

UPSC PRELIMS GEOGRAPHY QUESTION BANK (2012-2020)

2012

1. Consider the following:

1. Black necked crane
2. Cheetah
3. Flying squirrel
4. Snow leopard

Which of the above are naturally found in India?

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

2. Consider the following agricultural practices:

1. Contour bunding
2. Relay cropping
3. Zero tillage

In the context of global climate change, which of the above helps/help in carbon sequestration/storage in the soil?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) Only 3
- (c) 1 2 and 3
- (d) None of these

3. Normally, the temperature decreases with the increase in height from the Earth's surface, because:

1. The atmosphere can be heated upwards only from the Earth's surface.
2. There is more moisture in the upper atmosphere.
3. The air is less dense in the upper atmosphere.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) Only 1
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) All of the above

4. Consider the following areas:

1. Bandipur
2. Bhitarkanika
3. Manas
4. Sundarbans

Which of the above are Tiger Reserves?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 1 3 and 4...
- (c) 2 3 and 4
- (d) All of the above

5. Consider the following statements:

1. The duration of the monsoon decreases from Southern India to Northern India.
2. The amount of annual rainfall in the Northern plains of India decreases from east to west.

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

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both
- (d) None

6. Which one of the following is the characteristic climate of the Tropical Savannah region?

- (a) Rainfall throughout the year
- (b) Rainfall in winter only
- (c) An extremely short dry season
- (d) A definite dry and wet season...

7. In which one of the following categories of protected areas in India local people are not allowed to collect and use the biomass?

- (a) Biosphere Reserves
- (b) National Parks
- (c) Wetlands declared under Ramsar Convention
- (d) Wildlife Sanctuaries

UPSC PRELIMS GEOGRAPHY QUESTION BANK (2012-2020)

8. Which of the following is the chief characteristic of 'mixed farming'?

- Cultivation of both cash crops and food crops.
- Cultivation of two or more crops in the same field.
- Rearing of animals and cultivation of crops together
- None of the above.

9. A particular state in India has the following characteristics:

- It is located on the same latitude which passes through Northern Rajasthan.
- It has over 80% of its area under forest cover.
- Over 12% of forest cover constitutes protected area network in the state.

Which one among the following states has all the above characteristics?

- Arunachal Pradesh
- Assam
- Himachal Pradesh
- Uttarakhand

10. Consider the following crops of India:

- Cow pea
- Green gram
- Pigeon pea

Which of the above is/are used as pulses, fodder and green manure?

- 1 and 2
- Only 2
- 1 and 3
- 1 2 and 3

11. Consider the following factors:

- Rotation of the earth
- Air pressure and wind
- Density of ocean water
- Revolution of the earth

Which of the above factors influence the ocean currents?

- 1 and 2
- 1 2 and 3
- 1 and 4
- 2 3 and 4

12. Consider the following specific stages of demographic transition associated with economic development.

- Low birth rate with low death rate.
- High birth rate with high death rate.
- High birth rate with low death rate.

Select the correct order of the above stages using the codes given below:

- 1-2-3
- 2-1-3
- 2-3-1
- 3-2-1

13. Recently, there has been a concern over the short supply of group of elements called 'rare earth metals', why?

- China, which is the largest producer of these elements, has imposed some restrictions on their export.
- Other than China, Australia, Canada and Chile these elements are not found in any country.
- Rare Earth metals are essential for the manufacture of various kinds of electronic items and there is a growing demand for these elements.

Which of these statements given above is/are correct?

- Only 1
- 2 and 3
- 1 and 3
- 1 2 and 3

14. Consider the following crops of India:

- Groundnut
- Sesamum
- Pearl millet

Which of the above is/are predominantly rain-fed crops?

- 1 and 2
- 2 and 3
- Only 3
- 1 2 and 3

15. Which one of the following sets of elements was primarily responsible for the origin of life on the earth?

- Hydrogen, oxygen, sodium
- Carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen
- Oxygen, calcium, phosphorus
- Carbon, hydrogen, potassium

UPSC PRELIMS GEOGRAPHY QUESTION BANK (2012-2020)

16. Which of the following is/are cited by the scientists as evidence(s) for the continued expansion of universe?

1. Detection of microwaves in space.
2. Observation of redshift phenomenon in space.
3. Movement of asteroids in space.
4. Occurrence of supernova explosion in space.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) Only 2
- (c) 1 3 and 4
- (d) None of the above can be cited as evidence

17. Electrically charged particles from space travelling at speeds of several hundred kilometres per second can severely harm living beings if they reach the surface of the Earth. What prevents them from reaching the surface of the Earth.

- (a) The Earth's magnetic field diverts them towards its poles
- (b) Ozone layer around the earth reflects them back to outer space.
- (c) moisture in the upper layers of atmosphere prevents them from reaching the surface of the Earth.
- (d) None of these statements given above are correct.

18. The increasing amount of carbon dioxide in the air is slowly raising the temperature of the atmosphere, because it absorbs

- (a) The water vapour of the air and retains its heat.
- (b) The ultraviolet part of the solar radiation.
- (c) All the solar radiations.
- (d) The infrared part of the solar radiation

19. When you travel in Himalayas, you will see the following:

1. Deep gorges
2. U-turn river courses
3. Parallel mountain ranges
4. Steep gradients causing landsliding.

Which of the above can be said to be the evidences for Himalayas being young fold mountains?

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

20. With reference to the wetlands of India, Consider the following statements:

1. The country's total geographical area under the category of wetlands is recorded more in Gujarat as compared to other states.
2. In India, the total geographical area of coastal wetlands is larger than that of inland wetlands.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both
- (d) None

2013

1. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched?

- (a) Abyssinian Plateau: Arabia
- (b) Atlas mountains: North Western Africa
- (c) Guiana highlands: South Western Africa
- (d) Okavango basin: Patagonia

2. Consider the following:

1. Electromagnetic radiation
2. Geothermal energy
3. Gravitational force
4. Plate movements
5. Rotation of the Earth
6. Revolution of the Earth

Which of the above are responsible for bringing dynamic changes on the surface of the Earth.

- (a) 1 2 3 and 4
- (b) 1 3 5 and 6
- (c) 2 4 5 and 6
- (d) All of the above

UPSC PRELIMS GEOGRAPHY QUESTION BANK (2012-2020)

3. Contour bunding is a method of soil conservation used in:

- Desert margins, liable to strong wind action
- Low flat plains, close to stream courses, liable to flooding
- Scrublands, liable to spread to weed growth
- None of the above

4. Variations in the length of daytime and nighttime from season to season are due to:

- The Earth's rotation on its axis
- The Earth's Revolution around the sun in an elliptical manner
- Latitudinal position of the place
- Revolution of the Earth on a tilted axis

5. Narmada river flows to the west, while most other large peninsular rivers flow to the East. Why?

- It occupies a linear rift valley.
- It flows between the Vindhyas and the Satpuras.

The land slope to the west from Central India. Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- Only 1
- 2 and 3
- 1 and 3
- None of these

6. On the planet Earth, most of the freshwater exists as ice caps and glaciers. Out of the remaining freshwater, the largest proportion

- Is found in atmosphere as moisture and clouds.
- Is found in freshwater lakes and rivers.
- Exists as groundwater
- Exists as soil moisture.

7. The annual range of temperature in the interior of the continents is high as compared to coastal areas. What is/are the reason(s)?

- Thermal difference between land and water.
- Variation in altitude between continents and oceans.
- Presence of strong winds in the interior.
- Heavy rains in the interior as compared to the coasts.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- Only 1
- 1 and 2
- 2 and 3
- All of the above

8. Which of the following statements regarding laterite soils of India are correct?

- They are generally red in colour.
- They are rich in nitrogen and potash.
- They are well developed in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- Tapioca and cashew nuts grow well on these soils.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 1 2 and 3
- 2 3 and 4
- 1 and 4
- 2 and 3

9. Consider the following statements:

- Natural gas occurs in the Gondwana belts.
- Mica occurs in abundance in Koderma.
- Dharwars are famous for petroleum.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2
- Only 2
- 2 and 3
- None of the above

10. Consider the following crops:

- Cotton
- Groundnut
- Rice
- Wheat

Which of these are kharif crops?

- 1 and 4
- 2 and 3
- 1 2 and 3
- 2 3 and 4

11. 'Climate is extreme, rainfall is scanty and the people used to be nomadic herders'. The statement best describes which of the following regions?

- African Savannah
- Central Asian Steppe
- North American Prairie
- Siberian Tundra

UPSC PRELIMS GEOGRAPHY QUESTION BANK (2012-2020)

12. The most important fishing grounds of the world are found in the regions where

- Warm and cold atmospheric currents meet.
- Rivers drain out large amounts of fresh water into the sea.
- Warm and cold ocean currents meet
- Continental shelf is undulating.

13. Which of the following is/are unique characteristics of equatorial forests?

- Presence of tall, closely set trees with crowns forming a continuous canopy.
- Coexistence of a large number of species.
- Presence of numerous varieties of epiphytes.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- Only 1
- 2 and 3
- 1 and 3
- All of these

14. Disguised unemployment generally means:

- Large number of people remain unemployed.
- Alternative employment is not available.
- Marginal productivity of labour is zero
- Productivity of workers is low.

15. Consider the following pairs:

- Nokrek biosphere reserve: garo hills
- Loktak lake: barail range
- Namdapha National park: dafla hills

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- 1 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 2 and 3 only
- None

16. Consider the following pairs:

National park : river flowing through the park

- Corbett National park: Ganga
- Kaziranga National park: Manas
- Silent valley National park: Kaveri

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- 1 and 2 only
- 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- None

17. During a thunderstorm, The thunder in the skies is produced by the:

- Meeting of cumulonimbus clouds in the sky
- Lightning that separates the nimbus clouds.
- Violent upward movement of air and water particles.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 1 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- None of the above produces the thunder

18. Consider the following pairs:

Tribe : State

- Limboo: Sikkim
- Karbi: Himachal Pradesh
- DongariaKondh: Odisha
- Bonda: Tamil Nadu

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 4 only
- 1 3 and 4 only
- 1 2 3 and 4

2014

1. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

- NH 4: Chennai and Hyderabad
- Nh 6: Mumbai and Kolkata
- NH 15: Ahmedabad and Jodhpur

Codes:

- 1 and 2
- Only 3
- All of these
- None of these

UPSC PRELIMS GEOGRAPHY QUESTION BANK (2012-2020)

2. What are the significance of a practical approach to sugarcane production known as 'sustainable sugarcane initiative'?

1. Seed cost is very low in this compared to the conventional method of cultivation.
2. Drip irrigation can be practiced very effectively in this.
3. There is no application of chemical/inorganic fertilizers at all in this.
4. The scope for intercropping is more in this compared to the conventional method of cultivation.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 1 2 and 4
- (c) 2 3 and 4
- (d) All of these

3. Consider the following towns of India:

1. Bhadrachalam
2. Chanderi
3. Kancheepuram
4. Karnal

Which of the above are famous for the production of traditional sarees/fabrics?

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

4. Which one of the following pairs of islands is separated from each other by the "10 degree channel"?

- (a) Andaman and Nicobar
- (b) Nicobar and Sumatra
- (c) Maldives and Lakshadweep
- (d) Sumatra and Java

5. Which of the following phenomena might have influenced the evolution of organisms?

1. Continental drift
2. Glacial cycles

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both
- (d) None

6. Which of the following have coral reefs?

1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
2. Gulf of Kutch
3. Gulf of Mannar
4. Sundarbans

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 2 and 3
- (b) 2 and 4
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) All of these

7. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

1. Harike wetland: confluence of Beas and Sutlej.
2. Keoladeo Ghana National park: confluence of Banas and Chambal.
3. Kolleru Lake: confluence of Musi and Krishna.

Codes:

- (a) Only 1
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) All of these

8. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

1. Cardamom hills: Coromandel coast.
2. Kaimur hills: Konkan coast
3. Mahadeo hills: Central India
4. Mikir hills: NorthEast India

Codes:

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

9. The seasonal reversal of wind is the typical characteristics of:

- (a) Equatorial climate
- (b) Mediterranean climate
- (c) Monsoon climate
- (d) All of these

UPSC PRELIMS GEOGRAPHY QUESTION BANK (2012-2020)

10. Consider the following rivers:

1. Barak
2. Lohit
3. Subansiri

Which of the above flow/flows through Arunachal Pradesh?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) All of these

11. Turkey is located between

- (a) Black sea and Caspian sea
- (b) Black sea and Mediterranean sea
- (c) Gulf of Suez and Mediterranean sea
- (d) Gulf of Aqaba and Dead sea

12. What is the correct sequence of occurrence of the following cities in Southeast Asia as one proceeds from South to North?

1. Bangkok
2. Hanoi
3. Jakarta
4. Singapore

Codes:

- (a) 4213
- (b) 3241
- (c) 3412
- (d) 4321

13. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

1. Chechnya: Russian federation
2. Darfur: Mali
3. Swat valley: Iraq

Codes:

- (a) Only 1
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) All of the above

14. Consider the following pairs:

1. Dampa Tiger reserve: Mizoram
2. Gumti wildlife sanctuary: Sikkim
3. Saramati peak: Nagaland

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) All of the above

15. With reference to 'Changpa' community of India, consider the following statements:

1. They live mainly in the state of Uttarakhand.
2. They rear the pashmina goats that yield a fine wool.
3. They are kept in the category of scheduled tribes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

16. Consider the following pairs:

Region: well known for the production of

Kinnaur: Areca nut

Mewar: Mango

Coromandel: soya bean

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1 2 and 3
- (d) None

2015

1. Which one of the following National Parks has a climate that varies from tropical to subtropical, temperate and arctic?

- (a) Khangchendzonga National Park
- (b) Nandadevi National Park
- (c) Neora Valley National Park
- (d) Namdapha National Park

2. In India, the steel production industry requires the import of

- (a) saltpetre
- (b) rock phosphate
- (c) coking coal
- (d) All of the above

UPSC PRELIMS GEOGRAPHY QUESTION BANK (2012-2020)

3.. Consider the following statements

1. The winds which blow between 30° N and 60° S latitudes throughout the year are known as westerlies.
2. The moist air masses that cause winter rains in North-Western region of India are part of westerlies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4. In a particular region in India, the local people train the roots of living trees into robust bridges across the streams. As the time passes, these bridges become stronger. These unique 'living root bridges' are found in

- (a) Meghalaya
- (b) Himachal Pradesh
- (c) Jharkhand
- (d) Tamil Nadu

5. Tides occur in the oceans and seas due to which among the following?

1. Gravitational force of the Sun
2. Gravitational force of the Moon
3. Centrifugal force of the Earth

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

6. Consider the following States

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Himachal Pradesh
3. Mizoram

In which of the above States do 'Tropical Wet Evergreen Forests' occur?

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

7. Which one of the following countries of South-West Asia does not open out to the Mediterranean Sea?

- (a) Syria
- (b) Jordan
- (c) Lebanon
- (d) Israel

8. In India, in which one of the following types of forests is teak a dominant tree species?

- (a) Tropical moist deciduous forest
- (b) Tropical rain forest
- (c) Tropical thorn scrub forest
- (d) Temperate forest with grasslands

9. "Each day is more or less the same, the morning is clear and bright with a sea breeze; as the Sun climbs high in the sky, heat mounts up, dark clouds form, then rain comes with thunder and lightning. But rain is soon over." Which of the following regions is described in the above passage?

- (a) Savannah
- (b) Equatorial
- (c) Monsoon
- (d) Mediterranean

10. In the South Atlantic and South-Eastern Pacific regions in tropical latitudes, cyclone does not originate. What is the reason?

- (a) Sea surface temperatures are low
- (b) Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone seldom occurs
- (c) Coriolis force is too weak
- (d) Absence of land in those regions

11. Which one of the following pairs of States of India indicates the easternmost and westernmost State?

- (a) Assam and Rajasthan
- (b) Arunachal Pradesh and Rajasthan
- (c) Assam and Gujarat
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat

12. Which of the following National Parks is unique in being a swamp with floating vegetation that supports a rich biodiversity?

- (a) Bhitarkanika National Park
- (b) KeibulLamjao National Park
- (c) Keoladeo Ghana National Park
- (d) Sultanpur National Park

UPSC PRELIMS GEOGRAPHY QUESTION BANK (2012-2020)

2016

13. What explains the eastward flow of the equatorial counter-current?

- (a) The Earth's rotation on its axis
- (b) Convergence of the two equatorial currents
- (c) Difference in salinity of water
- (d) Occurrence of the belt of calm near the equator

14. Consider the following pairs:

Place of Pilgrimage	Location
1. Srisaileam	: Nallamala Hills
2. Omkareshwar	: Satmala Hills
3. Pushkar	: Mahadeo Hills

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

15. The area known as 'Golan Heights' sometimes appears in the news in the context of the events related to

- (a) Central Asia
- (b) Middle East
- (c) South-East Asia
- (d) Central Africa

16. Consider the following rivers:

- 1. Vamsadhara
- 2. Indravati
- 3. Pranahita
- 4. Pennar

Which of the above are tributaries of Godavari?

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

17. Which one of the following regions of India has a combination of mangrove forest, evergreen forest and deciduous forest?

- (a) North Coastal Andhra Pradesh
- (b) South-West Bengal
- (c) Southern Saurashtra
- (d) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

1. Which of the following is/are tributary tributaries of Brahmaputra?

- 1. Dibang
- 2. Kameng
- 3. Lohit

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

2. With reference to 'Red Sanders', sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a tree species found in a part of South India.
- 2. It is one of the most important trees in the tropical rain forest areas of South India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. In which of the following regions of India are shale gas resources found?

- 1. Cambay Basin
- 2. Cauvery Basin
- 3. Krishna-Godavari Basin

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

UPSC PRELIMS GEOGRAPHY QUESTION BANK (2012-2020)

2017

4. Recently, linking of which of the following rivers was undertaken?

- (a) Cauvery and Tungabhadra
- (b) Godavari and Krishna
- (c) Mahanadi and Sone
- (d) Narmada and Tapi

5. Consider the following pairs:

Famous place	Region
1. Bodhgaya	Baghelkhand
2. Khajuraho	Bundelkhand
3. Shirdi	Vidarbha
4. Nasik (Nashik)	Malwa
5. Tirupati	Royalaseema

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

6. Recently, which of the following States has explored the possibility of constructing an artificial inland port to be connected to sea by a long navigational channel?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Chhattisgarh
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Rajasthan

7. Consider the following pairs :

Community sometimes In the affairs of mentioned in the news

1. Kurd : Bangladesh
2. Madhesi : Nepal
3. Rohingya : Myanmar

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

1. Mediterranean Sea is a border of which of the following countries?

1. Jordan
2. Iraq
3. Lebanon
4. Syria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

2. Consider the following statements:

1. In India, the Himalayas are spread over five States only.
2. Western Ghats are spread over five States only.
3. Pulicat Lake is spread over two States only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. With reference to 'Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)' sometimes mentioned in the news while forecasting Indian monsoon, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. IOD phenomenon is characterised by a difference in sea surface temperature between tropical Western Indian Ocean and tropical Eastern Pacific Ocean.
2. An IOD phenomenon can influence an El Nino's impact on the monsoon.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

UPSC PRELIMS GEOGRAPHY QUESTION BANK (2012-2020)

4. What is the importance of developing Chabahar Port by India?

- (a) India's trade with African countries will enormously increase.
- (b) India's relations with oil-producing Arab countries will be strengthened.
- (c) India will not depend on Pakistan for access to Afghanistan and Central Asia.
- (d) Pakistan will facilitate and protect the installation of a gas pipeline between Iraq and India.

5. Which of the following is geographically closest to Great Nicobar?

- (a) Sumatra
- (b) Borneo
- (c) Java
- (d) Sri Lanka

6. With reference to river Teesta, consider the following statements:

- 1. The source of river Teesta is the same as that of Brahmaputra but it flows through Sikkim.
- 2. River Rangeet originates in Sikkim and it is a tributary of river Teesta.
- 3. River Teesta flows into Bay of Bengal on the border of India and Bangladesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

7. If you travel by road from Kohima to Kottayam, what is the minimum number of States within India through which you can travel, including the origin and the destination?

- (a) 6
- (b) 7
- (c) 8
- (d) 9

8. At one of the places in India, if you stand on the seashore and watch the sea, you will find that the sea water recedes from the shore line a few kilometres and comes back to the shore, twice a day, and you can actually walk on the

sea floor when the water recedes. This unique phenomenon is seen at

- (a) Bhavnagar
- (b) Bheemunipatnam
- (c) Chandipur
- (d) Nagapattinam.

2018

1. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Earth's magnetic field has reversed every few hundred thousand years.
- 2. When the Earth was created more than 4000 million years ago, there was 54% oxygen and no carbon dioxide.
- 3. When living organisms originated, they modified the early atmosphere of the Earth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. Which one of the following is an artificial lake?

- (a) Kodaikanal (Tamil Nadu)
- (b) Kolleru (Andhra Pradesh)
- (c) Nainital (Uttarakhand)
- (d) Renuka (Himachal Pradesh)

3. With reference to agricultural soils, consider the following statements:

- 1. A high content of organic matter in soil drastically reduces its water holding capacity.
- 2. Soil does not play any role in the sulphur cycle.
- 3. Irrigation over a period of time can contribute to the salinization of some agricultural lands.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

UPSC PRELIMS GEOGRAPHY QUESTION BANK (2012-2020)

4. Consider the following statements:

1. The Barren Island volcano is an active volcano located in the Indian territory.
2. Barren Island lies about 140 km east of Great Nicobar.
3. The last time the Barren Island volcano erupted was in 1991 and it has remained inactive since then.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5. Consider the following statements

1. Most of the world's coral reefs are in tropical waters.
2. More than one-third of the world's coral reefs are located in the territories of Australia, Indonesia and Philippines.
3. Coral reefs host far more number of animal phyla than those hosted by tropical rainforests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6. Consider the following pairs:

Regions mentioned in news	-	Country
1. Catalonia	-	Spain
2. Crimea	-	Hungary
3. Mindanao	-	Philippines
4. Oromia	-	Nigeria

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

7. Very recently, in which of the following countries have lakhs of people either suffered from severe famine/acute malnutrition or died due to starvation caused by war/ethnic conflicts?

- (a) Angola and Zambia
- (b) Morocco and Tunisia
- (c) Venezuela and Colombia
- (d) Yemen and South Sudan

8. The term "two-state solution" is sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of:

- (a) China
- (b) Israel
- (c) Iraq
- (d) Yemen

9. Consider the following statements:

1. In India, State Governments do not have the power to auction non-coal mines.
2. Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand do not have gold mines.
3. Rajasthan has iron ore mines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

10. Among the following cities, which one lies on a longitude closest to that of Delhi?

- (a) Bengaluru
- (b) Hyderabad
- (c) Nagpur
- (d) Pune

11. In which one of the following States is Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary located?

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Manipur
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) Nagaland

UPSC PRELIMS GEOGRAPHY QUESTION BANK (2012-2020)

12. Consider the following pairs:

Towns in news	Country
1. Aleppo	– Syria
2. Kirkuk	- Yemen
3. Mosul	- Palestine
4. Mazar-i-Sharif	- Afghanistan

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

2019

1. With reference to the management of minor minerals in India, consider the following statements:

1. Sand is a 'minor mineral' according to the prevailing law in the country.
2. State Governments have the power to grant mining leases of minor minerals, but the powers regarding the formation of rules related to the grant of minor minerals lie with the Central Government.
3. State Governments have the power to frame rules to prevent illegal mining of minor minerals.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

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

2. With reference to the cultivation of Kharif crops in India in the last five years, consider the following statements:

1. Area under rice cultivation is the highest.
2. Area under the cultivation of jowar is more than that of oilseeds.
3. Area of cotton cultivation is more than that of sugarcane.
4. Area under sugarcane cultivation has steadily decreased.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

3. Among the agricultural commodities imported by India, which one of the following accounts for the highest imports in terms of value in the last five years?

- (a) Spices
- (b) Fresh fruits
- (c) Pulses
- (d) Vegetable oils

4. Consider the following statements about Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India:

1. PVTGs reside in 18 States and one Union Territory.
2. A stagnant or declining population is one of the criteria for determining PVTG status.
3. There are 95 PVTGs officially notified in the country so far.
4. Irular and KondaReddi tribes are included in the list of PVTGs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

5. Consider the following pairs

Famous place	River
Pandharpur	Chandrabhaga
Tiruchirappalli	Cauvery
Hampi	Malaprabha

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

UPSC PRELIMS GEOGRAPHY QUESTION BANK (2012-2020)

6. Which of the following are in Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve?

- (a) Neyyar, Peppara and Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuaries; and KalakadMundanthurai Tiger Reserve
- (b) Mudumalai, Sathyamangalam and Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Silent Valley National Park
- (c) Kaundinya, GundlaBrahme-swaram and Papikonda Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Mukurthi National Park
- (d) Kawal and Sri Venkateswara Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Nagarjunasagar-Srisaillam Tiger Reserve

7. Which one of the following National Parks lies completely in the temperate alpine zone?

- (a) Manas National Park
- (b) Namdapha National Park
- (c) Neora Valley National Park
- (d) Valley of Flowers National Park

8. What is common to the places known as Aliyar, Isapur and Kangsabati?

- (a) Recently discovered uranium deposits
- (b) Tropical rain forests
- (c) Underground cave systems
- (d) Water reservoirs

9. Why are dewdrops not formed on a cloudy night?

- (a) Clouds absorb the radiation released from the Earth's surface.
- (b) Clouds reflect back the Earth's radiation.
- (c) The Earth's surface would have the low temperature on cloudy nights.
- (d) Clouds deflect the blowing wind to ground level.

10. Recently, there was a growing awareness in our country about the importance of Himalayan nettle (*Girardinia diversifolia*) because it is found to be a sustainable source of

- (a) Anti-malarial drug
- (b) Biodiesel
- (c) Pulp for the paper industry
- (d) Textile fiber

11. Consider the following States:

1. Chhattisgarh
2. Madhya Pradesh
3. Maharashtra
4. Odisha

With reference to the States mentioned above, in terms of percentage of forest cover to the total area of State, which one of the following is the correct ascending order?

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

12. Which of the following statements are correct about the deposits of 'methane hydrate'?

1. Global warming might trigger the release of methane gas from these deposits.
2. Large deposits of 'methane hydrate' are found in Arctic Tundra and under the seafloor.
3. Methane in atmosphere oxidizes to carbon dioxide after a decade or two.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

UPSC PRELIMS GEOGRAPHY QUESTION BANK (2012-2020)

2020

13. Consider the following pairs:

Sea	Bordering country
1. Adriatic Sea	Albania
2. Black Sea	Croatia
3. Caspian Sea	Kazakhstan
4. Mediterranean Sea	Morocco
5. Red Sea	Syria

Which of the pair given above are correctly matched?

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

14. Among the following, which one is the largest exporter of rice in the world in the last five years?

- (a) China
- (b) India
- (c) Myanmar
- (d) Vietnam

15. Consider the following pairs:

Glacier	River
1. Bandarpunch	Yamuna
2. Bara Shigri	Chenab
3. Milam	Mandakini
4. Siachen	Nubra
5. Zemu	Manas

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

1. Consider the following minerals:

- 1. Bentonite
- 2. Chromite
- 3. Kyanite
- 4. Sillimanite

In India, which of the above is/are officially designated as major minerals?

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

2. With reference to Ocean Mean Temperature (OMT), which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. OMT is measured up to a depth of 26°C isotherm which is 129 meters in the south-western Indian Ocean during January - March
- 2. OMT collected during January - March can be used in assessing whether the amount of rainfall in monsoon will be less or more than a certain long-term mean.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

3. With reference to India's Desert National Park, which of the following statements are correct?

- 1. It is spread over two districts.
- 2. There is no human habitation inside the Park
- 3. It is one of the natural habitats of Great Indian Bustard.

UPSC PRELIMS GEOGRAPHY QUESTION BANK (2012-2020)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

4. Siachen Glacier is situated to the

- (a) East of Aksai Chin
- (b) East of Leh
- (c) North of Gilgit
- (d) North of Nubra Valley

5. Consider the following statements:

1. Jet streams occur in the Northern Hemisphere only.
2. Only some cyclones develop an eye.
3. The temperature inside the eye of a cyclone is nearly 10°C lesser than that of the surroundings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

6. Among the following Tiger Reserves, which one has the largest area under "Critical Tiger Habitat"?

- (a) Corbett
- (b) Ranthambore
- (c) Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem
- (d) Sunderbans

7. What is/are the advantage/advantages of zero tillage in agriculture?

1. Sowing of wheat is possible without burning the residue of previous crop.
2. Without the need for nursery of rice saplings, direct planting of paddy seeds in the wet soil is possible.
3. Carbon sequestration in the soil is possible.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

8. What are the advantages of fertigation in agriculture?

1. Controlling the alkalinity of irrigation water is possible.
2. Efficient application of Rock Phosphate and all other phosphatic fertilizers is possible.
3. Increased availability of nutrients to plants is possible.
4. Reduction in the leaching of chemical nutrients is possible.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

9. With reference to pulse production in India, consider the following statements:

1. Black gram can be cultivated as both kharif and rabi crop.
2. Green-gram alone accounts for nearly half of pulse production.
3. In the last three decades, while the production of kharif pulses has increased, the production of rabi pulses has decreased.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

UPSC PRELIMS GEOGRAPHY QUESTION BANK (2012-2020)

10. "The crop is subtropical in nature. A hard frost is injurious to it. It requires at least 210 frost-free days and 50 to 100 centimeters of rainfall for its growth. A light well-drained soil capable of retaining moisture is ideally suited for the cultivation of the crop." Which one of the following is that crop?

- (a) Cotton (b) Jute
(c) Sugarcane (d) Tea

11. With reference to solar water pumps, consider the following statements:

1. Solar power can be used for running surface pumps and not for submersible pumps.
2. Solar power can be used for running centrifugal pumps and not the ones with piston.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

12. With reference to the current trends in the cultivation of sugarcane in India, consider the following statements:

1. A substantial saving in seed material is made when 'bud chip settlings' are raised in a nursery and transplanted in the main field.
2. When direct planting of setts is done, the germination percentage is better with single-budded setts as compared to setts with many buds.
3. If bad weather conditions prevail when setts are directly planted, single-budded setts have better survival as compared to large setts.
4. Sugarcane can be cultivated using settlings prepared from tissue culture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

13. In the context of India, which of the following is/are considered to be practice(s) of eco-friendly agriculture?

1. Crop diversification
2. Legume intensification
3. Tensiometer use
4. Vertical farming

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

14. Which of the following Protected Areas are located in Cauvery basin

1. Nagarhole National Park
2. Papikonda National Park
3. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
4. Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

15. Which of the following are the most likely places to find the musk deer in its natural habitat?

1. Askot Wildlife Sanctuary
2. Gangotri National Park
3. Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary
4. Manas National Park

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

16. Consider the following statements:

1. Coal ash contains arsenic, lead and mercury.
2. Coal-fired power plants release sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen into the environment.
3. High ash content is observed in Indian coal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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