Day 27 | 20 MCQs with complete explanations

English

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

Topics 261–270. Updated 1 November 2026.

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Topic 261 | Early Vedic age: Rigvedic polity, society and economy

Q1. Match List I (Rigvedic name of the river) with List II (Modern name):

List I (Rigvedic name of the river)	List II (Modern name)
A. Vitasta	1. Chenab
B. Asikni	2. Ravi
C. Parushni	3. Sutlej
D. Shutudri	4. Jhelum

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

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

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

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

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

- Why it is correct: the Vitasta is the Jhelum (A-4); the Asikni is the Chenab (B-1); the Parushni is the Ravi, the river of the Battle of Ten Kings (C-2); the Shutudri is the Sutlej (D-3). The Nadistuti sukta (Rigveda 10.75) names all four.
- Why (1) is wrong: it exchanges both pairs, the Vitasta and the Asikni, and the Parushni and the Shutudri.
- Why (2) is wrong: it gets the Vitasta and the Asikni right but exchanges the Parushni and the Shutudri. The Parushni is the Ravi; the Shutudri is the Sutlej.
- Why (4) is wrong: it gets the Parushni and the Shutudri right but exchanges the Vitasta and the Asikni. The Vitasta is the Jhelum; the Asikni is the Chenab.

Q2. Consider the following statements about the Rigvedic age:

1. The first and the tenth mandalas are the oldest books of the Rigveda.
2. NCERT says that battles in the Rigvedic age were fought to capture cattle, and that horses were yoked to the chariots used in them.
3. According to Britannica, the early Vedic rites required neither temples nor images.
4. The Purusha Sukta, which describes the four social categories as emerging from the body of the primeval man, is a hymn of the tenth mandala of the Rigveda.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(1) 1, 2 and 3

(2) 2, 3 and 4

(3) 3 and 4 only

(4) 1 and 4 only

Q2. Answer: (2) 2, 3 and 4

- Statement 1 is wrong: the oldest books are the “family books”, mandalas 2 to 7; mandalas 1 and 10 are the youngest. Britannica too says the first and last books are later than the middle ones.
- Statement 2 is correct: NCERT says that horses were yoked to chariots used in battles, which were fought to capture cattle.
- Statement 3 is correct: Britannica says the early Vedic rites required neither temples nor images and were held in open, freshly consecrated spaces.
- Statement 4 is correct: the Purusha Sukta is Rigveda 10.90, in the tenth mandala; it describes the four social categories emerging from the body of Purusha, the primeval man.
- Why the other options are wrong: (1) and (4) include statement 1, which is wrong. (3) leaves out statement 2, which is correct.

Topic 262 | Central and State Information Commissions

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Information Commissions:

1. Under section 20(1) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, the total penalty that the Commission may impose on an officer in a case cannot exceed ten thousand rupees.
2. A State Chief Information Commissioner is appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of a committee of the Chief Minister, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly.
3. The amendment that section 44(3) of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 made to section 8(1)(j) of the Right to Information Act is to come into force only in May 2027.
4. In Anjali Bhardwaj v. Union of India (2019), the Supreme Court directed that the process of filling a vacancy in an Information Commission should begin one to two months before the vacancy arises.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(1) 4 only

(2) 1 and 2 only

(3) 2, 3 and 4 only

(4) 1 and 3 only

Q1. Answer: (1) 4 only

- Statement 1 is wrong: section 20(1) fixes Rs 250 for each day, and the total amount of the penalty shall not exceed Rs 25,000.
- Statement 2 is wrong: the committee for an SIC is the Chief Minister (Chairperson), the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and a Cabinet Minister nominated by the Chief Minister (section 15(3)). The Speaker is not a member.
- Statement 3 is wrong: under G.S.R. 843(E), dated 13 November 2025, section 44(3) commences upon Gazette publication. Section 44(2), not 44(3), commences eighteen months from publication.
- Statement 4 is correct: the judgment of 15 February 2019 directed that vacancies be filled in time, with the process starting one to two months before a vacancy arises.
- Why the other options are wrong: (2) includes statements 1 and 2, both wrong, and leaves out statement 4. (3) includes statements 2 and 3, both wrong. (4) includes statements 1 and 3, both wrong, and leaves out statement 4.

Q2. Match List I (Section of the Right to Information Act, 2005, as now amended) with List II (What it provides):

List I (Section of the Right to Information Act, 2005, as now amended)	List II (What it provides)
A. Section 13	1. A second appeal lies to the Commission within ninety days from the date on which the first appellate decision should have been made or was actually received
B. Section 14	2. The Chief Information Commissioner holds office for such term as the Central Government may prescribe
C. Section 18	3. The Chief Information Commissioner or an Information Commissioner may be removed by order of the President on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity, after an inquiry by the Supreme Court
D. Section 19	4. The Commission receives and inquires into complaints, for example from a person charged an unreasonable fee, and while inquiring has certain powers of a civil court

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

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

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

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

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

- A-2: section 13, as substituted in 2019, provides that the Chief Information Commissioner shall hold office for such term as may be prescribed by the Central Government. The Rules of 2019 fix three years.
- B-3: section 14(1) provides for removal by order of the President on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity, after an inquiry by the Supreme Court.
- C-4: section 18 makes it the Commission's duty to receive and inquire into complaints, including one about an unreasonable fee, and section 18(3) gives it powers of a civil court while inquiring.
- D-1: section 19(3) provides the second appeal to the Commission within ninety days.
- Why (1) is wrong: it exchanges both pairs: the term and removal sections, and the complaint and appeal sections.
- Why (2) is wrong: it exchanges sections 18 and 19, putting the complaint under the appeal section and the second appeal under the complaint section. The term and removal pairs are right in it.
- Why (3) is wrong: it exchanges sections 13 and 14, putting removal under section 13 and the term under section 14. The complaint and appeal pairs are right in it.

Topic 263 | Deficits: revenue, fiscal, primary and effective revenue deficit

Q1. Match List I (Measure of government deficit) with List II (What it tells us, as the Budget documents or NCERT describe it):

List I (Measure of government deficit)	List II (What it tells us)
A. Revenue deficit	1. The borrowing caused by current expenditures exceeding revenues once the interest obligations on debt built up in the past are set aside
B. Fiscal deficit	2. What remains of a deficit once the Union's grants to States and other bodies for creating assets that those bodies own are taken out of it
C. Primary deficit	3. A sign that the government is dissaving: it uses the savings of other sectors to finance a part of its consumption expenditure
D. Effective revenue deficit	4. The total borrowing requirement of the government from all sources

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

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

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

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

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

- A-3: NCERT says that when the government incurs a revenue deficit, it is dissaving: it uses up the savings of the other sectors of the economy to finance a part of its consumption expenditure.
- B-4: NCERT says the fiscal deficit indicates the total borrowing requirements of the government from all sources.
- C-1: the primary deficit is the fiscal deficit minus interest payments. NCERT explains that it estimates the borrowing on account of current expenditures exceeding revenues, leaving out the interest on accumulated debt.
- D-2: the effective revenue deficit is the revenue deficit minus the grants in aid for creation of capital assets, the grants that build assets owned by States and other bodies (Budget at a Glance).
- Why (1) is wrong: it exchanges A and B. Dissaving belongs to the revenue deficit; the whole borrowing requirement is the fiscal deficit.

- Why (2) is wrong: it exchanges C and D. Setting aside interest gives the primary deficit; taking out the grants for capital assets gives the effective revenue deficit.
- Why (3) is wrong: it makes both exchanges, so all four pairs are wrong.

Q2. Consider the following statements about government deficits in India:

1. Under the FRBM Act, 2003 as amended in 2018, a deviation from the fiscal deficit target on the grounds that the Act allows may be as large as 1 per cent of GDP in a year.
2. NCERT's macroeconomics textbook sets out the view that a high fiscal deficit need not be inflationary when it is accompanied by higher demand and greater output.
3. The issue of ad hoc treasury bills, through which the Reserve Bank of India met the Union government's deficit automatically, was ended by the FRBM Act, 2003.
4. The 2018 amendment of the FRBM Act removed the target for the revenue deficit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(1) 2 and 4 only

(2) 1 and 3 only

(3) 1 and 2 only

(4) 3 and 4 only

Q2. Answer: (1) 2 and 4 only

- Statement 1 is wrong: the deviation from the fiscal deficit target "shall not exceed one-half per cent of the GDP", that is 0.5 per cent, not 1 per cent.
- Statement 2 is correct: NCERT sets out the view that a high fiscal deficit is accompanied by higher demand and greater output and therefore need not be inflationary.
- Statement 3 is wrong: the ad hoc treasury bills were completely phased out from April 1997, following the Second Supplemental Agreement between the RBI and the Government of 6 March 1997. The FRBM Act came into force later, on 5 July 2004.
- Statement 4 is correct: the CAG records that the 2018 amendment did away with the revenue deficit target, and with it the effective revenue deficit target.
- Why the other options are wrong: (2) has statements 1 and 3, both wrong, and leaves out 2 and 4. (3) has statement 1, which is wrong, and leaves out 4. (4) has statement 3, which is wrong, and leaves out 2.

Topic 264 | Amaravati: central assistance and financing of the new capital

Q1. Consider the following statements about the capital of Andhra Pradesh and its financing:

1. Section 94(3) of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 names the Legislative Council among the facilities in the new capital for which the Central Government shall provide special financial support.
2. The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Act, 2026 is deemed to have come into force on a date earlier than the date of the President's assent to it.
3. The Union Budget speech of 23 July 2024 spread the special financial support of Rs 15,000 crore for the capital equally over five financial years.
4. In the capital city programme appraised by the Asian Development Bank in 2024, the civil works for trunk infrastructure and flood mitigation are carried out by the Amaravati Development Corporation Limited, with APCRDA as the executing agency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(1) 1, 3 and 4 only

(2) 1, 2 and 4 only

(3) 2 and 3 only

(4) 1 and 2 only

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

- Statement 1 is correct: Section 94(3) lists the Raj Bhawan, High Court, Government Secretariat, Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council, "and such other essential infrastructure".
- Statement 2 is correct: the President gave assent on 6 April 2026, and the Act is deemed to have come into force on 2 June 2024.
- Statement 3 is wrong: the speech said that Rs 15,000 crore would be arranged "In the current financial year", that is 2024-25, "with additional amounts in future years". It did not spread the sum over five years.
- Statement 4 is correct: the ADB names APCRDA as the executing agency and says the Amaravati Development Corporation Limited carries out the civil works for trunk infrastructure and flood mitigation. Both parts of the statement are true.
- Why the other options are wrong: (1) and (3) include statement 3, which is wrong; (1) also leaves out statement 2 and (3) leaves out statements 1 and 4, all correct. (4) leaves out statement 4, which is correct.

Q2. Match List I (Source of finance for Amaravati) with List II (Amount or terms, as the official record gives them):

List I (Source)	List II (Amount or terms)
A. World Bank	1. Rs 2,500 crore, released over three financial years
B. Asian Development Bank	2. Expected to catalyse more than 600 million dollars of private investment, with skills training planned for 17,000 people
C. HUDCO	3. Rs 11,000 crore, for the new capital city
D. Union Government, under the 2014 Act	4. A term of 26 years, including a grace period of 5 years

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

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

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

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

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

- Why it is correct: the World Bank expects its 800 million dollar loan, approved on 19 December 2024, to catalyse more than 600 million dollars of private investment, and its programme plans skills training for 17,000 people (A-2). The ADB loan has a term of 26 years, including a grace period of 5 years (B-4); the World Bank's has a final maturity of 29 years, including 6 years of grace. HUDCO's Rs 11,000 crore term loan agreement was executed with APCRDA on 16 March 2025 (C-3). The Union released Rs 2,500 crore under the Act for essential infrastructure in the capital: Rs 1,500 crore in 2014-15, Rs 550 crore in 2015-16 and Rs 450 crore in 2016-17 (D-1).
- Why (1) is wrong: it exchanges the World Bank and the ADB. The expected 600 million dollars of private investment and the skills training for 17,000 people belong to the World Bank loan; the ADB's indicator is 210 million dollars of private capital through land monetisation, and its loan has a term of 26 years with 5 years of grace.
- Why (2) is wrong: it exchanges HUDCO and the Union. The Rs 2,500 crore was Central assistance released in the Act's first years; HUDCO's Rs 11,000 crore loan came in 2025.
- Why (4) is wrong: it makes both exchanges.

Topic 265 | Rice and wheat: conditions and producing regions

Q1. Match List I (State) with List II (Feature, as in the official tables for 2024-25 or in NCERT):

List I (State)	List II (Feature)
A. Uttar Pradesh	1. The highest yield of rice per hectare of any State in 2024-25
B. Punjab	2. The largest producer of wheat in 2024-25, with about 30 per cent of India's output
C. West Bengal	3. The second-largest producer of wheat in 2024-25, with about a fifth of India's output
D. Madhya Pradesh	4. Three rice crops are grown in a year, called aus, aman and boro (NCERT)

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

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

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

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

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

- A-2: Uttar Pradesh produced 35,652.9 thousand tonnes of wheat in 2024-25, about 30 per cent of India's 117,944.5 thousand tonnes, the most of any State.
- B-1: Punjab's rice yield in 2024-25 was 4,428 kg a hectare, the highest of any State, against an all-India 2,929. Almost all its rice land is irrigated.
- C-4: NCERT (Class X) says three crops of paddy, aus, aman and boro, are grown in a year in Assam, West Bengal and Odisha; of the four States in List I, only West Bengal is among them.
- D-3: Madhya Pradesh produced 24,509.1 thousand tonnes of wheat in 2024-25, about a fifth of India's output, second only to Uttar Pradesh. It owes this to its large wheat area, not to its yield.
- Why (1) is wrong: it exchanges Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. West Bengal is a rice State with little wheat, and aus, aman and boro are West Bengal's rice crops, not Uttar Pradesh's.
- Why (2) is wrong: it exchanges Punjab and Madhya Pradesh. Punjab was third in wheat output, not second; and Madhya Pradesh's rice yields are low, not the highest.
- Why (4) is wrong: it makes both exchanges, so all four of its pairs are wrong.

Q2. Consider the following statements about rice and wheat in India:

1. NCERT gives the annual rainfall needed by wheat as 50 to 75 cm, evenly distributed over the growing season.
2. NCERT names the black soil region of the Deccan as one of the two important rice-growing zones of India.
3. In 2024-25 the area under wheat in India was larger than the area under rice.
4. According to the Commerce Ministry's reply in the Lok Sabha in December 2023, India's share of world rice exports in 2022 was less than one-fourth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(1) 1 and 2 only

(2) 2, 3 and 4 only

(3) 3 and 4 only

(4) 1 only

Q2. Answer: (4) 1 only

- Statement 1 is correct: NCERT (Class X) says wheat requires 50 to 75 cm of annual rainfall evenly distributed over the growing season.
- Statement 2 is wrong: the black soil region of the Deccan is one of NCERT's two important wheat-growing zones, with the Ganga-Satluj plains. Rice is grown in the plains of the north and north-east, the coastal areas and the deltas.
- Statement 3 is wrong: in 2024-25 rice covered 51,266.6 thousand hectares and wheat 32,804.4 thousand hectares. Rice had about one and a half times the area of wheat.
- Statement 4 is wrong: the reply gives India 22.24 of the world's 54.73 million tonnes of rice exports in 2022, that is 40.63 per cent, well above one-fourth.
- Why the other options are wrong: (1) contains statement 2, which is wrong. (2) leaves out statement 1, which is correct, and contains three wrong statements. (3) leaves out statement 1 and contains statements 3 and 4, both wrong.

Topic 266 | Peninsular rivers: east-flowing and west-flowing

Q1. Match List I (River) with List II (A fact about the river, as NCERT gives it):

List I (River)	List II (Fact)
A. Krishna	1. Rises at Multai in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh
B. Narmada	2. Forms the Dhuandhar waterfall near Jabalpur
C. Godavari	3. Karnataka holds the largest share of its basin
D. Tapi	4. Maharashtra holds about half of its basin

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

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

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

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

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

- Why it is correct: NCERT Class XI puts 44 per cent of the Krishna basin in Karnataka, against 27 per cent in Maharashtra and 29 per cent in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana (A-3). The Narmada forms a gorge in marble rocks and the Dhuandhar waterfall near Jabalpur (B-2). 49 per cent of the Godavari basin lies in Maharashtra; Class IX says about 50 per cent (C-4). The Tapi rises at Multai in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh (D-1).
- Why (2) is wrong: it exchanges the Narmada and the Tapi. The Narmada rises on the Amarkantak plateau, not at Multai, and the Dhuandhar waterfall is on the Narmada, not on the Tapi.
- Why (3) is wrong: it exchanges the Krishna and the Godavari. Both rise in Maharashtra, but only the Godavari has about half its basin there; the largest share of the Krishna basin is in Karnataka.
- Why (1) is wrong: it makes both exchanges, so none of its four pairs is right.

Q2. Consider the following statements about the Peninsular rivers:

1. According to NCERT, a slight tilting of the Peninsular block from the northwest to the southeast oriented the drainage towards the Bay of Bengal.
2. The Sharavati, on which the Jog Falls lie, flows east to the Bay of Bengal.
3. The decision of the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal was published in the Gazette in 2013.
4. The Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal dealt with a dispute among Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(1) 1 and 2 only

(2) 1 and 4 only

(3) 3 and 4 only

(4) 2 and 3 only

Q2. Answer: (2) 1 and 4 only

- Statement 1 is correct: NCERT Class XI names this slight tilting of the Peninsular block, from the northwest to the southeast, as the reason the whole drainage is oriented towards the Bay of Bengal.
- Statement 2 is wrong: the Sharavati is one of the short west-flowing rivers of Karnataka that NCERT lists; it rises in Shimoga district and flows west to the Arabian Sea. The Jog Falls are on it.
- Statement 3 is wrong: the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal gave its further report in July 1980, and its decision was published on 28 July 1980. The decision published in 2013 (19 February) was that of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.
- Statement 4 is correct: the Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal, constituted on 16 November 2010, dealt with Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra.
- Why the other options are wrong: (1) includes statement 2, which is wrong, and leaves out statement 4. (3) includes statement 3, which is wrong, and leaves out statement 1. (4) includes statements 2 and 3, which are both wrong.

Topic 267 | Vitamins, minerals and deficiency diseases

Q1. Consider the following statements about micronutrient deficiencies and India's response:

1. Cretinism, an irreversible form of mental impairment, is one of the iodine deficiency disorders.
2. The 6×6×6 strategy of Anaemia Mukt Bharat refers to six target beneficiaries, six interventions and six institutional mechanisms.
3. According to NFHS-5 (2019-21), the share of children aged 6 to 59 months who were anaemic was lower in Andhra Pradesh than in India as a whole.
4. The rice fortified for the public distribution system is enriched with iron, iodine and vitamin A.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(1) 1, 2 and 3 only

(2) 1 and 2 only

(3) 3 and 4 only

(4) 1, 3 and 4

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

- Statement 1 is correct: the WHO lists cretinism, "a grave, irreversible form of mental retardation", among the iodine deficiency disorders, and adds that serious deficiency in pregnancy can cause stillbirth and congenital abnormalities.
- Statement 2 is correct: the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare describes the 6X6X6 strategy of Anaemia Mukt Bharat (launched in 2018) as six target beneficiaries, six interventions and six institutional mechanisms.
- Statement 3 is correct: in NFHS-5, 63.2 per cent of children aged 6 to 59 months were anaemic in Andhra Pradesh, against 67.1 per cent in India. (For women aged 15 to 49 it is the other way round: 58.8 per cent in AP against 57.0 per cent in India.)
- Statement 4 is wrong: the fortified rice kernels are enriched with iron, folic acid and vitamin B12, nutrients linked to anaemia. Iodine reaches people through iodised salt.
- Why the other options are wrong: (2) leaves out statement 3, which is correct. (3) leaves out statements 1 and 2, which are correct, and adds statement 4, which is wrong. (4) leaves out statement 2 and adds statement 4.

Q2. Match List I (Vitamin) with List II (Deficiency disease):

List I (Vitamin)	List II (Deficiency disease)
A. Vitamin B1 (thiamine)	1. Pellagra
B. Vitamin B3 (niacin)	2. Beriberi
C. Vitamin A	3. Xerophthalmia
D. Vitamin D	4. Osteomalacia

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

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

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

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

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

- Why it is correct: a lack of vitamin B1 (thiamine) causes beriberi, with weak muscles and very little energy (A-2). A lack of vitamin B3 (niacin) causes pellagra, with skin lesions, digestive disturbances and nervous symptoms (B-1). A lack of vitamin A causes xerophthalmia, the whole range of eye signs from night blindness and Bitot spots to a dry, damaged cornea (C-3). A lack of vitamin D in adults causes osteomalacia, a progressive softening of the bones with bone pain and weakness; in children the same condition is called rickets (D-4).
- Why (1) is wrong: it exchanges the two B vitamins, giving pellagra to B1 and beriberi to B3. Beriberi is the thiamine disease and pellagra the niacin disease.
- Why (2) is wrong: it exchanges the pairs of vitamins A and D. Xerophthalmia is the vitamin A disorder of the eye, and osteomalacia the vitamin D disease of adult bones.
- Why (4) is wrong: it makes both exchanges, so all four of its pairs are wrong.

Topic 268 | Critical thinking: meaning and steps

Q1. Consider the following statements about standard accounts of critical thinking:

1. The Delphi Report of 1990 came out of a project conducted on behalf of the American Philosophical Association.
2. In the framework of Richard Paul and Linda Elder, point of view is one of the elements of thought.
3. In the framework of Richard Paul and Linda Elder, relevance is one of the elements of thought.
4. In Facione's IDEALS sequence, the letter A stands for assessing the evidence.

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

Q1. Answer: (2) 1 and 2 only

- Statement 1 is correct: Facione writes that the Delphi project was conducted on behalf of the American Philosophical Association; its forty-six experts came from the United States and Canada.
- Statement 2 is correct: point of view is one of Paul and Elder's eight elements of thought, with purpose, question at issue, information, interpretation and inference, concepts, assumptions, and implications and consequences.
- Statement 3 is wrong: relevance is one of the intellectual standards, the tests applied to the elements. Its sample question is "How does that relate to the problem?"
- Statement 4 is wrong: in IDEALS the letter A stands for "Analyze options", with the question "What is our best course of action, all things considered?" Assessing evidence belongs to the Delphi skill of evaluation and to step 3 of the seven-step sequence.
- Why the other options are wrong: (1) includes statement 3 and leaves out statement 2; (3) includes statements 3 and 4, both wrong; (4) includes statement 4 and leaves out statement 1.

Q2. Match List I (Core critical thinking skill in the Delphi Report, 1990) with List II (What the report's description of that skill deals with, shortened):

List I (Core skill)	List II (What its description deals with)
A. Analysis	1. The intended and actual inferential relationships among statements, questions, concepts and descriptions
B. Inference	2. The results of one's reasoning, the justification of that reasoning, and its presentation as cogent arguments

List I (Core skill)	List II (What its description deals with)
C. Evaluation	3. Conjectures and hypotheses, and the consequences that flow from data, statements and evidence
D. Explanation	4. The credibility of statements that report a person's perception, experience or opinion, and the logical strength of inferential relationships

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

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

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

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

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

- A-1 is correct: the report describes analysis as identifying the intended and actual inferential relationships among statements, questions, concepts and descriptions. Its sub-skills are examining ideas, identifying arguments and analyzing arguments.
- B-3 is correct: in the report's description, inference forms conjectures and hypotheses and educes the consequences that flow from data, statements and evidence. Its sub-skills are querying evidence, conjecturing alternatives and drawing conclusions.
- C-4 is correct: evaluation assesses the credibility of statements that report a person's perception, experience or opinion, and the logical strength of the inferential relationships among statements. Its sub-skills are assessing claims and assessing arguments.
- D-2 is correct: explanation states the results of one's reasoning, justifies that reasoning, and presents it in the form of cogent arguments. Its sub-skills are stating results, justifying procedures and presenting arguments.
- Why (2) is wrong: it exchanges evaluation and explanation. Evaluation judges how credible statements are and how strong the reasoning is; explanation states one's own result and justifies it to others.
- Why (4) is wrong: it exchanges analysis and inference. The word "inferential" in item 1 pulls it towards inference, but identifying how statements are meant to connect is analysis; inference goes beyond them to conjectures and consequences.
- Why (3) is wrong: it makes both exchanges.

Topic 269 | Relative speed: meeting and overtaking

Q1. Towns P and Q are 234 km apart on a straight road. A car leaves P at 8:00 a.m. and goes towards Q at a steady 20 m/s. A bus leaves Q at 8:30 a.m. and goes towards P on the same road at a steady 36 km/h. How far from P do they meet?

(1) 90 km

(2) 132 km

(3) 156 km

(4) 168 km

Q1. Answer: (4) 168 km

- Worked solution, step 1: units. 20 m/s = 20 × 18/5 = 72 km/h.
- Step 2: the head start. By 8:30 a.m. the car has run 1/2 hour and covered 72 × 1/2 = 36 km. Gap left = 234 - 36 = 198 km.
- Step 3: from 8:30 a.m. they move towards each other, so the gap closes at 72 + 36 = 108 km/h. Time = 198 ÷ 108 = 11/6 hours = 1 hour 50 minutes; they meet at 10:20 a.m.
- Step 4: the car has then covered 36 + 72 × 11/6 = 36 + 132 = 168 km from P. Check: the bus has covered 36 × 11/6 = 66 km from Q, and 168 + 66 = 234.
- Why (3) is wrong: 156 = 234 × 72/108. It forgets the head start: it splits the whole 234 km in the ratio of the speeds, as if both had left at 8:00 a.m.
- Why (2) is wrong: 132 = 72 × 11/6. It is the distance the car runs after 8:30 a.m. It leaves out the 36 km the car had already covered from P, so it measures the meeting point from the wrong place.
- Why (1) is wrong: 90 km comes from mixing units: 20 m/s is used as if it were 20 km/h. Then the lead is 10 km, the gap left 224 km closes at 56 km/h in 4 hours, and 10 + 20 × 4 = 90.

Q2. A tractor leaves a village at a steady 24 km/h. One hour 20 minutes later, a motorcycle leaves the same village and goes along the same road in the same direction at a steady 40 km/h. How far from the village does the motorcycle overtake the tractor?

(1) 20 km

(2) 72 km

(3) 80 km

(4) 133 1/3 km

Q2. Answer: (3) 80 km

- Worked solution, step 1: the head start. 1 hour 20 minutes = 4/3 hours. In that time the tractor covers 24 × 4/3 = 32 km; that is the lead.
- Step 2: both go the same way, so the gap closes at 40 - 24 = 16 km/h. Time = 32 ÷ 16 = 2 hours after the motorcycle leaves.
- Step 3: where. The motorcycle covers 40 × 2 = 80 km from the village. Check: the tractor has run 2 + 4/3 = 10/3 hours and covers 24 × 10/3 = 80 km. They are at the same place.
- Why (1) is wrong: 20 km = 40 × 1/2, with 1/2 hour = 32 ÷ (40 + 24). It adds the speeds, which is the rule for opposite directions; here both go the same way. 20 km is not even past the tractor's 32 km lead, so it is impossible.
- Why (2) is wrong: 72 km = 40 × 1.8. It is a unit slip: 1 hour 20 minutes is written as 1.20 hours instead of 1 1/3 hours, so the lead comes out as 24 × 1.20 = 28.8 km and the time as 28.8 ÷ 16 = 1.8 hours.
- Why (4) is wrong: 133 1/3 km = 40 × 10/3. It multiplies the motorcycle's speed by 3 hours 20 minutes (2 hours + 1 hour 20 minutes), which is the time counted from the tractor's start. The motorcycle runs only for the 2 hours from its own start.

Topic 270 | Current affairs: the World Bank's Business Ready (B-READY) assessment and India

Q1. Consider the following statements about the World Bank's Business Ready (B-READY) assessment:

1. For nearly all indicators, the Regulatory Framework pillar captures de jure information, while the Public Services and Operational Efficiency pillars capture de facto information.
2. The score of a topic is the average of the scores of its three pillars.
3. The de jure data are collected through the World Bank Enterprise Surveys of firms.
4. Doing Business relied on case studies with strict assumptions, whereas B-READY also uses firm surveys with representative samples.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(1) 1, 2 and 4 only

(2) 1, 3 and 4 only

(3) 2 and 3 only

(4) 1 and 2 only

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

- Statement 1 is correct: the Methodology Handbook says that, for nearly all indicators, the Regulatory Framework pillar captures de jure information and the Public Services and Operational Efficiency pillars capture de facto information.
- Statement 2 is correct: a topic score is the average of the scores of its three pillars, each on a scale of 0 to 100.
- Statement 3 is wrong: de jure data are collected from expert consultations. The Enterprise Surveys of firms are a source of de facto, firm-level data.
- Statement 4 is correct: the Methodology Handbook contrasts Doing Business's extensive use of case studies with strict assumptions with B-READY's use of firm surveys with representative samples.
- Why the other options are wrong: (2) and (3) include statement 3, which is wrong. (4) leaves out statement 4, which is correct.

Q2. Match List I (topics of the B-READY assessment) with List II (areas measured under them, as given in the World Bank's Methodology Handbook):

List I	List II
A. Business Entry	1. Due diligence on customers
B. Business Location	2. Storage of information on the beneficial owners of firms
C. Financial Services	3. Openness of the key documents in public procurement
D. Market Competition	4. Permits required on environmental grounds

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

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

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

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

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

- Why it is correct: Business Entry includes the filing and storage of beneficial ownership information (A-2). Business Location includes environmental permits (B-4). Financial Services includes customer due diligence (C-1). Market Competition includes the transparency of key procurement documents (D-3).
- Why (1) is wrong: it swaps Business Entry and Market Competition. Firms submit beneficial ownership information when they start a business, so it is measured under Business Entry; the transparency of procurement documents is measured under Market Competition.
- Why (3) is wrong: it swaps Business Location and Financial Services. Environmental permits are measured under Business Location; customer due diligence belongs to Financial Services.
- Why (4) is wrong: it makes both swaps, so all four pairs are wrong.