of planning) with List II (What it means):

List I (Type of planning)	List II (What it means)
A. Imperative planning	1. A long-term plan of about twenty years, for which the five year plans were meant to provide the basis
B. Indicative planning	2. The State sets priorities and gives facilities to private investment, but gives no orders to individual firms; France is the usual example
C. Perspective planning	3. All economic activity and resources come under State direction, and the planners decide what each enterprise produces
D. Rolling plan	4. Every year three plans are made: one for the current year, one for three to five years and one for ten to twenty years

(1) A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4

(2) A-3, B-2, C-1, D-4

(3) A-2, B-3, C-4, D-1

(4) A-3, B-2, C-4, D-1

Topic 256 | Revolution of the Earth, seasons, solstices and equinoxes

Q1. Match List I (position of the Earth in its orbit, as NCERT names it) with List II (what holds at that position, as NCERT gives it):

List I	List II
A. Perihelion	1. The Sun's rays fall directly on the Tropic of Capricorn
B. Aphelion	2. The Sun's rays fall directly on the Tropic of Cancer
C. Summer solstice	3. The Earth is about 152 million km from the Sun
D. Winter solstice	4. The Earth is about 147 million km from the Sun

(1) A-4, B-3, C-2, D-1

(2) A-3, B-4, C-2, D-1

(3) A-4, B-3, C-1, D-2

(4) A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2

Q2. Consider the following statements about the revolution of the Earth:

1. Over one yearly orbit, the Earth's axis remains inclined in approximately the same direction.
2. The Earth's axis makes an angle of 23½° with the plane of its orbit.
3. The Arctic Circle lies at the latitude that equals the tilt of the Earth's axis from the perpendicular to its orbital plane.
4. On 21 June, places beyond the Antarctic Circle have continuous daylight.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(1) 1 and 3 only

(2) 2 and 4 only

(3) 1 only

(4) 2, 3 and 4 only

Topic 257 | Protected areas: national parks, sanctuaries, biosphere reserves and conservation reserves

Q1. Consider the following statements about protected areas in India:

1. Under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, a community reserve is declared on private or community land that is not comprised within a national park, a sanctuary or a conservation reserve.
2. Conservation reserves and community reserves were brought into the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 by the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002.
3. In its judgment of 26 April 2023, the Supreme Court directed that mining is not permissible within a national park or a wildlife sanctuary, or within one kilometre of its boundary.
4. Under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 incorporating the cited 2003 and 2022 amendments, an alteration of the boundaries of a national park by the State Government requires a resolution passed by the State Legislature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(1) 1, 3 and 4 only

(2) 2 and 4 only

(3) 1, 2 and 3 only

(4) 2 and 3 only

Q2. Match List I (Kind of protected area under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972) with List II (What the Act provides about it):

List I (Kind of protected area)	List II (What the Act provides)
A. National park	1. The Collector may allow a person's existing rights over land within it to continue
B. Wildlife sanctuary	2. The final notification is issued only when all rights over the land within it have vested in the State Government
C. Conservation reserve	3. Its management committee is itself the authority responsible for managing it and prepares its management plan
D. Community reserve	4. Its management committee advises the Chief Wild Life Warden on managing it

(1) A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3

(2) A-1, B-2, C-4, D-3

(3) A-2, B-1, C-3, D-4

(4) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4

Topic 258 | Goleman's model: the five components

Q1. Match List I (Component in Goleman's "What Makes a Leader?", 1998) with List II (Hallmark the article gives):

List I (Component)	List II (Hallmark the article gives)
A. Self-regulation	1. Expertise in building and leading teams
B. Motivation	2. Organisational commitment
C. Empathy	3. Expertise in building and retaining talent
D. Social skill	4. Comfort with ambiguity

(1) A-2, B-4, C-3, D-1

(2) A-4, B-2, C-3, D-1

(3) A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3

(4) A-2, B-4, C-1, D-3

Q2. Consider the following statements about Goleman's model of emotional intelligence:

1. In the Emotional Competence Framework, adaptability and initiative are both placed under Social Competence.
2. In "What Makes a Leader?", a self-deprecating sense of humour is one of the hallmarks of self-awareness.
3. In "What Makes a Leader?", Goleman calls emotional intelligence a threshold capability, an entry-level requirement for executive positions.
4. In "What Makes a Leader?", Goleman writes that emotional intelligence has a genetic component and increases with age.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(1) 1 and 3 only

(2) 1 and 2 only

(3) 3 and 4 only

(4) 2 and 4 only

Topic 259 | Profit and loss: cost price, selling price and profit per cent

Q1. A dealer buys a second-hand auto-rickshaw for ₹1,35,000 and spends ₹15,000 on its repairs. At what price must he sell it to make a profit of 20 per cent?

(1) ₹1,62,000

(2) ₹1,77,000

(3) ₹1,80,000

(4) ₹1,87,500

Q2. A fruit vendor buys lemons at 15 for ₹12 and sells them at 12 for ₹15. What is his profit per cent?

(1) 0%

(2) 25%

(3) 36%

(4) 56 1/4%

Topic 260 | Heatwaves and lightning: recommendation, notified status and disaster finance

Q1. Consider the following statements about the disaster funds recommended by the Sixteenth Finance Commission for 2026-31:

1. The corpus for the State Disaster Response Fund and the State Disaster Mitigation Fund is to be divided between the two in the ratio of 75:25.
2. Preparedness and Capacity Building is to be paid for from the State Disaster Response Fund.
3. From 2027-28, complete feeding and validation of data in the National Disaster Management Information System portal is a necessary condition for a State to avail the Disaster Management Grant.
4. Further releases to a State's Disaster Response Fund may be temporarily withheld if its unspent balance exceeds the sum of its past five years' annual allocation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(1) 3 only

(2) 1 and 3 only

(3) 2 and 4 only

(4) 1, 2 and 4 only

Q2. Match List I (step taken) with List II (who took it):

List I (step taken)	List II (who took it)
A. Included heatwaves and lightning in the list of notified natural calamities, under the operational guidelines for the SDRF and the NDRF for 2026-31	1. Ministry of Home Affairs
B. Recorded, in an Explanatory Memorandum on the action taken, that the Government has accepted the recommendations on the disaster funds	2. National Disaster Management Authority
C. Recommended, in a report tabled in Parliament on 1 February 2026, adding heatwaves and lightning to the list of notified natural calamities	3. Ministry of Finance
D. Formulated guidelines that help heatwave-prone States and Union territories prepare Heat Action Plans	4. Sixteenth Finance Commission

(1) A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2

(2) A-1, B-3, C-4, D-2

(3) A-3, B-1, C-2, D-4

(4) A-1, B-3, C-2, D-4

Answer key and detailed explanations

Topic 251 | Arya Samaj, Ramakrishna Mission and Theosophical Society

Q1. Answer: (4) 1, 2 and 4 only

- Statement 1 is correct: NCERT says schools for girls were established by the Arya Samaj in Punjab, and by Jyotirao Phule in Maharashtra.
- Statement 2 is correct: the motto, "ātmano mokṣārthaṃ jagat hitāya ca", means for one's own salvation and for the welfare of the world. Vivekananda formulated it.
- Statement 3 is wrong: Ramakrishna lived from 1836 to 1886. Vivekananda founded the Mission on 1 May 1897, eleven years after his guru's death, and named it after him.
- Statement 4 is correct: Blavatsky and Olcott left New York for Bombay late in 1878 and settled in India in 1879; the permanent headquarters at Adyar, Madras, was set up in 1882.
- Why the other options are wrong: (1) includes statement 3, which is wrong, and leaves out statements 2 and 4. (2) leaves out statement 1, which is correct. (3) includes statement 3, which is wrong, and leaves out statement 1.

Q2. Answer: (1) A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2

- Why it is correct: Lala Hansraj co-founded the first DAV school at Lahore with Gurudatta Vidyarthi on 1 June 1886 and was its first headmaster; when the DAV College was founded at Lahore in 1889 he became its honorary principal (A-3). Annie Besant founded the Central Hindu College at Benares in July 1898; it became the nucleus of Banaras Hindu University in 1916 (B-1). Swami Shraddhanand founded the Gurukul at Kangri, near Hardwar, on 4 March 1902; it grew into the Gurukula Kangri university (C-4). Olcott was one of the founders of the Theosophical Society in New York City on 17 November 1875, with Blavatsky and Judge (D-2).
- Why (2) is wrong: it exchanges Besant and Olcott. Besant joined the Society only in 1889; Olcott was not the founder of the Benares college.
- Why (3) is wrong: it exchanges the two Arya Samaj leaders. The DAV school at Lahore was Hansraj's work; the Gurukul was Shraddhanand's, and after the split in Punjab the two men led opposite sections.
- Why (4) is wrong: it exchanges both pairs, so all four matches are wrong.

Topic 252 | Kakatiya administration and tank irrigation

Q1. Answer: (2) A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3

- Why it is correct: Pakhal lake was built in Ganapatideva's reign and lies about 50 km east of Warangal (A-4). The Bayyaram tank was built by Mailama, a sister of Ganapatideva, and named Dharmakirti-Maila-Samudra after her title (B-2). Ramappa lake lies close to the Ramappa temple at Palampet, which the general Recherla Rudra began (C-1). Laknavaram lake is a 13th-century Kakatiya lake in Govindaraopet mandal of Mulugu district (D-3).
- Why (1) is wrong: it exchanges Pakhal and Ramappa. Pakhal lies about 50 km east of Warangal; the lake beside Recherla Rudra's temple at Palampet is Ramappa lake.
- Why (4) is wrong: it exchanges Bayyaram and Laknavaram. The Dharmakirti-Maila-Samudra of Mailama is the Bayyaram tank; the lake in Govindaraopet mandal is Laknavaram.
- Why (3) is wrong: it makes both exchanges.

Q2. Answer: (3) 1 and 4 only

- Statement 1 is correct: the karanam, one of the ayagars, was the village accountant; he kept the registers of income and spending and the land records.
- Statement 2 is wrong: Ganapatideva, Rudramadevi and Prataparudra ruled from Orugallu (Warangal), not from Kalyani.
- Statement 3 is wrong: a nayankara was a territory held by a nayaka, a military chief who kept troops for the king; a record of 1311-12, in Prataparudra's reign, speaks of the nayankara administration of a chief. The tax-free land held by the village servants for hereditary service was manyam.
- Statement 4 is correct: kings, royal women, generals and nobles built tanks and recorded them in inscriptions, as at Bayyaram; the ideal of the seven meritorious deeds (saptasantana) counts the digging of a tank among them.
- Why the other options are wrong: (1) includes statement 2, which is wrong, and leaves out statement 4. (2) includes statements 2 and 3, which are both wrong. (4) includes statement 3, which is wrong, and leaves out statement 1.

Topic 253 | Parliamentary and presidential systems compared

Q1. Answer: (1) 2 only

- Statement 1 is wrong: Ambedkar said the Draft Constitution "has preferred more responsibility to more stability". It is the American and the Swiss systems that "give more stability but less responsibility"; the British system gives "more responsibility but less stability".
- Statement 2 is correct: Article I, Section 6 of the US Constitution says "no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office". This is why the US executive stands apart from the legislature.
- Statement 3 is wrong: the roles are reversed. The House of Representatives has "the sole Power of Impeachment" (Article I, Section 2) and the Senate has "the sole Power to try all Impeachments" (Article I, Section 3).
- Statement 4 is wrong: NCERT names Brazil, with the United States and most nations in Latin America, as examples of the presidential system. Its examples of the semi-presidential system are France, Russia and Sri Lanka.
- Why the other options are wrong: (2) includes statements 1 and 3, both wrong, and leaves out statement 2. (3) includes statements 3 and 4, both wrong. (4) includes statements 1 and 4, both wrong, and leaves out statement 2.

Q2. Answer: (4) A-2, B-4, C-3, D-1

- A-2: Article 61 lays down the procedure for impeaching the President: the charge "shall be preferred by either House of Parliament". The ground, "violation of the Constitution", is in Article 56(1)(b), which says the removal is "in the manner provided in article 61".
- B-4: the proviso to Article 74(1) lets the President require the Council of Ministers to reconsider its advice, and he "shall act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration".
- C-3: under Article 85(2)(b) the President may from time to time "dissolve the House of the People".
- D-1: Article 53(1) vests the executive power of the Union in the President, to be exercised "either directly or through officers subordinate to him".
- Why (1) is wrong: it exchanges Articles 61 and 85(2)(b). Both cut short a term of office, but under Article 61 the Houses of Parliament remove the President by impeachment, while under Article 85(2)(b) the President dissolves the Lok Sabha.
- Why (2) is wrong: it exchanges Articles 74(1) and 53(1). Both concern the President's place in the executive, but Article 53(1) vests the executive power in him, while Article 74(1) and its proviso bind him to ministerial advice.
- Why (3) is wrong: it makes both exchanges.

Topic 254 | Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers

Q1. Answer: (3) 1, 2 and 3 only

- Statement 1 is correct: in S.P. Anand v. H.D. Deve Gowda (1996) the Supreme Court held that a non-member can be appointed Prime Minister; like any other Minister, he must become a member within six consecutive months (Article 75(5)).
- Statement 2 is correct: Article 352(3) speaks of "the Union Cabinet (that is to say, the Council consisting of the Prime Minister and other Ministers of Cabinet rank appointed under article 75)".
- Statement 3 is correct: Article 77(3) says the President shall make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of India, and for the allocation among Ministers of that business.
- Statement 4 is wrong: Article 88 gives a Minister the right to speak in and take part in the proceedings of either House, but says he "shall not by virtue of this article be entitled to vote". He votes only in the House of which he is a member.
- Why the other options are wrong: (1) includes statement 4, which is wrong, and leaves out statements 2 and 3, which are correct. (2) includes statement 4 and leaves out statement 1, which is correct. (4) leaves out statement 1, which is correct.

Q2. Answer: (2) A-1, B-4, C-2, D-3

- A-1: clause (1A) caps the Council, the Prime Minister included, at 15 per cent of the total membership of the House of the People.
- B-4: clause (1B) bars a member disqualified under paragraph 2 of the Tenth Schedule from being appointed a Minister until his term would have ended or he is elected again, whichever is earlier.
- C-2: clause (2) says the Ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President.
- D-3: clause (3) makes the Council collectively responsible to the House of the People.
- Why (1) is wrong: it exchanges clauses (1A) and (1B). Both came with the Ninety-first Amendment, 2003, but the size ceiling is in (1A) and the bar on defectors is in (1B).
- Why (4) is wrong: it exchanges clauses (2) and (3). The pleasure of the President is in clause (2); collective responsibility to the Lok Sabha is in clause (3).
- Why (3) is wrong: it makes both exchanges.

Topic 255 | Planning in India: objectives and types of planning

Q1. Answer: (4) 1 and 3 only

- Statement 1 is correct: NCERT says modernisation is the adoption of new technology and also includes a change in social outlook, such as recognising that women should have the same rights as men.
- Statement 2 is wrong: NCERT says planning in the real sense began with the **Second** Five Year Plan, which was based on the ideas of Mahalanobis, whom it calls the architect of Indian planning.
- Statement 3 is correct: one of the seven functions in the 1950 resolution was to indicate the factors tending to retard economic development.
- Statement 4 is wrong: NCERT explains self-reliance as avoiding imports of goods that could be produced in India itself, to reduce dependence on foreign countries, especially for food. It does not speak of paying for food imports with exports.
- Why the other options are wrong: (1) leaves out statement 3, which is correct. (2) contains statements 2 and 4, which are both wrong, and leaves out both correct statements. (3) contains the wrong statements 2 and 4, and leaves out statement 1.

Q2. Answer: (2) A-3, B-2, C-1, D-4

- A-3: under imperative planning the State directs all economic activity and resources, and the planners, not the firms, decide what each enterprise produces.
- B-2: under indicative planning the State sets priorities and gives facilities and guidance to private investment, but does not order firms about; the French system is the usual example.
- C-1: NCERT calls the long-term plan of about twenty years a perspective plan, and says the five year plans were meant to provide its basis.
- D-4: a rolling plan makes three plans afresh every year: for the current year, for three to five years and for ten to twenty years. Its long third part is what makes it easy to confuse with a perspective plan; the difference is that a rolling plan is redrawn every year.
- Why the other options are wrong: (1) exchanges imperative and indicative planning. (3) makes both exchanges, so all four pairs are wrong. (4) exchanges the perspective plan and the rolling plan.

Topic 256 | Revolution of the Earth, seasons, solstices and equinoxes

Q1. Answer: (1) A-4, B-3, C-2, D-1

- A-4: at perihelion (3 January in NCERT) the Earth is nearest to the Sun, about 147 million km (NASA: 147.095 million km).
- B-3: at aphelion (4 July in NCERT) the Earth is farthest from the Sun, about 152 million km (NASA: 152.100 million km).
- C-2: on the summer solstice, 21 June, the Sun's rays fall directly on the Tropic of Cancer.
- D-1: on the winter solstice, 22 December, the Sun's rays fall directly on the Tropic of Capricorn.
- Why (2) is wrong: it exchanges perihelion and aphelion. Perihelion is the nearer point, 147 million km, and it comes in the northern winter.
- Why (3) is wrong: it exchanges the two solstices. On 21 June the vertical rays are on the northern tropic, the Tropic of Cancer, which is why the northern hemisphere has summer then.
- Why (4) is wrong: it makes both exchanges.

Q2. Answer: (3) 1 only

- Statement 1 is correct: NCERT says that throughout its orbit the Earth is inclined in the same direction; the axis keeps approximately the same direction in space over one year. This is why the northern hemisphere leans towards the Sun in June and away from it in December.
- Statement 2 is wrong: the axis makes 66½° with the plane of the orbit. 23½° is its tilt from the perpendicular to that plane.
- Statement 3 is wrong: the Tropics lie at the latitude that equals the tilt (23½°). The Arctic Circle lies at 90° minus the tilt, 66½°.
- Statement 4 is wrong: on 21 June it is the places beyond the Arctic Circle that have continuous daylight. In the southern hemisphere the conditions are reversed, so beyond the Antarctic Circle the Sun stays below the horizon then.
- Why the other options are wrong: (1) includes statement 3, which is wrong. (2) leaves out statement 1, which is correct, and includes statements 2 and 4, both wrong. (4) leaves out statement 1 and includes statements 2, 3 and 4, all wrong.

Topic 257 | Protected areas: national parks, sanctuaries, biosphere reserves and conservation reserves

Q1. Answer: (3) 1, 2 and 3 only

- Statement 1 is correct: section 36C(1) allows the State Government to declare as a community reserve private or community land "not comprised within a National Park, sanctuary or a conservation reserve", where a community or an individual has volunteered to conserve wild life and its habitat.
- Statement 2 is correct: sections 36A to 36D were inserted by the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002 (Act 16 of 2003), in force from 1 April 2003.
- Statement 3 is correct: the judgment of 26 April 2023 directed that mining within a national park or wildlife sanctuary, and within an area of one kilometre from its boundary, is not permissible, even as it relaxed the one-kilometre ESZ rule in other respects.
- Statement 4 is wrong: section 35(5) says the State Government shall not alter the boundaries of a national park except on the recommendation of the National Board for Wild Life. The cited amended provision does not ask for a resolution of the State Legislature. The same rule applies to a sanctuary (section 26A(3)).
- Why the other options are wrong: (1) includes statement 4, which is wrong, and leaves out statement 2, which is correct. (2) includes statement 4, which is wrong, and leaves out statements 1 and 3, which are correct. (4) leaves out statement 1, which is correct.

Q2. Answer: (1) A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3

- A-2: under section 35(4) the State Government issues the final notification of a national park only when all rights in the land proposed to be included have vested in it.
- B-1: under section 24(2)(c) the Collector, in consultation with the Chief Wild Life Warden, may allow the continuation of a person's rights over land within a sanctuary.
- C-4: under section 36B the conservation reserve management committee advises the Chief Wild Life Warden on conserving, managing and maintaining the reserve.
- D-3: under section 36D the community reserve management committee is the authority responsible for conserving, maintaining and managing the reserve, and it prepares the management plan.
- Why (2) is wrong: it gets the two reserves right but exchanges the national park and the sanctuary. Rights may continue in a sanctuary; in a national park they must all vest in the State Government.
- Why (3) is wrong: it gets the national park and the sanctuary right but exchanges the two reserves. The committee of a conservation reserve only advises; the committee of a community reserve manages.
- Why (4) is wrong: it makes both exchanges, so none of its four pairs is right.

Topic 258 | Goleman's model: the five components

Q1. Answer: (2) A-4, B-2, C-3, D-1

- A-4 is correct: comfort with ambiguity is a hallmark of self-regulation, the ability to control or redirect disruptive impulses and moods.
- B-2 is correct: organisational commitment is a hallmark of motivation, a passion to work for reasons beyond money or status.
- C-3 is correct: expertise in building and retaining talent is a hallmark of empathy, the ability to understand the emotional make-up of other people.
- D-1 is correct: expertise in building and leading teams is a hallmark of social skill, proficiency in managing relationships and building networks.
- Why (1) is wrong: it exchanges self-regulation and motivation. Organisational commitment belongs to motivation; comfort with ambiguity belongs to self-regulation. Both are self-management components, so only the article's own grouping settles this pair.
- Why (3) is wrong: it exchanges empathy and social skill. The two "building" hallmarks are easily mixed: building and retaining talent is empathy, but building and leading teams is social skill.
- Why (4) is wrong: it makes both exchanges.

Q2. Answer: (4) 2 and 4 only

- Statement 1 is wrong: in the framework, adaptability is in the Self-Regulation cluster and initiative is in the Self-Motivation cluster. Both are under Personal Competence, not Social Competence.
- Statement 2 is correct: the hallmarks of self-awareness in the article are self-confidence, realistic self-assessment and a self-deprecating sense of humour.
- Statement 3 is wrong: Goleman gives the label "threshold capabilities" to IQ and technical skills, not to emotional intelligence. The reported twice-as-important result belongs to his historical competency-model analysis, not a universal ratio.
- Statement 4 is correct: the article says there is a genetic component to emotional intelligence, that nurture also plays a part, and that it increases with age. This answer tests what the historical article states, not a universal modern scientific finding.
- Why the other options are wrong: (1) includes statements 1 and 3, both wrong. (2) includes statement 1, which is wrong, and leaves out statement 4. (3) includes statement 3, which is wrong, and leaves out statement 2.

Topic 259 | Profit and loss: cost price, selling price and profit per cent

Q1. Answer: (3) ₹1,80,000

- Worked solution: the repairs are overhead expenses, so they go into the cost price. CP = 1,35,000 + 15,000 = ₹1,50,000.
- The profit of 20% is on the CP: SP = 1,50,000 × 120/100 = 1,50,000 × 6/5 = ₹1,80,000.
- Check: profit = ₹30,000, and 30,000/1,50,000 × 100 = 20%.
- Why (1) is wrong: ₹1,62,000 = 1,35,000 × 6/5. It leaves out the overheads altogether and works on the buying price.
- Why (2) is wrong: ₹1,77,000 = 1,35,000 × 6/5 + 15,000. It adds the repairs only after the profit, so the profit is earned on the buying price alone. The overheads are part of the CP, and the 20% is on the whole CP.
- Why (4) is wrong: ₹1,87,500 = 1,50,000 ÷ 0.8. It takes the profit as 20% of the SP: then the profit of ₹37,500 is 20% of ₹1,87,500 but 25% of the CP.

Q2. Answer: (4) 56 1/4%

- Worked solution: compare one lemon. CP of one = 12/15 = ₹0.80. SP of one = 15/12 = ₹1.25.
- Multiplier = 1.25 ÷ 0.80 = 25/16, so the profit is 9/16 of the CP = 56 1/4%.
- Check with 60 lemons: they cost 60 × 0.80 = ₹48 and sell for 60 × 1.25 = ₹75. Profit ₹27, and 27/48 × 100 = 56 1/4%. By Topic 159 it is two rises of 25%: 25 + 25 + 625/100 = 56 1/4.
- Why (1) is wrong: 0% assumes that swapping the two figures cancels out, so there is no profit and no loss. The vendor pays less than ₹1 a lemon and gets more than ₹1 a lemon.
- Why (2) is wrong: 25% = (15 - 12)/12 × 100. It counts the ratio 15 : 12 only once: the vendor gets more lemons per rupee when he buys and gives fewer per rupee when he sells, so the ratio acts twice.
- Why (3) is wrong: 36% = 0.45/1.25 × 100. It takes the profit as a per cent of the SP. The base is the CP of ₹0.80.
- Adding the two rises (25 + 25 = 50%) leaves out the product term; 50% is not among the options.

Topic 260 | Heatwaves and lightning: recommendation, notified status and disaster finance

Q1. Answer: (1) 3 only

- Statement 1 is wrong: the corpus is divided between the SDRF and the SDMF in the ratio 80:20 (Rs 1,63,521 crore and Rs 40,880 crore). The 75:25 ratio is the cost sharing between the Union and the States other than the NEH States.
- Statement 2 is wrong: the Commission recommended that Preparedness and Capacity Building be covered under the mitigation funds, the SDMF and the NDMF. Inside the SDRF it allowed flexibility between Response and Relief and Recovery and Reconstruction. (Under the Fifteenth Finance Commission, preparedness and capacity building was a window of the response part.)
- Statement 3 is correct: from 2027-28, the second year of the award, complete feeding and validation of data in the NDMIS portal, for a financial year by 31 May of the next year, is a necessary condition for the Disaster Management Grant.
- Statement 4 is wrong: the limit is the sum of the past three years' annual allocation, not five years.
- Why the other options are wrong: (2) and (4) include statement 1, which is wrong. (3) and (4) include statements 2 and 4, which are wrong; (3) also leaves out statement 3, which is correct.

Q2. Answer: (2) A-1, B-3, C-4, D-2

- A-1: the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) included heatwaves and lightning in the list of notified natural calamities under its Operational Guidelines for the SDRF and NDRF for 2026-31, as the Government told the Lok Sabha on 4 August 2026.
- B-3: the Ministry of Finance's Explanatory Memorandum of 1 February 2026 sets out the action taken on the Commission's recommendations. On the disaster funds it says the Government has accepted them. It does not mention heatwaves or lightning.
- C-4: the Sixteenth Finance Commission, in its report tabled on 1 February 2026, recommended adding heatwaves and lightning to the list of notified natural calamities.
- D-2: the NDMA formulated the guidelines for preparing action plans on heat wave (October 2019); they help heatwave-prone States and Union territories prepare Heat Action Plans.
- Why (1) is wrong: it exchanges A and B. The Ministry of Finance recorded the acceptance of the recommendations on the funds; it is the MHA that placed heatwaves and lightning in the notified list.
- Why (3) is wrong: it makes both exchanges: A with B, and C with D.
- Why (4) is wrong: it exchanges C and D. The Commission made the recommendation on heatwaves and lightning; the NDMA framed the guidelines for Heat Action Plans.