

JAIB IE & IFS Practice Questions(Set-1)

Q1. Which of the following statements correctly describe the characteristics and operational mechanisms of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)?

- i. REITs are required to distribute at least 90% of their taxable income to shareholders in the form of dividends to qualify for special tax treatment, such as avoiding corporate income taxes.
- ii. REITs are primarily involved in the direct management of real estate properties, including maintenance and leasing activities, which often results in higher operational costs compared to traditional real estate investments.
- iii. REITs can be publicly traded on major stock exchanges, providing investors with liquidity and the ability to buy and sell shares.

- (a) i and ii
- (b) ii and iii
- (c) i and iii
- (d) i, ii, and iii

Q2. In the context of market structures, which of the following statements accurately describe characteristics of perfect competition?

- i. Firms have no control over the price of their product, as they are price takers in a market with many sellers and homogeneous output levels.
- ii. Products are undifferentiated based on quality or features, leading to a high degree of substitutability between similar goods.
- iii. The market is characterized by free entry and exit, with no significant barriers to entry, resulting in a large number of firms.
- iv. Barriers to entry, such as high capital requirements, government regulations, and complex technology, make it difficult for new firms to enter the market, allowing existing firms to maintain long-term profitability.

- (a) i and ii
- (b) ii and iv
- (c) iii and iv
- (d) i and iv

Q3. Which of the following statements accurately describe the characteristics and significance of the sunrise sectors in the economy?

- 1. Sunrise sectors are characterized by their focus on emerging technologies and innovations that have the potential to revolutionize industries and create new market opportunities. These sectors often include areas such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, renewable energy, and advanced manufacturing, which are expected to drive future economic growth and technological advancement.
- 2. Sunrise sectors typically exhibit high growth potential due to their early-stage development and the increasing demand for cutting-edge solutions. They are attractive to investors and venture capitalists seeking high returns, as these sectors offer opportunities for substantial capital gains and can attract significant funding to support their expansion and innovation.

3. The development of sunrise sectors has a substantial socio-economic impact by generating employment opportunities, driving regional development, and fostering skill development. These sectors often create high-value jobs and contribute to improving the overall standard of living by addressing key societal challenges and promoting sustainable development.

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

Q4. Which of the following statements accurately describe the roles and functions of NITI Aayog in India's economic planning and development?

- 1. Policy Formulation and Implementation:** NITI Aayog plays a pivotal role in formulating and implementing policies that promote growth, innovation, and inclusive economic development. It identifies key sectors, formulates strategies, and monitors progress, ensuring a more decentralized and participatory process and encouraging local-level initiatives.
- 2. Monitoring and Evaluation:** NITI Aayog tracks the progress of various development programs and initiatives, providing regular reports to the government. It assesses the performance of these programs against their intended objectives and makes recommendations for improvement.
- 3. Knowledge Management and Research:** NITI Aayog acts as a knowledge organization, conducting research, collecting data, and disseminating information. It provides evidence-based policy recommendations, analyzes trends, and identifies best practices across different sectors.

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

Q5. Which of the following statements accurately describe the objectives and scope of the Stand Up India initiative?

- 1. The Stand Up India initiative is specifically designed to support Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Scheduled Castes (SCs) entrepreneurs.** It provides financial and non-financial support to help these entrepreneurs establish and grow their businesses.
- 2. The initiative is designed not only to foster new business ventures but also to create job opportunities and enhance skill development.** By encouraging start-ups and small enterprises, it seeks to contribute to job creation in local communities and support the development of entrepreneurial skills among beneficiaries.
- 3. Stand Up India offers a combination of financial and non-financial support mechanisms.** This includes providing loans with a credit facility of up to ₹1 crore per borrower, along with support services such as business planning, mentorship, and market linkages to help entrepreneurs successfully establish and grow their businesses.

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

Q6. Which of the following statements accurately reflect key aspects of economic development?

1. Economic development is characterized by a fundamental shift from an agrarian-based economy to a more industrialized and service-oriented economy, which typically includes a decline in the share of agriculture in GDP, urbanization, and a significant reallocation of labor toward higher-productivity sectors such as manufacturing and services.

2. True economic development requires not only an increase in national income or GDP but also equitable distribution of wealth, reducing income inequality, improving access to essential services like healthcare, education, and social security, and ensuring that marginalized groups benefit from economic progress. Simply achieving high GDP growth rates without addressing these inequalities cannot be considered genuine development.

3. Economic development often requires creating a conducive environment for investment, including secure property rights, enforceable contracts, and competitive markets to ensure market efficiency and efficient resource allocation.

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) All of the above

Q7. Which of the following statements accurately reflect the consequences of protectionist trade policies?

1. Protectionist measures, such as tariffs and quotas, can lead to higher prices for consumers by reducing access to cheaper imported goods and insulating inefficient domestic industries from competition.

2. Countries subjected to protectionist policies may respond with retaliatory trade restrictions, potentially leading to trade wars and reduced international trade volumes.

3. By sheltering domestic industries from international competition, protectionist policies can encourage a more diverse industrial base, enabling long-term domestic economic growth and self-sufficiency.

4. Excessive protectionism can undermine investor confidence by creating uncertainty about future trade relations and market access, potentially leading to significant capital outflows from the domestic economy.

(a) 1, 2, and 3

(b) 1, 2, and 4

(c) 2, 3, and 4

(d) 1, 3, and 4

Q8. Which of the following statements is incorrect regarding competition reforms in the Indian banking sector?

A) The government extended operational autonomy to Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and allowed them to raise capital from the stock market up to 49% of their paid-up capital.

B) Only Indian private banks are allowed to operate in India, with no provision for foreign or joint-venture banks.

C) Reforms included the introduction of transparent norms for the entry of private, foreign, and joint-venture banks, and insurance companies.

D) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) were permitted in the financial sector to promote competition and diversification.

(a) A only

(b) C only

(c) D only

(d) B only

Q9. Which of the following statements is incorrect regarding Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)?

1. FDI occurs when an investor from one country acquires a lasting interest in an enterprise located in another country.

2. FDI is typically categorized into two types: Direct Investment in Enterprises (DIE) and Direct Investment in Financial Institutions (DFI), which involves long-term investments.

3. FDI only includes equity investments and does not include intra-company loans.

4. FDI can be categorized into two types: Greenfield FDI, which involves setting up new enterprises in the host country, and Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A), which involves acquiring existing enterprises.

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 4 only

Q10. Which of the following statements is incorrect regarding Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)?

1. FTAs primarily aim to reduce or eliminate tariffs, quotas, and trade barriers between the participating countries.

2. FTAs are only limited to the trade of goods and do not cover services or investments.

3. FTAs can lead to increased competition and access to larger markets for businesses in the participating countries.

4. FTAs may sometimes include clauses related to intellectual property rights, government procurement, and environmental standards.

(a) 1, 2, and 3 only

(b) 2, 3, and 4 only

(c) 1, 3, and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, and 4 only

Q11. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities?

1. CSR activities are mandatory for all companies, regardless of their size or profit margins.
2. CSR activities can include initiatives related to environmental sustainability, education, health, and poverty alleviation.
3. Companies in India are required to spend at least 2% of their average net profits from the last three financial years on CSR activities, under the Companies Act, 2013.
4. CSR activities are solely focused on charitable donations and cannot be linked to the company's business strategy or operations.

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

Q12. Which of the following factors contribute to the growth of an economy, and the solution to the unemployment problem?

1. The shift from labour-intensive to service-oriented industries, compared to the labour-intensive manufacturing sector.
2. Infrastructure development, particularly in the form of roads, bridges between rural and urban areas, and the formation of new markets, leading to fewer barriers to trade.
3. Reforming outdated business regulations, encouraging businesses to adopt modern production methods, and promoting innovation.
4. Promoting entrepreneurship and fostering a supportive environment for small businesses through government programmes and financial incentives.

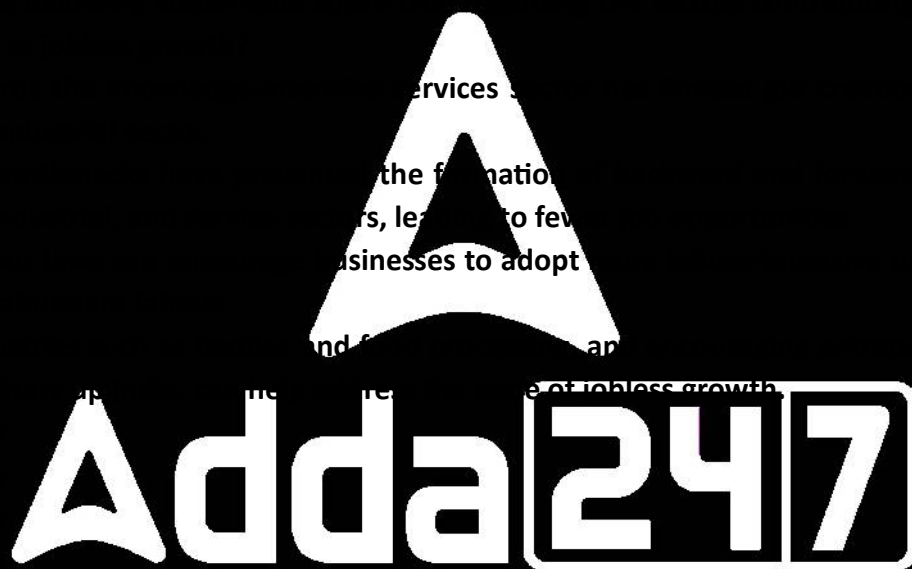
- (a) 1, 2, and 3 only
(b) 2, 3, and 4 only
(c) 1, 3, and 4 only
(d) All of the above

Q13. Which of the following statements are correct regarding the indicators of economic performance?

1. GDP measures the total value of goods and services produced in a specific period, providing an indicator of economic performance.

2. A high unemployment rate indicates that the economy is performing well, as more people are actively seeking jobs.
3. Inflation refers to the general increase in price levels of goods and services in an economy, which can erode purchasing power.
4. Central banks use tools like interest rates and open market operations to influence the money supply and stabilize the economy.

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



Q14. Which of the following statements accurately describe the forces behind the supply curve?

- 1. A decrease in the prices of production inputs, such as labor or raw materials, will shift the supply curve to the right, indicating an increase in supply.**
- 2. Advances in technology can improve production efficiency, leading to an increase in supply and a rightward shift of the supply curve.**
- 3. Taxes and regulations can affect production costs. An increase in taxes or stricter regulations will typically shift the supply curve to the right.**
- 4. An increase in the number of sellers in the market usually leads to a rightward shift in the supply curve due to the higher overall production.**

- (a) Only statement 1 is correct.
(b) Only statement 2 is correct.
(c) Only statement 3 is correct.
(d) All statements are correct.

Q15. Which of the following statements accurately describe the forces behind cost-push inflation?

- 1. Cost-push inflation occurs when the price level of goods and services rises due to an increase in production costs.**
- 2. An increase in production costs can be caused by an increase in the price level of goods and services, leading to higher prices for inputs and higher production costs.**
- 3. Cost-push inflation can be caused by a decrease in the supply of goods and services, leading to higher prices for inputs and higher production costs.**
- 4. A supply shock, such as a natural disaster or a war, can cause a decrease in the supply of goods and services, leading to higher prices for inputs and higher production costs.**

- (a) Only statements 1 and 2 are correct.
(b) Only statements 2 and 3 are correct.
(c) Only statements 1 and 3 are correct.
(d) All statements are correct.

Q16. Which of the following statements accurately describe the forces behind the Real Theory of Interest?

- 1. According to Keynes, interest is not a reward for saving but a reward for parting with liquidity or cash balances.**
 - 2. Keynes argued that investment is more dependent on the marginal efficiency of capital and future expectations rather than the rate of interest, especially during economic slowdowns.**
 - 3. Keynes believed that both savings and investment are highly interest elastic, as people adjust their savings based on interest rate changes.**
- (a) Only statements 1 and 2 are correct.
(b) Only statements 2. and 3 are correct
(c) Only statements 1 and 3 are correct
(d) None of the above

Q17. Which of the following statements accurately describe characteristics of the boom phase of a business cycle?

- i) The boom phase is characterized by high levels of consumer and business confidence, leading to increased investment and spending.**
- ii) During the boom phase, unemployment rates are generally low, and wages tend to rise as businesses expand and hire more workers.**
- iii) Inflationary pressures are typically absent during the boom phase due to balanced supply and demand conditions in the economy.**

(a) Only statement i is correct.

(b) Only statement ii is correct.

(c) Only statement iii is correct.

(d) All statements are correct.

Q18. Which of the following tools are used by central banks like the Federal Reserve to manage the money supply in the open market?

- 1. Open Market Operations: Buying and selling government securities in the open market to increase or decrease the money supply.**
- 2. Cash Reserve Ratio: Setting the percentage of a bank's deposits that must be held in reserve as cash or deposits with the central bank, affecting the amount of money banks can lend.**
- 3. Statutory Liquidity Ratio: Setting the minimum percentage of a bank's deposits that must be maintained in liquid assets like gold and government securities.**
- 4. Fiscal Deficit Financing: Issuing government bonds or printing money to finance a budget deficit, which can increase the money supply.**

(a) Only statements 1 and 2 are correct.

(b) Only statements 2 and 4 are correct.

(c) Only statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct.

(d) All statements are correct.

Q19. Which of the following statements accurately describe the concept of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as an economic indicator?

- i) GDP measures the total monetary value of all goods and services produced within a country's borders over a specific period, providing a snapshot of a nation's economic performance.**
- ii) GDP is used to compare the economic performance of different countries and assess the standard of living by looking at GDP per capita.**
- iii) A rising GDP always reflects an improvement in the well-being of a country's citizens, as it directly correlates with better quality of life and income distribution.**

(a) Only statement i is correct.

(b) Only statements i and ii are correct.

(c) Only statement iii is correct.

(d) All statements are correct.

Q20. Which of the following statements accurately describe the concept and implications of fiscal deficit?

- 1. Fiscal deficit occurs when the government's total expenditure exceeds its total receipts, excluding borrowings.**
- 2. A high fiscal deficit can lead to inflation if it is financed by borrowing from the central bank, which increases the money supply in the economy.**
- 3. A lower fiscal deficit is always a positive indicator of a country's economic health, as it signifies reduced government spending.**
- 4. A fiscal deficit is often financed through market borrowings, external loans, and the sale of government assets.**

(a) Only statements 1 and 2 are correct.

(b) Only statement 2 is correct.

(c) Only statement 3 is correct.

(d) All statements are correct.

Q21. Which of the following statements accurately describe the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee – 1991?

- 1. The Committee recommended that the RBI should maintain a strong buffer stock of domestic liquidity and ensure that the Net of Current Assets (NCA) remains positive.**
- 2. The Committee recommended that the RBI should maintain a narrow money base by restricting their investments in government securities and assets to high quality assets.**
- 3. It suggested that the RBI should maintain a Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) to 9% to ensure its capacity to absorb losses and maintain financial stability.**
- 4. The Committee recommended that the RBI should move towards a more conservative approach to ensure stricter management of its assets and liabilities.**

(a) Only statements 1 and 2 are correct.

(b) Only statements 2 and 3 are correct.

(c) Only statement 3 is correct.

(d) All statements are correct.

Q22. According to the RBI Act, 1934, which of the following actions are prohibited for the RBI?

- A) RBI is prohibited from engaging in trade or having a direct interest in any commercial, industrial, or other undertaking.**
- B) RBI is allowed to purchase the shares of any banking company or any other company, and grant loans upon the security of such shares.**
- C) RBI is not permitted to advance money on the mortgage of immovable property or become the owner of immovable property, except when necessary for its business premises and residences for its officers and employees.**

(a) Only statement A is correct.

(b) Only statements A and C are correct.

(c) Only statement B is correct.

(d) All statements are correct.

Q23. Which of the following statements accurately describe the financial and advisory activities of IFCI?

- A) Project financing is the core business of IFCI, which provides medium or long-term credit for new projects, expansions, modernisation, and balancing schemes, including rupee and foreign currency loans.**
- B) IFCI offers both fund-based and fee-based financial services, including equipment finance, working capital loans, leasing, guarantees, and letters of credit.**
- C) IFCI's corporate advisory services include areas such as project finance, corporate restructuring, disinvestment, and facilitating foreign direct investment (FDI).**
- D) IFCI exclusively focuses on providing loans and does not engage in advisory or consultancy services for infrastructure sectors like electricity, telecom, and insurance.**

(a) A, and B are correct

(b) B, C, and

(c) A, B, and

(d) A, B, and

Q24. Based on the following statements, which of the following types of companies are classified as Non-Financial Companies (NFCs)?

- 1. An Asset Finance Company (AFC) provides finance to companies for the purchase of machinery, vehicles, and equipment.**
- 2. A Loan Company (LC) provides loans to companies for any activity, excluding financial services.**
- 3. Asset Finance Companies (AFCs) and Loan Companies (LCs) are classified as Non-Financial Companies (NFCs).**
- 4. An AFC can provide finance to companies for the purchase of machinery, vehicles, and equipment.**

(a) Statement 1 and Statement 2 only

(b) Statement 2 and Statement 3 only

(c) Statement 1 and Statement 2, and Statement 3

(d) Statement

Q25. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has the following objectives: economic stability and ensuring the efficient functioning of the financial system. Which of the following statements accurately describe these objectives?

- 1. To maintain monetary stability such that the business and economic life of the country can deliver the welfare gains of a mixed economy.**
- 2. To maintain financial stability and ensure sound financial institutions so that economic units can conduct their business with confidence.**
- 3. To maintain stable payment systems so that financial transactions can be safely and efficiently executed.**

(a) Statement 1 and Statement 2 only

(b) Statement 2 and Statement 3 only

(c) Statement 1, Statement 2, and Statement 3

(d) Statement 1 only

Q26. In June 2022, the Indian government launched EASE 5.0, the latest initiative under the EASNext program, aimed at transforming Public Sector Banks (PSBs). This initiative emphasizes enhancing digital customer experiences and fostering inclusive banking, particularly for small businesses and agriculture. PSBs are also required to develop individual strategic roadmaps addressing business growth, profitability, risk management, customer service, and operational improvements.

Which of the following statements best encapsulates the objectives and focus areas of the EASE 5.0 initiative launched for PSBs in June 2022?

- (a) EASE 5.0 is primarily focused on restructuring the financial capital of PSBs, with the key emphasis on investment in long-term government securities and minimizing exposure to digital banking to avoid over-reliance on technological advances.
- (b) The EASE 5.0 initiative focuses on enhancing digital customer experiences, driving operational efficiency, and fostering inclusive banking, while also requiring PSBs to develop a unified strategic roadmap.
- (c) Under EASE 5.0, PSBs are encouraged to focus solely on traditional banking services, prioritizing rural and agricultural strategies as a core component of their business model.
- (d) The central theme of EASE 5.0 is to modernize PSBs by adopting digital technologies, indicating the need for banks to embrace digital transformation and ensure risk-averse banking practices.

Q27. A commodity market is characterized by a situation where supply and demand are not perfectly balanced. When supply is less than demand, prices rise as buyers compete for limited availability. Conversely, when supply exceeds demand, prices fall, favoring sellers due to excess availability. In cases where supply and demand are balanced, the market achieves equilibrium, ensuring fair trade. This dynamic environment is essential for establishing fair market prices.

Which of the following statements best describes the relationship between supply and demand, and price discovery in a commodity market?

- (a) When supply exceeds demand in a commodity market, prices typically rise because buyers are willing to pay a premium to secure the goods, leading to a shortage.
- (b) Price discovery in a commodity market involves determining whether buyers or sellers are in a dominant position, leading to an imbalance in the equilibrium state.
- (c) In a market where supply and demand are balanced, prices remain stable, ensuring prices remain stable and unaffected by external factors such as scarcity or market speculation, which could otherwise disrupt fair trade.
- (d) When demand exceeds supply, prices fall because buyers lose interest in bidding up the value of scarce assets, preferring to wait until supply catches up, thus creating a surplus that drives prices down.

Q28. Demutualisation refers to the transformation of a stock exchange from a mutually owned association to a shareholder-owned corporation. In a mutual exchange, brokers serve as owners, traders, and managers. Post-demutualisation, these roles are segregated, with ownership, management, and trading handled independently. This separation aims to enhance governance and reduce conflicts of interest. Indian exchanges like the BSE, NSE, and OTCEI have undergone this process, corporatising and demutualising their operations to better align with global standards.

Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of a demutualised stock exchange as explained in the demutualisation process?

- (a) A demutualised exchange ensures that ownership, management, and trading functions are separated into distinct entities, reducing conflicts of interest and providing a more transparent governance structure for the exchange.
- (b) In a mutual exchange, the ownership, management, and trading functions are concentrated within a single group, where broker members serve as both owners and traders, also taking on management responsibilities.
- (c) Demutualisation allows broker members to retain their roles as owners and traders while delegating management responsibilities to independent third parties, ensuring that trading practices remain under the control of the exchange.
- (d) Exchange members are required to be incorporated entities with separate legal identities from the stock exchange governance.

Q29. The Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) in India aims to regulate foreign exchange transactions, securities, and derivatives markets. Which of the following is NOT a function of FERA?

(a) FERA regulates foreign exchange transactions, securities, and derivatives markets. It aims to stabilize the Indian Rupee, manage foreign exchange reserves, and ensure the smooth functioning of the foreign exchange market. FERA also provides for the establishment of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Board (FERB) and the Foreign Exchange Regulation Commission (FERC).

Which of the following is NOT a function of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA)?

- (a) FEDAI, established in 1997, is a regulatory body that sets rules for the foreign exchange market in India, assisting in the development of the market with advisory services and monitoring.
- (b) FEDAI's role includes accrediting foreign exchange brokers and ensuring the foreign exchange market through its collaboration with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Fixed Income Money Market and Derivatives Association of India (FIMMDA).
- (c) In March 2017, FEDAI was merged with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to form the Indian Banks' Association - Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (IBA-FEDAI).
- (d) FEDAI exclusively comprises foreign banks and financial institutions and does not include public sector or private sector banks among its members.

Q30. A large public company issued shares worth ₹600 crores, exceeding the SEBI threshold of ₹500 crores. As per SEBI guidelines, the company appointed a financial institution as a Monitoring Agency. The agency's role was to ensure that the proceeds were used for the stated project, monitor project costs, track any revisions, and report any delays or deviations to SEBI. The company also ensured compliance with statutory approvals. The Monitoring Agency submitted half-yearly reports to SEBI, detailing fund utilization and any surplus management. Which of the following is NOT a responsibility of a Monitoring Agency as per SEBI guidelines when the issue size exceeds ₹500 crores?

-
- (a) Submitting half-yearly reports on fund utilization to SEBI, including surplus fund management, even if the project is completed ahead of schedule and under budget.
 - (b) Ensuring the company has obtained all relevant government/statutory approvals related to the project, as outlined in the offer document, and immediately reporting any failure to comply.
 - (c) Monitoring any deviation in the use of funds compared to the purpose outlined in the offer document, and submitting a revised report directly to the shareholders before reporting to SEBI.
 - (d) Ensuring that any revisions in the project cost are financed through pre-approved sources and reporting any deviations from the cost as mentioned in the original offer document to SEBI.

Q31. XYZ Electronics, a small MSME, supplies electronic components to large corporations, including government departments and public sector undertakings (PSUs). Due to delayed payments from these large buyers, XYZ faces difficulties in managing its working capital. To resolve this, the company signs up

for TReDS, a platform for submitting its invoices on receivables, improving its cash flow and their behavior.

- (a) MSMEs receive prompt payments from large buyers, reducing their default risks.
- (b) The financial health of MSMEs improves, allowing them to secure credit more easily.
- (c) MSMEs can manage their receivables without relying on intermediaries, reducing transaction costs.
- (d) TReDS supports MSMEs by providing a secure platform for submitting invoices, streamlining the payment process.

Q32. ABC Investments, a firm that participates in both exchange-traded and over-the-counter (OTC) markets. To hedge its foreign currency exposure in international trade, the firm often uses derivatives. The transparency of exchange-traded contracts, such as fixed

ABC is assured of standardized terms, while OTC markets offer more flexibility but lack standardization. ABC is assured of standardized terms, while OTC markets offer more flexibility but lack standardization. ABC is assured of standardized terms, while OTC markets offer more flexibility but lack standardization.

What is a primary advantage of exchange-traded derivatives compared to OTC derivatives?

- (a) The ability to negotiate contract terms directly with the counterparty, allowing for more customized deals.
- (b) Greater transparency and standardization, reducing counterparty risk and simplifying regulatory compliance.
- (c) Full transparency and standardization, reducing counterparty risk and simplifying regulatory compliance.
- (d) The absence of margin requirements, allowing firms to operate with lower upfront capital commitments compared to OTC markets.

Q33. The Planning Commission's five-year planning model faced challenges in aligning with India's evolving development strategy. Initially crucial for channeling limited resources into infrastructure post-independence, the framework struggled to adapt after the 1991 economic reforms. Budget constraints and shifting political dynamics, especially the rise of coalition governments, further undermined centralized planning. This misalignment between federal resource allocation and state developmental roles questioned the Commission's relevance in a changing economic landscape. Which of the following best describes the challenges posed by the Planning Commission's traditional five-year planning model in the context of India's post-1991 economic reforms?

(a) The Planning Commission's rigid adherence to a centralized resource allocation model led to inefficiencies in addressing regional disparities. This was particularly evident as states with strong regional parties began demanding more autonomy, causing delays in infrastructure projects and widening economic inequalities between states.

(b) The Planning Commission's failure to integrate market mechanisms into its planning process post-1991 resulted in a mismatch between the allocation of resources and the actual needs of the economy. This caused an over-reliance on public sector investments, leaving the private sector underutilized, which hampered economic growth.

(c) The conflict between centralized planning and the federal structure of governance led to a dilution of the states' developmental roles. This, combined with the fiscal constraints imposed by coalition governments, reduced the states' ability to attract foreign direct investment (FDI).

(d) The persistent political instability and lack of a unified market environment hindered the political decentralization process, which stunted long-term economic development.

Q34. The _____ curve shows the quantity of a good or service that consumers are able to buy at various prices. It slopes downward from left to right, indicating that as the price of a good falls, the quantity demanded increases. This concept of _____ describes the relationship between price and quantity demanded in response to a change in price.

Fill in the blank.

- (a) Demand; downward-sloping
- (b) Supply; Downward-sloping
- (c) Supply; Substitution
- (d) Demand; Demand; increases; Elasticity

Q35. i. A government implements a policy to stimulate economic growth, while simultaneously increasing the income tax rates on high earners.

ii. The economy is in a recession, and the government introduces higher income tax brackets, increasing the government's revenue without altering tax rates.

iii. A central bank cuts interest rates to lower borrowing costs for businesses and consumers, aiming to boost investment and consumption.

iv. A government implements a temporary tax cut to provide immediate relief to households during a recession, with the intention to restore the original tax rates once the economy recovers.

Which of the following scenarios best illustrates the concept of "fiscal drag" in a fiscal policy context?

- (a) ii only
- (b) iii only
- (c) iv only
- (d) i, ii, and iii

Q36. Which of the following statements accurately describes the difference between American and European options?

- (a) An American option can be exercised only on the expiration date, while a European option can be exercised anytime between the day of purchase and the expiration date.
- (b) An American option can be exercised anytime between the day of purchase and the expiration date, while a European option can only be exercised on the expiration date.
- (c) Both American and European options can be exercised at any time before the expiration date.
- (d) None of the above

Q37. The nation of Agraria experienced a severe economic depression that lasted for three years. During this period, unemployment rates soared, consumer spending plummeted, and many businesses shut down. However, after the government implemented various stimulus measures to stimulate the economy, the situation began to improve. Which of the following factors is most likely to initiate a recovery in Agraria?

- (a) Continued high unemployment rates.
- (b) Banks making more restrictive loan terms.
- (c) Increased government spending leading to higher inflation.
- (d) Businesses increasing their production of goods and services.

Q38. GreenFuture Bank in India, has recently announced its plan to integrate ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) factors into its business operations. The bank has launched several initiatives, including promoting sustainable investments, implementing green building standards, and enhancing employee diversity. As part of its ESG strategy, the bank has also introduced a new line of green financial products aimed at supporting environmentally friendly businesses. The bank believes that this will attract a new segment of eco-conscious customers and solidify its reputation as a leader in sustainable finance. Which of the following best represents the primary challenge GreenFuture Bank is likely to face in implementing its ESG strategy?

- (a) The bank's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint may lead to a decrease in customer satisfaction.
- (b) Traditional investors may be skeptical of the bank's long-term sustainability goals.
- (c) The bank's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint may lead to a decrease in customer satisfaction.
- (d) Implementing human rights policies may reduce the bank's ability to comply with regulatory requirements.

Q39. Which of the following statements is true regarding the issuance of Commercial Papers (CPs) by a company?

- (a) The aggregate amount of CP issued by a company is solely determined by the Credit Rating Agency.
- (b) A company can issue CPs without any limit as long as they have board approval.
- (c) The aggregate amount of CPs issued must be within the limit approved by the company's Board of Directors or the limit indicated by the Credit Rating Agency, whichever is lower.
- (d) Financial Institutions (FIs) can issue CPs without any restrictions, regardless of RBI guidelines.

Q40. Bright Future Technologies, a startup specializing in renewable energy solutions, decides to raise funds for its expansion plans. The company plans to issue new shares in the financial market to attract investors. The initial public offering (IPO) is highly anticipated due to the company's innovative approach and potential for growth. As the shares are listed on the stock exchange, the financial market starts its price determination function. The prices of the shares are set by the market forces of demand and supply, reflecting investor sentiment and market conditions. Investors are drawn to BrightFuture Technologies due to the potential high returns, determined by the required rate of return for their investments. As trading begins, investors who initially bought the shares can sell them at any time during market hours, providing liquidity. This liquidity ensures that investors can convert their shares to cash without having to wait for the company to buy them back or for other specific conditions to arise.

Which of the following best describes the ability of the financial market to provide liquidity to investors?

- (a) Price determination
- (b) Funds mobilization
- (c) Liquidity provision
- (d) Risk sharing

Q41. In 2023, the Indian economy experienced significant growth, but it also faced a major disruption in both the supply of goods and services. However, the government's intervention in the market helped to stabilize the economy. To assess the impact of the disruption, the National Statistics Office (NSO) released the quarterly GDP deflator. The NSO reported a 6% increase in prices for goods and services over the quarter.

Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is used to measure the price level of goods and services. Given the scenario, which of the following best explains the difference between the CPI and WPI inflation rates?

- (a) The GDP deflator includes the prices of all domestically produced goods and services, while CPI and WPI cover only specific categories.
- (b) The GDP deflator includes the prices of all domestically produced goods and services, while CPI and WPI cover only specific categories.
- (c) The GDP deflator includes the prices of all domestically produced goods and services, while CPI and WPI cover only specific categories.
- (d) The GDP deflator excludes changes in consumption and investment patterns, whereas CPI and WPI include these changes.

Q42. 1. Coupon bonds pay interest at pre-determined intervals, usually twice a year.

2. Zero-coupon bonds pay periodic interest at fixed intervals.

3. Convertible bonds allow the investor to convert the bond into equity at a fixed conversion price.

Which of the following statements is true regarding different types of bonds?

- (a) Statements 1 and 3 are true.
- (b) Only statement 1 is true.
- (c) Only statement 2 is true.
- (d) Statements 1, 2, and 3 are true.

Q43. Imagine a group of countries in Asia facing severe foreign exchange shortages and high transfer costs for intra-regional trade. These countries are struggling with settlement difficulties due to resource constraints and the complexity of bilateral trade and payments agreements. To address these issues, they consider forming a payment arrangement that allows them to settle payments for intra-regional transactions on a net multilateral basis.

Which of the following best describes the solution these countries are considering, and how does it help address their foreign exchange constraints and settlement difficulties?

- (a) The countries are considering forming a bilateral trade agreement to directly exchange goods and services without using foreign currency, thereby eliminating the need for foreign exchange reserves.
- (b) The countries are considering establishing a multilateral payments arrangement, such as the Asian Clearing Union (ACU), which allows them to offset debits and credits periodically, reducing the need for foreign exchange reserves.
- (c) The countries are considering forming a currency union, which would completely remove the need for foreign exchange reserves.
- (d) The countries are considering forming a currency board, which would require them to hold foreign loans to cover their international payments.

Q44. According to the Companies Act, 2013, which of the following is not a requirement of a Monitoring Officer (MO) appointed by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)?

- (a) A Monitoring Officer (MO) is responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, and for ensuring that the company's financial statements are true and correct.
- (b) The role of the MO is to ensure that the company's financial statements are true and correct, and to ensure that the company's financial statements are audited by a Chartered Accountant (CA) who is a member of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI).
- (c) Monitoring Officer (MO) is responsible for issues less than Rs. 100 crore, and is responsible for monitoring the company's financial statements, and for reporting to SEBI.
- (d) The issue size of the company is not a factor in determining the MO's responsibilities, and the agency must ensure that the company's financial statements are true and correct, and submit half-yearly reports to SEBI.

Q45. i) Exporter negotiates a tentative contract with the importer, specifying the nature of goods and price. ii) Exporter approaches Exim Bank to obtain an indicative letter of credit. iii) Exim Bank issues a letter of credit to the importer. iv) The forfeiter is responsible for the payment of the letter of credit to the importer.

Which of the following statements is true regarding the legal implications of lease financing and hire purchase agreements in India?

- (a) i only
- (b) ii only
- (c) iii only
- (d) iv only

Q46. Which of the following statements is true regarding the legal implications of lease financing and hire purchase agreements in India?

ABC Manufacturing Ltd. decides to enter into a lease agreement for the new machinery. They sign a lease contract with XYZ Leasing Co., which allows them to use the machinery for five years. The lease agreement specifies that XYZ Leasing Co. will remain the owner of the machinery throughout the lease term. ABC Manufacturing Ltd. is responsible for maintaining the machinery and ensuring it is returned in good condition at the end of the lease period.

Meanwhile, XYZ Trading Co., another business enterprise, opts for a hire purchase agreement to acquire a similar type of machinery. Under the hire purchase agreement with DEF Finance Co., XYZ Trading Co. will make monthly payments over three years. At the end of the hire purchase term, XYZ Trading Co. will own the machinery after making the final payment.

- (a) Lease agreements in India are governed by the Hire Purchase Act, 1972.
- (b) Lease financing agreements are governed by the Indian Contract Act and considered contracts of bailment.
- (c) Hire purchase agreements are akin to contracts of bailment and are governed by the Indian Contract Act.
- (d) Both lease financing and hire purchase agreements are governed by a specific statute in India.

Q47. i) Credit scoring is a statistical analysis used by lenders to determine the creditworthiness of an individual and

ii) Credit scores are used by credit rating agencies to determine credit ratings

are used for

iii) In India, credit scores are used by credit bureaus to determine credit ratings

credit bureaus

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (a) i only
- (b) ii only
- (c) iii only
- (d) i and iii only

Q48. Interval funds are open-ended funds that allow investors to enter or exit the fund at any time, subject to specified

transaction procedures. The fund has to have a minimum of 10% of the fund's net assets invested in the specified

be at least a certain percentage of the fund's net assets. The fund should have a minimum of 10% of the fund's net assets

open-ended funds. The fund should have a minimum of 10% of the fund's net assets invested in the specified

the fund term. The fund should have a minimum of 10% of the fund's net assets invested in the specified

during these periods. The fund should have a minimum of 10% of the fund's net assets invested in the specified

Fill in the blank.

- (a) two; 10
- (b) two; 15
- (c) three; 15
- (d) three; 10

Q49. Which of the following statements is incorrect regarding the All-Citizens Model of the National Pension System (NPS)?

- (a) The All-Citizens Model allows all Indian citizens, including non-residents, aged between 18-70 years, to join NPS on a voluntary basis.
- (b) NPS is designed on a Defined Contribution basis, meaning the benefit at exit is pre-determined and guaranteed by the government.
- (c) Both individual contributions and potential employer co-contributions are part of the NPS framework for social security and welfare.
- (d) The accumulated wealth in an NPS account depends on contributions, investment income, the duration of accumulation, and the charges deducted.

Q50. Rajesh is an economic planner working for the Indian government. He is tasked with developing a new five-year plan that focuses on the primary goals of planning in India. To achieve this, he must consider various objectives such as economic growth, poverty alleviation, employment generation, social justice, reducing inequalities, achieving a self-reliant economy, and modernizing the economy. Rajesh understands that each goal is crucial for India's overall development.

While formulating the plan, Rajesh faces a scenario where he needs to prioritize certain objectives due to limited resources. He decides to focus on sectors that can simultaneously address multiple goals. However, he encounters a dilemma when addressing social justice and reducing inequalities. Rajesh realizes that achieving social justice requires significant investment in education and healthcare, which could strain the available resources. To balance this, he plans to implement targeted programs that focus on the most vulnerable sections of the population.

Which of the following sectors is most likely to be prioritized by Rajesh to address growth, poverty alleviation, and employment generation simultaneously?

- (a) Information Technology
- (b) Agriculture
- (c) Financial Services
- (d) Real Estate

Q51. 1. The Government of India has implemented various policies to promote the growth of agriculture. Which of the following policies is most likely to be implemented to promote the growth of agriculture?

2. The Government of India has implemented various policies to promote the growth of agriculture. Which of the following policies is most likely to be implemented to promote the growth of agriculture?

Consider the following statements regarding the growth of agriculture in India:

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

Q52. Which of the following was not a feature of the British colonial rule in India?

- (a) Dividends to East India Company shareholders
- (b) Interest on loans raised by the Government of India in England
- (c) Expenditure on British army stationed in India
- (d) Revenue from taxes collected within India

Q53. Due to 10 percent fall in the price of X, its demand rises from 100 units to 120 units. How much percentage will its demand fall due to 10 percent rise in its price?

- (a) 20%
- (b) 30%
- (c) 15%
- (d) 25%

Q54. Calculate the LRR if the initial deposit of rupees 500 crore leads to the establishment of the total deposit of rupees 4,000 crore.

- (a) 0.155
- (b) 0.1
- (c) 0.125
- (d) 0.2

Q55. Calculate the value of the money multiplier and the total deposit created if the initial amount is rupees 700 crore and the LRR is 10%.

- (a) 6500 crore
- (b) 7000 crore
- (c) 6200 crore
- (d) 7100 crore

Q56.

Transfer Payments

Interest Income

Depreciation

Wages (W)

Gross Private

Business Product

Indirect Business

Rental Income

Net Exports

Net Foreign Income \$

Government Expenditure \$1

Household Consumption \$30

Calculate GDP

- (a) 602
- (b) 698
- (c) 765
- (d) 876



Q57. In 2023, GlobalTraders Ltd., an export-oriented company based in India, faced significant challenges due to fluctuating foreign exchange rates. To better manage its foreign exchange transactions and mitigate risks, the company decided to consult with its bank, which is a member of the Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI). With the bank's guidance, supported by FEDAI's regulations and benchmarks, GlobalTraders Ltd. was able to navigate the volatile forex market more efficiently. The company adopted better hedging strategies to protect against adverse currency movements, thereby stabilizing its revenue and reducing financial risks. This collaboration also enhanced the company's confidence in dealing with international clients and expanding its global footprint. Which of the following is a key role of the Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI) in the forex market?

-
- (a) Setting rules and charges for the foreign exchange business, and assisting member banks with training and accreditation.
 - (b) Managing the foreign exchange reserves of India.
 - (c) Conducting foreign exchange transactions on behalf of the government.
 - (d) Providing direct loans to exporters and importers.

Q58. Which of the following regulations is NOT specified for Exempted Funds that substitute the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) according to the guidelines?

- (a) 25% of assets must be invested in central government bonds.
- (b) 15% of assets must be invested in state government bonds or bonds of public sector enterprises guaranteed by the government.
- (c) 30% of assets must be invested in state government bonds or bonds of public sector enterprises.
- (d) 30% of assets must be invested in state government bonds or bonds of public sector enterprises.

Q59. What is the minimum percentage of assets that must be invested in equity and equity-related instruments?

- (a) 50%
- (b) 55%
- (c) 60%
- (d) 65%

Q60.

Particulars

- (i) NDP at Market Price 80,000
- (ii) Net Factor Cost from abroad 100
- (iii) Depreciation 4,950
- (iv) Subsidies 100
- (v) Indirect Taxes 100

Calculate GNP

- (a) 75920
- (b) 76289
- (c) 74321
- (d) 76549

Q61. As a result of a 10% fall in the price of a good, its demand rises from 100 units to 120 units. Find out the price elasticity of demand.

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

Q62. In a bailment arrangement, the _____ transfers possession of an item to the _____ for a specific purpose, with the expectation that the item will be returned once the purpose is fulfilled.

Fill in the blanks:

- (a) bailor; bailee
- (b) bailee; bailor
- (c) owner; recipient
- (d) borrower; lender

Q63. i. Venture capital investments are low-risk and aimed at modest profits.

ii. Venture capital investments are typically made in start-ups with growth potential.

iii. Venture capital investments are typically made in established companies.

iv. Venture capital investments are typically made in start-ups with growth potential.

Which of the following statements are correct?

- (a) i and ii
- (b) ii and iii
- (c) i and iv
- (d) iii and iv

Q64. Which of the following statements are correct?

- (a) State Development Loans (SDLs) are issued by the Government of India to finance its capital expenditures.
- (b) SDLs are issued by the Government of India to finance its current expenditures.
- (c) SDLs pay interest at a fixed coupon rate.
- (d) SDLs pay interest at a floating coupon rate.

Q65. Statement I: The primary focus of financing infrastructure projects is on financial returns that may not meet commercial returns and hence require long-term credit for capital-intensive investments.

Statement II: Infrastructure projects operate similarly to commercial banks, including mobilizing short-term deposits and providing loans with high margins.

Statement III: Infrastructure projects are typically financed by the government, which provides substantial social benefits.

Which of the following statements are correct?

- (a) Only Statement I is correct.
- (b) Statements I and II are correct, but Statement III is incorrect.
- (c) All Statements I, II, and III are correct.
- (d) Statements I and III are correct, but Statement II is incorrect.

Q66. Statement 1: The Insurance Act, 1938 was enacted to protect the interests of the insuring public and to provide detailed and effective control over insurers' activities.

Statement 2: The Insurance Act, 1938 established an insurance wing that was initially attached to the Ministry of Commerce and later to the Ministry of Finance.

Statement 3: The actuarial and operational matters related to insurance were overseen by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI).

Which of the following statements about the Insurance Act, 1938 is/are correct?

- (a) Statements 1 and 2 are correct, but Statement 3 is incorrect.
- (b) Statements 1 and 3 are correct, but Statement 2 is incorrect.
- (c) Only Statement 1 is correct.
- (d) All Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct.

Q67. Statement 1: Micro-finance institutions (MFIs), primarily consisting of NBFCs, are instrumental in catering to the financial needs of the unbanked masses in rural and semi-urban areas, creating livelihood sources, and serving this segment effectively.

Statement 2: NBFCs are primarily focused on retail financing and have minimal impact on stimulating financial inclusion or contributing to economic development.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (a) Both Statements 1 and 2 are correct.
- (b) Both Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect.
- (c) Statement 1 is correct, but Statement 2 is incorrect.
- (d) Statement 2 is correct, but Statement 1 is incorrect.

Q68. i. To strengthen the financial system in various sectors, including agriculture, and international trade.
ii. To maintain the stability of the financial system.
iii. To foster growth and employment opportunities, especially in the private sector.
iv. To develop the financial system as well as high-growth sectors.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (a) iii only
- (b) i only
- (c) iv only
- (d) ii only

Q69. Based on the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1935, the Central Government can introduce new currency notes of the denomination Rs 2,000 to address the need for higher value notes. However, after a few years, it was observed that the high denomination notes were being used extensively for illegal activities.

- (a) The Central Government can introduce Rs 2,000 currency notes without any recommendation from the Central Board of RBI.
- (b) The Central Government can introduce and later discontinue the Rs 2,000 currency notes based on the recommendation of the Central Board of RBI.
- (c) The Central Government can introduce Rs 2,000 currency notes but cannot discontinue them once they are in circulation.
- (d) The Central Government can introduce and discontinue Rs 2,000 currency notes without any involvement from the Central Board of RBI.



Q70. i. Internal benchmarks have not effectively transmitted monetary policy.

ii. External benchmarks include RBI policy repo rate and Government of India Treasury Bill yields.

iii. The transition to external benchmarks was recommended for all types of loans, including corporate loans.

Based on the recommendations of the Internal Study Group (ISG) led by Dr. Janak Raj, why did the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) advocate for a transition from internal benchmarks like Base Rate/MCLR to external benchmarks for floating rate loans, and what are the approved benchmarks for such loans effective from October 1, 2019?

(a) i and ii

(b) ii and iii

(c) i and iii

(d) i, ii, and iii

Q71. i. The base rate is the minimum rate at which commercial banks can lend to their customers.

ii. The MSF rate is the minimum rate at which banks can lend to their customers on the basis of collateral.

iii. Changes in the MSF rate are directly related to changes in the money supply.

Which of the following statements regarding the MSF rate is correct?

(a) i and ii only

(b) i and iii only

(c) ii and iii only

(d) i, ii, and iii

Q72. Calculate the total amount of money supplied in the economy if the following data is given:

Notes in circulation Rs. 5300 crores

Cash Reserve Bank with RBI Rs. 13,830 crores

Circulation of coins Rs. 680 crore

Demand deposits Rs. 14,670 crores

Other deposits Rs. 67,560 crores

Cash on hand Rs. 87,870 crores

Circulation of coins greater than rupee coins Rs 1970 crores

Circulation of coins greater than rupee coins Rs 1970 crores

(a) Rs. 14,670 crores

(b) Rs. 67,560 crores

(c) Rs. 87,870 cores

(d) Rs. 96,480 crores

Q73. 1. Equilibrium occurs where quantity demanded equals quantity supplied at a specific price level.

2. A surplus occurs when quantity demanded exceeds quantity supplied at a given price.

3. An increase in demand, with no change in supply, will always lead to an increase in equilibrium price.

Consider the following statements regarding the equilibrium of demand and supply. Which of the following is correct?

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

Q74. 1. Consumer preferences and tastes can shift the demand curve for a product.

2. Increasing consumer income always shifts the demand curve for inferior goods to the right.

3. The prices of related goods, such as substitutes and complements, can influence the demand for a product.

Consider the following statements regarding the forces behind the demand curve. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Q75. I. Climate

events, which

II. The migration

standards are

III. Promoting

sector jobs can

Consider the

statements is/are

- (a) I only
- (b) I and II only
- (c) II and III only
- (d) All of the above

Q76. I. IBRD

income nations

II. IBRD offers loans, guarantees, risk management solutions, and consulting services to middle-income and creditworthy low-income nations.

III. IBRD collaborates closely with only public sectors in developing countries to eliminate poverty and achieve shared prosperity.

Consider the following statements regarding the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). Which of the statements is/are correct?

- (a) I only
- (b) II only
- (c) I and II only
- (d) II and III only



Q77. i. The IMF conducts surveillance over members' economic policies to ensure they are consistent with the IMF's goals and has the authority to review the economic situations of nearly every country regularly.
ii. The IMF provides loans to member countries during a temporary balance of payments crisis to help them implement corrective measures and mobilize external funding.
iii. The IMF offers concessional loans to low-income countries to support their efforts to reduce poverty, often in collaboration with the World Bank and other international economic institutions.
Which of the following statements accurately describes the functions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

- (a) i and ii only
- (b) ii and iii only
- (c) i and iii only
- (d) i, ii, and iii

Q78. 1. Economic development focuses on the growth of the economy.
2. Economic development focuses on the improvement of the living standards of the population.
3. Economic development is a prerequisite for the achievement of the _____ of the Sustainable Development Goals.
Fill in the blank with the correct option from the following statements.

- (a) distribution of income
- (b) allocation of resources
- (c) distribution of wealth
- (d) allocation of capital

Q79. Which of the following statements accurately differentiates between Greenfield FDI and Brownfield FDI?

- (a) Greenfield FDI is a type of foreign investment where the investor builds new operations in the host country, while Brownfield FDI involves purchasing or leasing existing facilities.
- (b) Greenfield FDI involves building new operations, while Brownfield FDI involves purchasing existing facilities.
- (c) Greenfield FDI involves building new operations, while Brownfield FDI involves purchasing existing facilities.
- (d) Greenfield FDI is when a company partners with a local firm to start a joint venture, while Brownfield FDI is when a company invests through franchising or licensing agreements.

Q80. i. Acceptance of Family Welfare services is voluntary.
ii. The programme provides integrated Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and family planning services.
iii. Effective Information Education & Communication (IEC) is provided to improve awareness.
iv. Family Welfare services are available at a nominal cost.

Which of the following statements are fundamental premises of the Family Welfare Programme in India?

- (a) i and ii
- (b) i, ii, and iii
- (c) ii and iv
- (d) i, iii, and iv

Q81. i. NEP 2022 replaces the National Education Policy 1986.

ii. The new framework under NEP 2022 includes a 5+3+3+4 structure, incorporating 12 years of education.

iii. The pillars of NEP 2022 are accessibility, equity, quality, and accountability.

Which statements accurately describe the National Education Policy 2022 (NEP 2022)?

- (a) i only
- (b) i and ii
- (c) ii and iii
- (d) i, ii, and iii

Q82. 1. Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) provides credit-linked subsidies to promote entrepreneurship.

2. The scheme focuses on organizing traditional industries and crafts.

3. A Scheme for creating self-employment opportunities for women aims to create new jobs and entrepreneurship.

Which statements accurately describe the scheme?

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

Q83. 1. Individual Entrepreneurship Scheme (IES) provides credit-linked subsidies for collateral-free loans.

2. The scheme focuses on providing financial support to women entrepreneurs.

3. CGTMSE provides credit-linked subsidies for collateral-free loans during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Which statements accurately describe the Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS) under CGTMSE?

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

Q84. Statement 1: NITI Aayog was established on January 1, 2015, by a resolution of the Union Cabinet to replace the Planning Commission.

Statement 2: NITI Aayog serves as the Government of India's top policy "Think Tank," offering both directional and policy suggestions.

Statement 3: The creation of NITI Aayog focuses on two hubs: Team India and the Knowledge and Innovation Hub.

Choose the correct option in the context of the following statements.

- (a) Statements 1 and 2 are true, but statement 3 is false.
- (b) Statements 1 and 3 are true, but statement 2 is false.
- (c) Statements 2 and 3 are true, but statement 1 is false.
- (d) All statements 1, 2, and 3 are true.

Q85. Which of the following statements about NABARD's supervisory functions is NOT true?

- (a) NABARD conducts statutory inspections of commercial banks operating in urban areas to assess their compliance with the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- (b) NABARD's inspections are aimed at providing financial support and focus on regulatory compliance or operational efficiency of rural financial institutions.
- (c) NABARD undertakes voluntary inspections of SCARDBs in the LTCCS, Apex Level Cooperative Societies, and Federations to ensure their operational and regulatory efficiency.
- (d) The findings from NABARD's inspections are used to provide feedback to the RBI about the financial health and compliance of rural financial institutions.

Q86. Fill in the

_____ of _____
phase, _____

_____ V
consumption
conditions a
previously a

- (a) Economic
 - (b) Depressio
 - (c) Recession
 - (d) Boom p
- availability

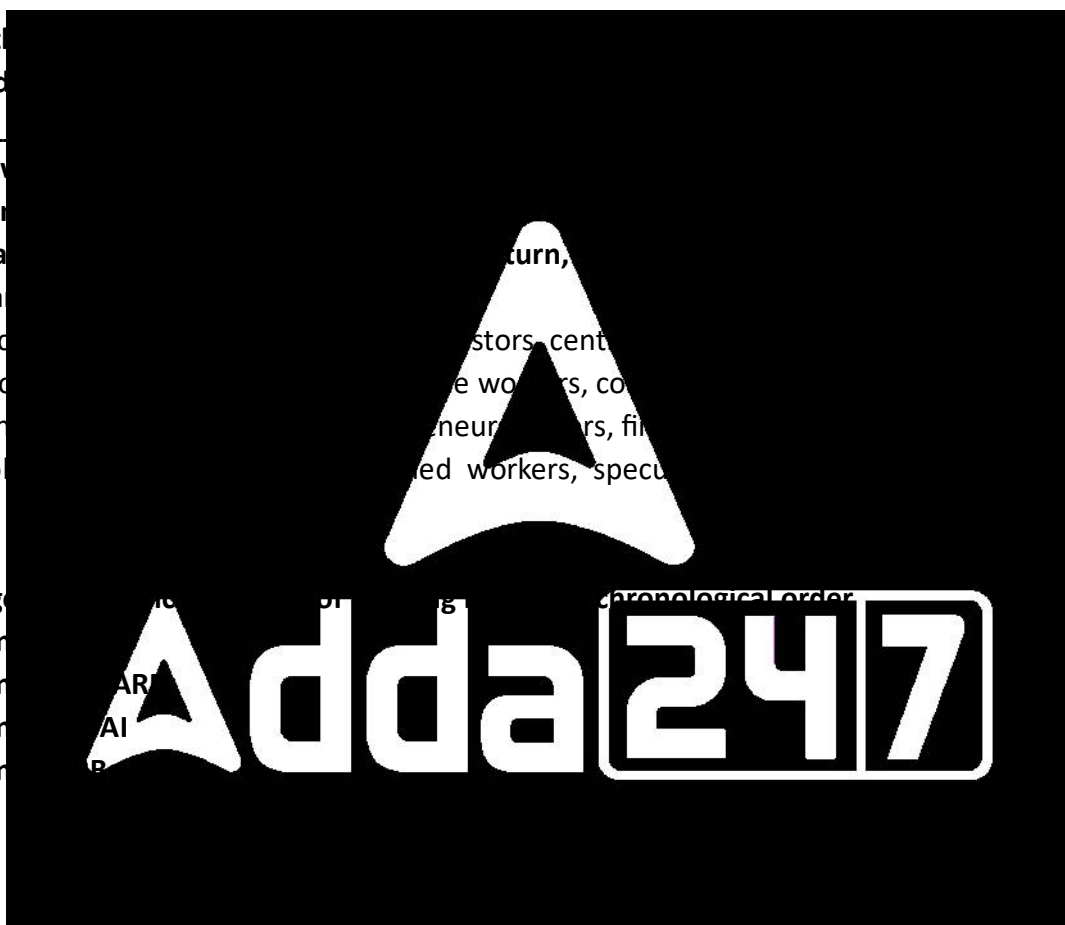
Q87. Arrange

- 1. Formation
- 2. Formation
- 3. Formation
- 4. Formation

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

Q88. What does a 3 × 6 FRA (Forward Rate Agreement) mean?

- (a) The agreement is for a 3-month borrowing or lending commitment starting 3 months from now and ending 6 months from now.
- (b) The agreement is for a 6-month borrowing or lending commitment starting 3 months from now and ending 6 months from now.
- (c) The agreement is for a 3-month borrowing or lending commitment starting 6 months from now and ending 9 months from now.
- (d) The agreement is for a 6-month borrowing or lending commitment starting 6 months from now and ending 9 months from now.



Q89. If the price is \$45, what is the quantity demanded in the market?

Price	Quantity Demanded	Quantity Supplied
\$10	100	20
\$20	80	40
\$30	60	60
\$40	40	80
\$50	20	100

- (a) 20 units
- (b) 30 units
- (c) 40 units
- (d) 50 units

Q90. Consider the following data for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in 2018, what would be the CPI in 2020? Consider the following data:

Year	CPI
2018	100
2019	105
2020	110

(Take 2018 as base year)

- (a) \$115
- (b) \$110
- (c) \$106
- (d) \$121

Q91. Digital transformation in insurance companies refers to the integration of innovative technologies, data analytics, automation, and innovative strategies to enhance the efficiency, transparency, and services provided by insurance companies. Digital transformation in insurance companies involves the following:

1. Digital technology and data analytics are used to improve risk assessment and pricing. Insurance companies use data to analyze customer behavior and risk factors, allowing them to offer more personalized and accurate pricing. Online portals and mobile apps provide customers with easy access to policy information, claims, and access information easily.
2. Advanced data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) are used to assess risks more accurately during underwriting. Insurers analyze vast amounts of data to make informed decisions about policy pricing and coverage.
3. Insurers use customer data to tailor insurance products to individual needs. Personalized offers, discounts, and coverage options enhance customer satisfaction and retention.
4. AI-powered chatbots provide instant customer support and assistance, improving response times and enhancing customer interactions.
5. Blockchain is being explored for secure and transparent record-keeping in insurance. It can facilitate fraud prevention, improve data sharing among stakeholders, and streamline processes like policy issuance and claims settlement.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q92. Match the following in context to the Monetary Policy:

Terms	Description
1. Policy Repo Rate	A. rate at which the RBI lends funds to banks against certain approved securities
2. Reverse Repo Rate	B. rate at which banks can borrow overnight funds from the RBI against approved government securities.
3. Bank Rate	C. By changing this rate, the RBI influences the cost of borrowing for banks, which in turn affects lending rates for consumers and businesses.
4. Marginal Standing Facility	D. Changes in this rate impact the returns banks receive on their surplus funds, affecting their lending decisions.

- (a) 1-D, 2-C,
- (b) 1-C, 2-D,
- (c) 1-C, 2-D,
- (d) 1-D, 2-C,

Q93. Consider the following statement in context to the OMO performed by the Reserve Bank of India:

1. Open Market Sale (OMO Sale) is an operation, in which the central bank buys government securities from commercial banks and financial institutions. The payment for the securities increases the reserves of the banks, leading to an increase in the money supply in the economy. As a result, banks have more funds available to lend, which can lead to lower interest rates and increased borrowing and spending by consumers and businesses.
2. OMOs involve the central bank buying and selling government securities in the open market.
3. The goal of OMOs is to regulate the money supply, control inflation, and influence interest rates, and achieve the central bank's monetary policy objectives.
4. Open Market Sale (OMO Sale) is an operation, in which the central bank buys government securities from commercial banks and financial institutions. The payment for the securities increases the reserves of the banks, leading to an increase in the money supply in the economy. As a result, banks have more funds available to lend, which can lead to lower interest rates and increased borrowing and spending by consumers and businesses.
5. Open Market Purchase (OMO Purchase) is an operation, in which the central bank sells government securities to commercial banks and financial institutions. The payment for the securities reduces the reserves of the banks, leading to a decrease in the money supply. This can result in higher interest rates as banks have fewer funds available for lending, which can help curb inflationary pressures.

6. When the central bank buys government securities through OMOs, it injects money into the banking system, increasing the liquidity available to banks. As banks receive the payment for the securities, their reserves increase, allowing them to lend more money to businesses and individuals. The increased lending capacity of banks can lead to lower interest rates, making borrowing more attractive and stimulating economic activity.

Which of the above statement is/are incorrect?

- (a) 1,4
- (b) 2,6
- (c) 4,5
- (d) 3,6

Q94. Match the functions of Asset Reconstruction Companies (Column A) with their corresponding descriptions

Column A	Column B
1. Acquiring Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)	A. ARCs work towards resolving stressed assets by formulating and implementing turnaround strategies for companies facing financial difficulties.
2. Resolving Stressed Assets	B. ARCs help enhance liquidity in the financial system by converting illiquid NPAs into liquid assets, thereby facilitating the flow of funds.
3. Maximizing Recovery	C. ARCs purchase NPAs from banks and financial institutions, relieving them of the burden of managing and recovering these distressed assets.
4. Enhancing Liquidity	D. ARCs engage in debt restructuring to help distressed borrowers manage their financial obligations and improve their repayment capacity.
5. Restructuring Debt	E. ARCs focus on maximizing recovery from acquired distressed assets, which involves efforts to recover as much value as possible from the assets.

- (a) 1-E, 2-B, 3-C, 4-A, 5-D
- (b) 1-A, 2-C, 3-B, 4-D, 5-E
- (c) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D, 5-E
- (d) 1-C, 2-A, 3-E, 4-B, 5-D

Q95. "Increasing quantity of money in the hands of the people increases the aggregate demand for goods and services, and if aggregate supply does not follow suit, prices rise".

The above example relates to the:

- 1. Demand-Pull Inflation
- 2. Cost Push Inflation

3. Demand side Inflation

4. Supply Side Inflation

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

Q96. Choose the correct option for the following to match the column

Term	
(I). GDP_{FC}	1. $GDP_{MP} + NFIA$ (Net Factor Income from Abroad)
(II). NDP_{MP}	2. $NDP_{MP} - \text{Net Product Taxes} - \text{Net Production Taxes}$
(III). NDP_{FC}	3. $GNP_{MP} - \text{Net Product Taxes} - \text{Net Production taxes}$
(IV). GNP_{MP}	4. $GDP_{MP} - \text{Dep}$
(V). GNP_{FC}	5. $GDP_{MP} - NIT$

- (a) I-3, II-4, III-5, IV-2, V-1
- (b) I-4, II-3, III-5, IV-2, V-1
- (c) I-5, II-1, III-3, IV-2, V-4
- (d) I-5, II-4, III-3, IV-2, V-1

Q97. Consider the following statements regarding the loans provided to the SHGs/JLGs by the UCB.

1. Lending to SHGs will be considered a normal business activity of the bank. It will be required to frame, with the approval of their Board, a comprehensive policy on lending to SHGs. This policy, including the maximum amount of loan, interest rate chargeable, etc., shall form part of the overall credit policy of the bank.
2. SHGs are savings based groups consisting of 10 to 20 members. These savings are to be used for the welfare of the members. On the other hand, JLG is an informal lending group consisting of 4 to 10 members. These loans either singly or through the group mechanism against mutual guarantee in order to engage in similar types of economic activities.
3. The SHG would normally consist of 10 to 20 members whereas a JLG would normally have between 4 and 10 members. Membership matters are governed by the bylaws adopted by the bank and provisions of respective State Co-operative Societies Acts or the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2003.
4. The maximum amount of loan to SHGs should not exceed four times the savings of the group. The limit may be exceeded in the case of well-managed SHGs subject to a ceiling of ten times of savings of the group. The groups may be rated on the basis of certain objective parameters such as proven track record, savings pattern, recovery rate, housekeeping, etc. JLGs are not obliged to keep deposits with the bank and hence the amount of loan granted to JLGs would be based on the credit needs of the JLG and the bank's assessment of the credit requirement.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Q98. Consider the following Act in the context of the regulation of Insurance Companies in India.

1. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 (IRDA Act): This act established the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) as the regulatory body for the insurance sector. The IRDAI is responsible for regulating and promoting the interests of policyholders.

2. Insurance Act, 1938: This act provides the legal framework for the insurance business in India. It defines the terms and conditions for conducting insurance business.

3. Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999: This act regulates the foreign exchange transactions, including those involving insurance companies. It outlines the rules for the insurance sector and the role of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

4. Insurance Companies Act, 1980: This act provides the regulatory framework for the operation of insurance companies in India. It outlines the requirements for the licensing, capital, and other aspects of insurance companies.

Which of the

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

Q99. Consider the following table and identify which among the following pairs are correctly matched-

Expenditure	Type
1. Coverage of operations of local bodies and autonomous institutions has been improved, with around 60% of grants/transfers paid to these organizations covered.	A. Revenue expenditure
2. Loans to Public Enterprises	B. Capital expenditure
3. Subsidies (fertilizer/food/petroleum)	C. Capital expenditure
4. Loans to Foreign Governments	D. Revenue expenditure
5. Defence	E. Capital expenditure

- (a) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D, 5-E
- (b) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 5-E
- (c) 2-B, 3-C, 4-D, 5-E
- (d) 1-A, 2-B, 5-E

Q100. Which of the following statements incorrectly describe the characteristics and functions of merchant banking?

- i. Merchant banks primarily provide services related to corporate finance, such as underwriting, advisory services on mergers and acquisitions, and arranging syndicates for large-scale financing.
- ii. Merchant banks are mainly involved in retail banking activities, including providing savings accounts, personal loans, and mortgages to individual customers.
- iii. Merchant banks often assist companies in issuing securities in the capital markets and may also offer customized financial solutions for high-net-worth individuals and corporations.

- (a) iii only
- (b) ii only
- (c) All statements are incorrect
- (d) None of the above

Solutions

S1. Ans.(c)

- Sol.** Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) are specific class of investment vehicles that allow investors to distribute at least 90% of their taxable income to shareholders as dividends. REITs are publicly traded securities that provide liquidity and diversification to investors. They offer the advantage of allowing investors to participate in real estate investment compared to direct ownership.
- **i. REITs' primary focus is on real estate investment.** This statement is correct. REITs are specifically designed for real estate investment and are exempt from corporate income tax if they distribute at least 90% of their taxable income to shareholders as dividends.
 - **iii. Publicly traded REITs are subject to SEC regulations.** This statement is correct. REITs are publicly traded securities and are subject to SEC regulations, including the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

S2. Ans.(c)

- Sol.** In a perfectly competitive market, the market price is determined by the intersection of the market supply and demand curves. The market price is the same for all participants in the market.
- **iii. Numerous buyers and sellers:** The market has a vast number of participants, both buyers and sellers, each holding a small portion of the market. They are price takers—none can influence the market price on their own. The market price is determined by the overall interaction of supply and demand.
 - **iv. No significant barriers to entry:** It is easy for new firms to enter or exit the market without significant costs or government regulations. This is because new firms can enter the market if supernormal profits are being earned, driving profits down.

S3. Ans.(d)

- Sol.**
1. **Emerging Technologies and Innovations:** Sunrise sectors are distinguished by their focus on advanced technologies and innovative solutions that promise to transform industries. This includes fields like AI, biotech, and renewable energy, which are seen as crucial for future economic growth and technological progress.
 2. **High Growth Potential and Investment Attractiveness:** These sectors are known for their potential for rapid growth and high returns on investment. Due to their novel nature and expanding market needs, they attract substantial investment from venture capitalists and other investors seeking significant capital appreciation.

-
3. **Socio-Economic Impact:** Sunrise sectors contribute significantly to socio-economic development by creating new job opportunities, supporting regional growth, and enhancing skill development. They address important societal needs and promote sustainable practices, thereby improving living standards and contributing to overall economic well-being.

S4. Ans.(d)

Sol.

1. **Policy Formulation and Implementation:** NITI Aayog focuses on developing and executing national policies while promoting cooperative federalism. It encourages states to participate actively in policy-making, in contrast to the centralized approach of the former Planning Commission.
2. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** The organization monitors the progress of development programs and evaluates their impact. It provides actionable recommendations to achieve development goals.
3. **Knowledge Management:** NITI Aayog uses data analytics to inform policy-making and evidence-based decision-making.

S5. Ans.(d)

Sol.

1. **Promotion of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises:** The initiative supports small and medium-sized groups, including women's self-help groups, by providing financial assistance and training. This initiative promotes entrepreneurship and economic growth through the provision of loans.
2. **Employment Generation and Skill Development:** The initiative aims to create jobs and provide skill development. By encouraging start-ups, the initiative contributes to job creation and the empowerment of entrepreneurs.
3. **Access to Credit and Financial Support:** The initiative provides a comprehensive support package that includes both financial assistance (lending up to ₹1 crore) and non-financial support such as business planning, market access. This holistic approach helps entrepreneurs overcome challenges.

All three strategies are interconnected and work together in a multifaceted approach to economic development.

S6. Ans.(d)

Sol.

1. **Structural Transformation:** A key feature of economic development is the transformation from a predominantly agrarian economy to one dominated by industry and services. This process involves urbanization and labor shifts to higher-productivity sectors, contributing to sustained economic growth and improved living standards.
2. **Inclusive Growth:** Economic development is incomplete without addressing inequality and ensuring that growth is inclusive. Redistribution of wealth, access to public services, and opportunities for all segments of society are essential for long-term sustainable development. High GDP growth without inclusivity may lead to social instability and limit true development.

3. **Institutional Framework:** Robust institutions play a critical role in economic development by ensuring the rule of law, protecting property rights, and creating an environment where businesses can thrive. Well-functioning institutions reduce uncertainty, encourage investment, and foster innovation, all of which are crucial for sustained development.

S7. Ans.(b)

Sol. Protectionist policies often lead to **domestic price inflation** by limiting cheaper imports and raising prices for local goods. They may trigger **retaliatory trade actions**, where affected countries impose their own tariffs, reducing trade and escalating tensions. **Capital flight** can occur as investors withdraw due to uncertainty in market access and potential long-term growth. However, **industrial diversification** is less guaranteed, as protectionism often shields inefficient industries rather than fostering innovation and competitiveness.

S8. Ans.(d)

Sol.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** FDI involves companies investing directly in a foreign country to raise capital from the local market.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** FDI can be used to establish new ventures in India to increase employment.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** FDI can be used to introduce new technologies and products into the sector banks, foreign banks.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** FDI can be used to promote exports and imports of goods and services, products and promote trade.

S9. Ans.(c)

Sol.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** FDI involves companies investing directly in a foreign country to raise capital from the local market.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** FDI can be used to establish new ventures in India to increase employment.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** FDI can be used to introduce new technologies and products into the sector banks, foreign banks.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** FDI can be used to promote exports and imports of goods and services, products and promote trade.

S10. Ans.(c)

Sol.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** FTAs are agreements between countries to reduce or eliminate tariffs and trade barriers to encourage free trade.
2. **Statement 2 is incorrect:** FTAs are not limited to goods; they often cover services, investments, and other areas like intellectual property rights.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** FTAs provide businesses with access to larger markets, leading to increased competition and potential growth opportunities.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** Modern FTAs often include provisions beyond trade in goods, such as intellectual property rights, environmental protection, and government procurement.

S11. Ans.(b)

Sol.

1. Statement 1 is incorrect: CSR obligations apply to companies meeting specific criteria, such as a net worth of ₹500 crore or more, turnover of ₹1,000 crore or more, or a net profit of ₹5 crore or more.
2. Statement 2 is correct: CSR activities can cover a wide range of initiatives, including environmental, educational, health, and social welfare projects.
3. Statement 3 is correct: The Companies Act, 2013 mandates that eligible companies must spend at least 2% of their average net profits over the last three financial years on CSR activities.
4. Statement 4 is incorrect: CSR can be integrated into a company's core business strategy, focusing on sustainable development and creating long-term value for the community and the business.

S12. Ans.(d)

Sol.

1. Statement 1 is incorrect: The term 'Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises' (MSMEs) is cited as the correct classification for these businesses.
2. Statement 2 is incorrect: While MSMEs do contribute to job creation, they are not the primary source of job creation.
3. Statement 3 is incorrect: MSMEs are not the primary source of export revenue for our labour-intensive methods.
4. Statement 4 is incorrect: MSMEs are not the primary source of revenue for our labour-intensive methods.

S13. Ans.(b)

Sol.

1. Statement 1 is incorrect: A country's GDP is not a measure of its economic performance.
2. Statement 2 is incorrect: A high unemployment rate is not a sign of economic distress, not a sign of economic distress.
3. Statement 3 is incorrect: An increase in the price levels of goods and services, which is a sign of inflation.
4. Statement 4 is incorrect: An increase in the price levels of goods and services, which is a sign of inflation.

S14. Ans.(a)

Sol.

1. **Statement 1** is correct. A decrease in input prices lowers production costs, leading to an increase in supply, which shifts the supply curve to the right.
2. **Statement 2** is correct. Technological advancements increase production efficiency, allowing more goods to be produced at lower costs, which shifts the supply curve to the right.
3. **Statement 3** is incorrect. **Government policies** such as higher taxes or stricter regulations typically increase production costs, leading to a leftward shift in the supply curve, not a rightward shift.
4. **Statement 4** is correct. An increase in the number of sellers in the market increases the overall supply of goods, causing a rightward shift in the supply curve.

S15. Ans.(a)

Sol.

1. **Statement 1** is correct. **Cost-push inflation** occurs when rising costs of production (like wages and raw materials) lead to higher prices for goods and services, regardless of demand.
2. **Statement 2** is correct. Key drivers of cost-push inflation include rising wages, higher raw material costs, and increased energy costs.
3. **Statement 3** is incorrect. This statement describes **demand-pull inflation**, which happens when demand exceeds supply, pushing prices up. Cost-push inflation is driven by rising costs rather than excess demand.
4. **Statement 4** is correct. A supply shock, such as a sudden increase in oil prices, can trigger cost-push inflation by increasing production costs across various sectors.

S16. Ans.(a)

Sol.

1. **Statement 1** is correct. **Monetarism** focuses on controlling the money supply to manage inflation, often advocating for holding cash balances.
2. **Statement 2** is correct. **Keynesian economics** emphasizes aggregate demand and the role of government intervention, especially in periods of economic downturn.
3. **Statement 3** is incorrect. **Classical Theorists** believe in the self-adjusting nature of the economy, where interest rates are **not highly** influenced by government policy, and changes in interest rates primarily affect investment.

S17. Ans.(b)

Sol.

1. **Statement 1** is correct. **Monetarism** focuses on controlling the money supply to manage inflation, often advocating for holding cash balances.
2. **Statement 2** is correct. **Keynesian economics** emphasizes aggregate demand and the role of government intervention, especially in periods of economic downturn.
3. **Statement 3** is incorrect. **Classical Theorists** believe in the self-adjusting nature of the economy, where interest rates are **not highly** influenced by government policy, and changes in interest rates primarily affect investment.

S18. Ans.(c)

Sol.

1. **Statement 1** is correct. **Open Market Operations (OMO)** involve the buying and selling of government securities by the central bank (like RBI) to either inject or absorb liquidity from the market. For example, when inflation is high, RBI might sell government securities to reduce the money supply.
2. **Statement 2** is correct. The **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)** is a key monetary tool, where banks are required to hold a portion of their deposits as reserves with the central bank. This reduces or increases the money available for lending, helping control liquidity.
3. **Statement 3** is correct. **Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)** ensures that banks maintain a portion of their deposits in safe and liquid assets like government securities, which helps in managing both liquidity and the solvency of the banking system.
4. **Statement 4** is incorrect. **Fiscal Deficit Financing** is not a tool of monetary policy but part of **fiscal policy**. It deals with government spending and revenue, not the central bank's direct control over the money supply or banking liquidity.

S19. Ans.(b)

Sol.

1. **Statement i** is correct because GDP measures the total value of goods and services produced in a country over a given period, helping assess economic performance.
2. **Statement ii** is correct, as GDP per capita (GDP divided by population) is commonly used to compare economic performance across countries and assess living standards.
3. **Statement iii** is incorrect. While a rising GDP indicates economic growth, it does not always reflect improvements in citizens' well-being. It may not account for income inequality, environmental degradation, or distribution of wealth, meaning quality of life might not improve in proportion to GDP growth.

S20. Ans.(b)

Sol.

1. **Statement i** is correct because a current account deficit occurs when a country's imports exceed its total exports.
2. **Statement ii** is correct because a current account deficit can be financed by borrowing from abroad.
3. **Statement iii** is incorrect because a current account deficit can also be financed by selling foreign assets, which is not always a sign of economic growth.
4. **Statement iv** is incorrect because a current account deficit can be caused by a trade deficit, which is not always a sign of economic growth.

S21. Ans.(a)

Sol.

1. **Statement i** is correct because the RBI has introduced the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) to provide liquidity to banks to manage their liquidity requirements.
2. **Statement ii** is correct as the Committee introduced the Narrow Money (NM) concept, which is the sum of currency in circulation and demand deposits.
3. **Statement iii** is correct because the RBI has introduced the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) to ensure that banks have sufficient liquid assets to meet their short-term obligations.
4. **Statement 4** is incorrect. The Committee recommended reducing government control over banks to increase autonomy and professionalism in management, not increasing government control.

S22. Ans.(b)

Sol.

1. **Statement A** is correct as the RBI is explicitly prohibited from engaging in trade or holding direct interests in commercial, industrial, or other undertakings.
2. **Statement B** is incorrect because the RBI is not allowed to purchase shares of any banking company or any other company, nor can it grant loans against the security of such shares.
3. **Statement C** is correct because the RBI cannot advance money on the mortgage of immovable property or become the owner of such property, except as necessary for its own business premises and the accommodation of its officers and employees.

S23. Ans.(d)

Sol.

1. **Statement A** is correct as IFCI's core business is project financing, providing long-term credit for new projects and modernization through rupee and foreign currency loans.
2. **Statement B** is correct because IFCI provides fund-based services such as equipment finance, working capital loans, and fee-based services like guarantees and letters of credit.
3. **Statement C** is correct as IFCI offers advisory services in various areas like corporate restructuring, investment banking, and facilitating FDIs, along with policy-related consultancy for infrastructure sectors.
4. **Statement D** is incorrect because, contrary to this, IFCI provides a wide range of consultancy services in sectors such as electricity, telecom, oil and gas, and insurance.

S24. Ans.(a)

Sol.

1. **Asset Finance** involves financing economic activities that generate income derived from such activities.
2. **Loan Commitment** involves financing various activities, excluding those that are not within their principal business.
3. **Classification** Both AFCs and AFIs are classified into three categories: 1. **General Purpose** 2. **Special Purpose** 3. **Specific Purpose**
4. **Scope of Assets** Both AFCs and AFIs include financing for assets and still maintain their principal business focus on physical assets.

S25. Ans.(c)

Sol. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has four main objectives in mind:

1. **Monetary Stability:** Ensuring that monetary conditions are conducive to economic growth, allowing for the effective functioning of the mixed economy.
2. **Financial Stability:** Maintaining the stability of the financial system, ensuring that financial institutions are sound and solvent.
3. **Stable Payments:** Facilitating safe and efficient payment systems.

S26. Ans.(b)

Sol. Option (b) accurately captures the essence of EASE 5.0 by highlighting its dual focus on common reform initiatives and enhancing digital customer experiences. It emphasizes the initiative's commitment to inclusive banking, especially for small businesses and agriculture, while mandating that each Public Sector Bank (PSB) develop a tailored 3-year strategic roadmap for various aspects of their operations and growth.

S27. Ans.(b)

Sol. Option (b) correctly explains that price discovery mechanisms help traders determine whether buyers or sellers dominate, thereby affecting the commodity's price. Option (a) is incorrect because prices typically fall, not rise, when supply exceeds demand. Option (c) misinterprets price equilibrium by ignoring external factors, while option (d) contradicts basic supply-demand principles, where demand exceeding supply increases prices, not decreases.

S28. Ans.(c)

Sol. Option (c) is incorrect because demutualisation involves the complete segregation of ownership, management, and trading functions. Broker members do not retain control over both ownership and trading; instead, these roles are separated to ensure transparency and prevent conflicts of interest. In contrast, option (c) suggests a partial separation, which contradicts the core purpose of demutualisation.

S29. Ans.(d)

Sol. Option (d) is incorrect because FEDAI's membership includes public sector, private sector, foreign, and co-operative banks, as well as financial institutions like IFCI and SIDBI. The association is not limited to foreign banks and financial institutions only. The other options accurately describe FEDAI's role and collaborations.

S30. Ans.(c)

Sol. Option (c) is correct. The use of funds to SEBI, not the issuing Agency's responsibility with the offer document are

S31. Ans.(c)

Sol. TReDS and the MSMEs have made receivables more liquid, but that once the invoices are sold, they are no longer available for any default by MSMEs like XYZ. Electronics may not be able to do this without taking on a lot of risk, as the invoices are incorrect because TReDS does not have the ability to verify the invoices. Without the MSMEs, the MSMEs, initiate rever-

S32. Ans.(c)

Sol. In exchange-based markets, all transactions follow a standard format with predefined terms, ensuring consistency and transparency. These transactions are cleared through a central clearinghouse, which guarantees the performance of both parties by requiring margin deposits and collateral. This process minimizes counterparty risk, reduces settlement risk, and mitigates the impact of party defaults, enhancing overall market stability.

S33. Ans.(d)

Sol. Option D accurately captures the challenges faced by the Planning Commission in the context of India's post-1991 economic reforms. The five-year planning model, which was originally designed for a closed, centrally planned economy, struggled to adjust to a liberalized market environment. The rise of coalition governments and political decentralization further complicated centralized planning, leading to misallocation of resources and reduced investment in critical sectors, ultimately hindering long-term economic growth.

S34. Ans.(d)

Sol. The **demand** of a good or service refers to the quantity that consumers are willing and able to buy at various prices during a given period. The **demand** curve generally slopes downward from left to right, indicating that as the price decreases, the quantity demanded **increases** and vice versa. The concept of **elasticity** describes the change in quantity demanded in response to a change in price.

S35. Ans.(a)

Sol. Fiscal Drag occurs when inflation or rising incomes push taxpayers into higher income tax brackets, thereby increasing the government's revenue without any change in the tax rates themselves. This phenomenon effectively reduces the real disposable income of taxpayers and can lead to higher tax burdens even if nominal tax rates have not changed.

S36. Ans.(b)

Sol.

1. **American Option:** This type of option provides the holder with the flexibility to exercise the option at any time between the purchase date and the expiration date. This feature allows the option holder to potentially take advantage of favorable movements in the underlying asset's price at any point before expiration.
2. **European Option:** This type of option can only be exercised at the expiration date itself. The holder does not have the flexibility to exercise the option at any point before expiration, regardless of how favorable the market conditions may be.

S37. Ans.(c)

Sol. Increase in government spending can lead to higher income tax rates, which can dampen the recovery. Higher income tax rates can reduce disposable income, leading to lower consumption and investment. This can create a negative feedback loop that slows down the recovery.

S38. Ans.(b)

Sol. Traditional investors are often concerned about the potential for short-term volatility in energy and commodity prices. These concerns can lead to a focus on short-term profits, which may not align with the long-term sustainability goals of the community. This can create a tension between the interests of different investor groups.

S39. Ans.(c)

Sol. According to the Basel Accords, the capital adequacy ratio (CAR) is a key measure of a bank's financial health. It is calculated as the ratio of a bank's capital to its risk-weighted assets. The CAR must exceed the minimum requirement set by the regulatory authority, which is typically 8%.

S40. Ans.(c)

Sol. Liquidity is demonstrated by the ability of investors to sell their shares at any time during market hours, readily converting them into cash. This feature of financial markets ensures that investors are not forced to hold onto their securities until maturity or favorable conditions arise, thereby providing flexibility and ease in managing their investment portfolios.

S41. Ans.(a)

Sol. The GDP deflator is more comprehensive as it measures the price level of all domestically produced goods and services, reflecting changes in consumption and investment patterns. This broad coverage can capture price changes that CPI and WPI might miss, as they are based on fixed baskets of specific goods and services.

S42. Ans.(a)

Sol. Statement 1 is true because coupon bonds pay interest at pre-determined intervals, typically twice a year. Statement 2 is false because zero-coupon bonds do not pay periodic interest; instead, they are issued at a discount and repay the face value at maturity, with the return represented by the difference between the issue price and the redemption price. Statement 3 is true because convertible bonds give the investor the option to convert the bond into equity at a fixed conversion price.

S43. Ans.(b)

Sol. The scenario describes a situation where countries are dealing with foreign exchange shortages and settlement difficulties due to the complexity of bilateral agreements. The correct solution, as described in option B, involves forming a multilateral payment arrangement like the Asian Clearing Union (ACU). This arrangement operates on a multilateral basis. By participating in such a system, countries can settle their mutual payments through a central clearing mechanism, thereby reducing the need for large foreign exchange reserves and minimizing the complexity of bilateral agreements among the participating countries.

S44. Ans.(d)

[illegible]

S45. Ans.(c)

Sol. In a typical Exim Bank transaction, the following steps are followed:

1. **Negotiation:** The exporter negotiates the contract details with the importer.
2. **Approach:** The Bank is approached by the exporter then seeks an indicative quote from Exim Bank.
3. **Exim Bank contacts the Importer:** Exim Bank contacts the importer and asks for finer details. An indicative quote, which is then provided to the exporter.

S46. Ans.(b)

Sol. Lease firm is a contract of bailment. In a lease firm, the lessor (bailor) allows the lessee (bailee) to use the asset while retaining ownership. On the other hand, hire purchase agreements are not contracts of sale but contracts of bailment where the hirer (bailee) has the option to purchase the asset after fulfilling the terms of the agreement. The Hire Purchase Act, 1972 governs hire purchase agreements in India.

S47. Ans.(b)

Sol. Credit scoring is indeed a statistical analysis used by lenders to determine the creditworthiness of individuals, and it impacts various financial transactions, including home loans, auto loans, credit cards, and personal loans. Credit ratings apply to corporations and governments, whereas credit scoring specifically applies to individuals, making statement ii incorrect. In India, Credit Information Companies (CICs) evaluate and monitor credit scores, and the concept of credit bureaus originated in the USA, where consumer credit has been established for a long time.

S48. Ans.(b)

Sol. Interval funds are listed as closed-end funds that allow purchase and redemption during specified transaction periods. The transaction period has to be for a minimum of **two** days and there should be at least a **15-day** gap between two transaction periods. These funds have the features of both open-ended and closed-end funds, as they are opened for repurchase of shares at different intervals during the fund tenure. The fund management company offers to repurchase units from existing unit holders during these intervals.

S49. Ans.(b)

Sol. While the National Pension System (NPS) operates on a Defined Contribution basis, the exit benefit is not pre-determined or guaranteed by the government. Instead, the final pension amount depends on the total contributions made by the subscriber, the returns generated from investments, and the duration for which the fund is invested.

S50. Ans.(b)

Sol. The agricultural sector is the backbone of the Indian economy. Modernizing agriculture can lead to significant employment generation and poverty alleviation. Modern farming techniques, such as precision agriculture, can improve productivity and reduce input costs. Additionally, the agricultural sector has a multiplier effect on various other sectors, including food processing, retail, and services, all of which contribute to overall economic growth. In contrast, the construction sector, while important, does not directly address the issue of rural growth and poverty alleviation. Therefore, modernizing agriculture is the most effective way to achieve the same extent of growth and poverty alleviation.

S51. Ans.(a)

Sol. Statement 1 is correct. The agricultural sector is the backbone of the Indian economy, and its growth is crucial for the overall economic development. Statement 2 is incorrect. While rural development and agricultural growth are important, they are not the primary drivers of expansion in the Indian construction sector. The primary drivers of expansion in the Indian construction sector are urbanization, industrialization, and infrastructure development, and people's rising living standards.

S52. Ans.(d)

Sol. The "Home Charges" were the payments made by the Government of India to the British Government, including dividends to East India Company shareholders, interest on loans raised by the Government of India in England, expenditure on the British army stationed in India and bringing them to India, pensions and annuities of retired British officers, payment of guaranteed interest to railway companies, and salaries of the secretary of state for India and his staff. However, revenue from taxes collected within India was not a component of the "Home Charges" but rather part of the internal financial administration of British India.

S53. Ans.(a)

Sol. Given, percentage change in price = $(-)\text{10\%}$

$Q=100\text{units}; Q_1=120\text{units}; \Delta Q=Q_1-Q=(120-100)\text{units}=20\text{units}$

Percentage change in quantity demanded = $\frac{\Delta Q}{Q} \times 100 = \frac{20}{100} \times 100 = 20\%$.

Elasticity of demand (E_d) = $\frac{\text{Percentage change in quantity demanded}}{\text{percentage change in price}}$
 $= \frac{20\%}{-10\%} = -2$

Sol. FEDAI plays a crucial role in the forex market by setting rules and charges related to the foreign exchange business. It assists member banks, which include public sector, private sector, foreign, and cooperative banks, as well as financial institutions like IFCI and SIDBI. FEDAI provides advisory services and training to bank personnel, helping them manage forex transactions effectively. It also collaborates with other organizations to set benchmarks for Indian Rupee interest rates and foreign exchange, thereby stabilizing the market. This scenario demonstrates how FEDAI's guidance can help companies like GlobalTraders Ltd. navigate the complexities of the forex market.

S58. Ans.(c)

Sol. The regulations for Exempted Funds require that 25% of assets be invested in central government bonds, 15% in state government bonds or bonds of public sector enterprises guaranteed by the central or state governments, and 30% in bonds of public financial institutions or public sector enterprises. There is no requirement for investment in equities of private sector companies; in fact, such investments would be inconsistent with the specified regulatory guidelines, which emphasize investments in government and public sector bonds.

S59. Ans.(d)

Sol. A Mid Cap Fund is an open-ended equity scheme that predominantly invests in mid cap stocks. The minimum investment in equity securities is 65% of the total assets.

S60. Ans.(a)

Sol. GNP at Factor Cost
= Gross Value Added at Factor Cost
= 80000 + 4920
= 75920.

S61. Ans.(b)

Sol.

Percentage change in price = (-)10%

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Percentage change in quantity demanded} &= \frac{\Delta Q}{Q} \times 100 = \frac{120 - 100}{100} \times 100 \\ &= \frac{20}{100} \times 100 = 20\%\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Price elasticity of demand (E}_d\text{)} = (-) \frac{\text{Percentage change in quantity demanded}}{\text{Percentage change in price}}$$

$$= (-) \frac{20\%}{-10\%} = 2$$

S62. Ans.(a)

Sol. In a bailment arrangement, the **bailor** is the person who transfers possession of the item, while the **bailee** is the person who receives the item for a specific purpose. The item is expected to be returned to the bailor once the purpose of the bailment is fulfilled.

S63. Ans.(b)

Sol. Statements ii and iii correctly describe features of venture capital investments. Venture capital investments are typically made in start-ups that have the potential to grow (ii), and the investment is generally done by buying equity shares in the start-up company (iii). Statements i and iv are incorrect because venture capital investments are high risk and aim for high profits (not low risk with modest profits), and they are based on long-term goals rather than seeking quick returns.

S64. Ans.(d)

Sol. State Development Loans (SDLs) pay interest semi-annually, meaning that interest payments are made twice a year. This schedule helps to provide regular income to investors and aligns with the standard practice for many government securities, ensuring consistent returns over the life of the loan.

S65. Ans.(d)

Sol. Statement I is correct. DFIs finance infrastructure projects that are of national importance and often provide long-term credit for capital-intensive investments, which may not conform to commercial return standards.

Statement II is incorrect. DFIs are different from commercial banks because they do not primarily mobilize short- to medium-term deposits, which commercial banks do. Instead, DFIs focus on long-term investments and infrastructure projects.

Statement III is incorrect. DFIs do not primarily provide long-term credit for capital-intensive investments, which may not conform to commercial return standards.

S66. Ans.(a)

Sol. Statement I is correct. The IRDAI was established in 1998 to regulate and supervise the insurance sector in India. It is responsible for ensuring public interest and controlling the insurance industry.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The IRDAI is not a part of the Ministry of Finance. It is an independent regulatory body attached to the Ministry of Finance.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The IRDAI is not responsible for the material and operational supervision of insurance companies. It is responsible for the prudential supervision of insurance companies. The IRDAI was established in 1998.

S67. Ans.(b)

Sol. Statement I is incorrect because it overstates the role of NBFCs. While NBFCs do play a significant role in reaching unbanked and underserved areas, it is not solely their responsibility. They create financial inclusion. Additionally, NBFCs do not play a significant role in stimulating financial inclusion and contributing to economic development. NBFCs do have an impact on financial inclusion by reaching underserved regions and enhancing competition in the financial sector.

Statement 2 is incorrect. NBFCs do not play a significant role in stimulating financial inclusion and contributing to economic development. NBFCs do have an impact on financial inclusion by reaching underserved regions and enhancing competition in the financial sector.

S68. Ans.(d)

Sol. The objectives of development banks typically include:

- i. To serve as an agent of development in various sectors, such as industry, agriculture, and international trade.
- iii. To foster rapid industrialization, particularly in the private sector, to provide employment opportunities as well as higher production.
- iv. To develop entrepreneurial skills.

S69. Ans.(b)

Sol. Section 24 of the RBI Act allows the Central Government to specify the denomination of currency notes, up to a maximum of Rs 10,000, based on the recommendation of the Central Board of the RBI. It also permits the Central Government to direct the non-issue or discontinuance of currency notes of certain denominations, again on the recommendation of the Central Board. Therefore, the Central Government's actions to introduce and later discontinue the Rs 2,000 currency notes, based on the recommendations from the Central Board of RBI, are consistent with the provisions of Section 24 of the RBI Act.

S70. Ans.(a)

Sol. The RBI advocated for a transition to external benchmarks for floating rate loans because internal benchmarks were not aligned with the RBI's policy of reducing the cost of credit to borrowers. The RBI's policy was to reduce the cost of credit to borrowers by allowing banks to pass on the changes to the RBI's policy to borrowers. Consequently, the RBI's policy was to reduce the cost of credit to borrowers by allowing banks to pass on the changes to the RBI's policy to borrowers. Consequently, the RBI's policy was to reduce the cost of credit to borrowers by allowing banks to pass on the changes to the RBI's policy to borrowers. Consequently, the RBI's policy was to reduce the cost of credit to borrowers by allowing banks to pass on the changes to the RBI's policy to borrowers.

- | Instrument | Yield | India Private |
|--|-------|---------------|
| • The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Bill yield, published by the RBI | | |
| • The Government of India (GoI) Bill yield, published by the GoI | | |
| • The Government of India (GoI) Bill yield, published by the GoI | | |
| • Any other instrument published by the RBI | | |

S71. Ans.(a)

1. Statement of Cash Flows - This statement shows the cash inflows and outflows from operating, investing, and financing activities. It is prepared using the indirect method, starting with net income and adjusting for non-cash items and changes in working capital. The statement is divided into three sections: operating activities, investing activities, and financing activities. The operating activities section shows the cash generated from the company's core business operations. The investing activities section shows the cash used to acquire or dispose of long-term assets. The financing activities section shows the cash used to raise capital or pay dividends. The statement is prepared on a cash basis, meaning that only cash and cash equivalents are recorded. The statement is prepared on a periodic basis, typically quarterly or annually. The statement is prepared by the company's management and is audited by an independent auditor. The statement is a key component of the company's financial statements and is used by investors, creditors, and other stakeholders to assess the company's financial health and performance.

2. **Statement** is correct. The bank rate is the bank rate, but the MSF loan require banks to furnish some collateral.
3. **Statement** is incorrect. Banks in the bank rate do not have to provide collateral to the country as they are used by central banks to control the money supply.

S72. Ans.(d)

Sol. $M1 = (\text{Currency in circulation} + \text{Reserve bank of India's balance with RBI})$
 $= \text{Rs. 680 crores} + \text{Rs 940 crores} + \text{Rs 1970 crores} + \text{Rs. 53050 crores} + \text{Rs. 39170 crores} + \text{Rs. 670 crores}$
 $= \text{Rs. 96,480 crores}$

S73. Ans.(b)

Sol.

- Equilibrium occurs where quantity demanded equals quantity supplied at a specific price level.**
 - True.** This is the basic definition of market equilibrium in economics. At this price level, the market clears, meaning there is no surplus or shortage.
- A surplus occurs when quantity demanded exceeds quantity supplied at a given price.**
 - False.** A surplus occurs when **quantity supplied exceeds quantity demanded** at a given price. This typically happens when the price is set above the equilibrium price.

3. **An increase in demand, with no change in supply, will always lead to an increase in equilibrium price.**
- **True.** When demand increases and supply remains constant, the demand curve shifts to the right, leading to a higher equilibrium price and quantity. This is a fundamental concept of supply and demand dynamics.

S74. Ans.(b)

Sol.

1. **Statement 1:** Correct. Consumer preferences and tastes can indeed shift the demand curve. If a product becomes more popular, the demand curve shifts to the right; if it falls out of favor, the demand curve shifts to the left.
2. **Statement 2:** Incorrect. An increase in consumer income does not always shift the demand curve for inferior goods to the left, and an increase in the price of a substitute does not always shift the demand curve for a complement to the right.
3. **Statement 3:** Incorrect. A decrease in the price of a substitute does not always shift the demand curve for a complement to the right.

S75. Ans.(d)

Sol.

1. **Statement I:** Correct. Droughts and floods can lead to a decrease in the demand for agricultural products, which can lead to a decrease in the price of these products. This can lead to a decrease in the income of farmers, which can lead to a decrease in the demand for goods and services, which can lead to a decrease in the price of these goods and services.
2. **Statement II:** Correct. Migration from rural to urban areas can lead to a decrease in the demand for agricultural products, which can lead to a decrease in the price of these products. This can lead to a decrease in the income of farmers, which can lead to a decrease in the demand for goods and services, which can lead to a decrease in the price of these goods and services.
3. **Statement III:** Correct. Migration from rural to urban areas can lead to a decrease in the demand for agricultural products, which can lead to a decrease in the price of these products. This can lead to a decrease in the income of farmers, which can lead to a decrease in the demand for goods and services, which can lead to a decrease in the price of these goods and services.

S76. Ans.(b)

Sol.

1. **Statement I:** Correct. IBRD offers loans, guarantees, risk management solutions, and consulting services to middle-income and creditworthy low-income nations.
2. **Statement II is correct:** IBRD offers loans, guarantees, risk management solutions, and consulting services to middle-income and creditworthy low-income nations.
3. **Statement III is incorrect:** IBRD collaborates closely with both public and private sectors in developing countries, not only with the public sector.

S77. Ans.(d)

Sol. All three statements accurately describe the functions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF):

- **Statement i** is correct. The IMF conducts surveillance over its members' economic policies to ensure they align with the organization's goals. This involves reviewing the economic situations of nearly every country on a regular basis, providing guidance and oversight to promote financial stability and sound economic policies.

- **Statement ii** is correct. The IMF provides financial assistance to member countries facing a temporary balance of payments crisis. These loans help countries implement necessary corrective measures in an orderly manner, preventing disruptive adjustments and mobilizing additional external funding.
- **Statement iii** is correct. The IMF offers concessional loans to low-income countries to support their poverty reduction efforts. This function is often carried out in collaboration with the World Bank and other international economic institutions, aiming to promote sustainable economic development and reduce poverty.

S78. Ans.(a)

Sol. 1. Economic growth focuses on the production of goods and services, while economic development focuses on the **distribution** of resources.

2. Economic development focuses on the improvement of living standards of the people.
3. Economic development focuses on the distribution of economic resources.

S79. Ans.(a)

Sol. The key factors for FDI inflows are:

- **Greenfield** investment: This involves the establishment of new facilities in the host country. Examples include setting up new factories, such as the one by Hyundai India, and new operations, such as the one by Tata.
- **Brownfield** investment: This involves the acquisition of existing infrastructure. Examples include the acquisition of a factory by a foreign company.

S80. Ans.(b)

Sol. Statement i: True. The Family Welfare Programme is a key component of the National Health Policy. Statement ii: True. The Family Welfare Programme provides a range of services, including family planning, maternal and child health, and immunization.

Statement iii: True. Effective Information Education & Communication (IEC) is provided under the Family Welfare Programme to enhance awareness.

Statement iv: False. Family Welfare services in India are generally provided free of cost, not at a nominal cost.

S81. Ans.(d)

Sol. Statement i: True. The National Education Policy 2022 replaces the National Education Policy 1986, marking a significant overhaul in India's educational framework.

Statement ii: True. NEP 2022 introduces a 5+3+3+4 structure, which includes 12 years of education and integrates early childhood education (Anganwadi/pre-school) into the formal education system.

Statement iii: True. The pillars of NEP 2022 are accessibility, equity, quality, and accountability, highlighting its focus on improving various aspects of education across the country.

S82. Ans.(d)

Sol. Statement 1: True. The Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is indeed a credit-linked subsidy programme aimed at promoting entrepreneurship by providing financial assistance for setting up micro-enterprises.

Statement 2: True. The Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) organizes traditional industries and artisans into clusters to improve their marketability and equip them with enhanced skills.

Statement 3: True. A Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industries & Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE) focuses on promoting entrepreneurship culture, creating new jobs, and facilitating innovative business solutions to reduce unemployment.

S83. Ans.(b)

Sol. Statement 1: True. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are encouraged to apply for collateral-free loans under the Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGSE).

Statement 2: True. The Ministry of Finance (MoF) has established the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to provide financial assistance to MSMEs.

Statement 3: True. The Government of India has introduced the COVID-19 Relief Fund to provide financial assistance to MSMEs affected by the pandemic by providing collateral-free loans.

S84. Ans.(d)

Sol. Statement 1: True. The National Commission on Labour (NCL) was established in 1947 to replace the Labour Commission.

Statement 2: True. The NCL was established in 1947 by the Government of India to provide a platform for the Central and State Governments to discuss labour issues.

Statement 3: True. The NCL has been instrumental in providing knowledge and innovation in labour governance.

S85. Ans.(a)

Sol. The state-owned banks are not supervised by NABARD. NABARD is responsible for supervising urban cooperative banks (UCBs) and rural cooperative banks (RCBs).

Cooperative banks (CBs) are supervised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as well as voluntary agencies like the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI).

These inspections aim to assess compliance with the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, improve operational efficiency, and ensure the financial health of these institutions. NABARD's role is primarily targeted towards the supervision of rural financial sectors rather than urban commercial banks, which falls under the purview of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

S86. Ans.(b)

Sol. **Depression phase** does not persist forever. It inherently possesses **the seeds of recovery** which leads to recovery. During this phase, **idle workers** seek employment even at reduced wages due to the lower cost of living. Meanwhile, **consumers** who had delayed purchases in anticipation of further price drops begin to increase their consumption. Concurrently, **banks** with surplus liquidity start offering credit under more favorable conditions and at lower interest rates, which, in turn, stimulates **demand**. As consumption rises, the previously ample **stocks of goods** start to dwindle.

S87. Ans.(c)

Sol. GIC :1972

NABARD: 1982

RRB : 1975

IRDAI : 1999

S88. Ans.(a)

Sol. The agreement is for a 3-month borrowing or lending commitment starting 3 months from now and ending 6 months from now.

A 3 × 6 FRA means that the corporate has to borrow or lend for a period of 3 months, beginning three months from now and

S89. Ans.(b)

Sol. 30 units

At a price of

At a price of

Using the formula $y = y_1 + m(x - x_1)$ where y is quantity demanded, y_1 is quantity demanded at price x_1 , m is the slope of the demand curve, and x is the price.

$y_1 = 40$ (quantity demanded at price $x_1 = 40$)

$x_1 = 40$ (price at which quantity demanded is 40)

$y_2 = 20$ (quantity demanded at price $x_2 = 50$)

$x_2 = 50$ (price at which quantity demanded is 20)

$x = 45$ (price at which quantity demanded is y)

$m = (y_2 - y_1) / (x_2 - x_1)$

Substituting the values in the formula, we get $y - 40 = -2(x - 40)$

$y - 40 = -2(x - 40)$

$y - 40 = -2(45 - 40)$

$y - 40 = -10$

$y = 30$ units

S90. Ans.(b)

Sol. We can use the formula $\text{Cost of basket} = (\text{CPI} / 100) \times \text{Base year cost}$. Plugging in the numbers for 2020, we get $\text{Cost of basket} = (110 / 100) \times \$100 = \$110$.

S91. Ans.(d)

Sol. 1. Digital technologies enable insurers to provide a seamless and user-friendly experience to policyholders. Online portals, mobile apps, and self-service options empower customers to manage policies, make claims, and access information easily.

2. Advanced data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) are used to assess risks more accurately during underwriting. Insurers analyze vast amounts of data to make informed decisions about policy pricing and coverage.

3. Insurers use customer data to tailor insurance products to individual needs. Personalized offers, discounts, and coverage options enhance customer satisfaction and retention.

4. AI-powered chatbots provide instant customer support and assistance, improving response times and enhancing customer interactions.
5. Blockchain is being explored for secure and transparent record-keeping in insurance. It can facilitate fraud prevention, improve data sharing among stakeholders, and streamline processes like policy issuance and claims settlement.

S92. Ans.(c)

Sol. 1-C, 2-D, 3-A, 4-B

Policy rate - by changing this rate RBI influences the cost of borrowing for banks.

Reverse Repo rate - changes in this rate impact the return banks receive on their surplus funds.

Bank Rate - A rate at which RBI lends funds to banks against some securities

Marginal Standing facility - rate at which banks can borrow funds overnight from RBI against approved securities

S93. Ans.(c)

Sol. 1. Open Market Operations (OMO) are transactions conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the open market, including the purchase and sale of government securities.

2. OMOs involve the RBI buying or selling government securities from or to the market.

3. The goal of OMOs is to regulate the money supply, control interest rates, and achieve the objectives of monetary policy.

4. **Open Market Sale:** When the RBI sells government securities in the open market, it reduces the reserves of the banks, leading to a contraction in the money supply. This helps in controlling inflation and increasing interest rates, which encourages savings and discourages borrowing.

5. **Open Market Purchase:** When the RBI buys government securities in the open market, it increases the reserves of the banks, leading to an expansion in the money supply. This helps in increasing liquidity and lowering interest rates, which encourages borrowing and spending, leading to economic growth.

6. When the RBI buys government securities through OMOs, it injects more funds into the banking system, increasing the liquidity available to banks. As banks receive more funds, their reserves increase, and they are able to lend more to businesses and individuals. This stimulates economic activity and helps in achieving the objectives of monetary policy.

S94. Ans.(d)

Sol.

1. **NPAs:** Non-Performing Assets are loans where the borrower has stopped making interest or principal repayments for 90 days.
2. **Resolving Stressed Assets:** Strategies to address financially distressed loans, including restructuring, recovery through insolvency proceedings, or selling to asset reconstruction companies.
3. **Maximizing Recovery:** Efforts to recover the maximum possible amount from defaulted loans through legal actions, settlements, or asset sales.
4. **Enhancing Liquidity:** Improving the availability of cash or liquid assets in a financial system to ensure smooth operations and meet obligations.
5. **Restructuring Debts:** Modifying the terms of a loan agreement, such as extending repayment periods or reducing interest rates, to aid borrower repayment.

S95. Ans.(d)

Sol. Demand-Pull Inflation

It is a rise in general prices caused by increasing aggregate demand for goods and services.

Increasing the quantity of money in the hands of the people increases the aggregate demand for goods and services; if aggregate supply does not follow suit, prices rise.

S96. Ans.(d)

Sol. I-5, II-4, III-2, IV-1, V-3

(I). GDP_{FC}	1. $GDP_{MP} - NIT$
(II). NDP_{MP}	2. $GDP_{MP} - Dep$
(III). NDP_{FC}	3. $NDP_{MP} - \text{Net Product Taxes} - \text{Net Production Taxes}$
(IV). GNP_{MP}	4. $GDP_{MP} + NFIA$ (Net Factor Income from Abroad)
(V). GNP_{FC}	5. $GNP_{MP} - \text{Net Product Taxes} - \text{Net Production taxes}$

S97. Ans.(b)

Sol. 1. Lending to SHGs will be considered a normal activity. UCBs will be required to formulate a policy for SHGs. For this purpose, a comprehensive policy, including credit, collateral, loan, interest rate, etc., will be formulated as part of the overall credit policy of the bank.

2. SHGs are self-help groups formed by women to promote savings habits among members. These savings are to be used by the members for their own needs. On the other hand, JLG is an informal group of individuals coming together for the purpose of availing loans, either singly or through the bank's mechanism, against mutual guarantee of other members engaged in similar economic activities.

3. The SHG will be formed by women and should have a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 10 members. The SHG should be registered with the bank and follow the provisions of respective State SHG Act.

4. The maximum amount of loan to SHGs should not exceed four times the savings of the group. The limit may be exceeded in the case of well-managed SHGs subject to a ceiling of ten times of savings of the group. The groups may be rated on the basis of certain objective parameters such as proven track record, savings pattern, recovery rate, housekeeping, etc. JLGs are not obliged to keep deposits with the bank and hence the amount of loan granted to JLGs would be based on the credit needs of the JLG and the bank's assessment of the credit requirement.

S98. Ans.(b)

Sol. 1. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999 (IRDA Act): This act established the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) as the regulatory body for the insurance sector. The IRDAI is responsible for regulating and promoting the insurance industry's growth while safeguarding the interests of policyholders.

2. **Insurance Act, 1938:** This is one of the foundational acts for regulating insurance in India. It provides the legal framework for the functioning of insurance companies and outlines the rules for conducting insurance business, including provisions related to licensing, solvency, investments, and claims.

3. **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA):** FEMA regulates foreign exchange transactions, including those related to insurance companies. It governs foreign investment in the insurance sector and outlines the rules for repatriation of funds.

4. **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) (Registration of Indian Insurance Companies) Regulations, 2002:** These regulations provide guidelines for the registration, licensing, and operation of Indian insurance companies. They outline the criteria for obtaining a license, capital requirements, and other operational aspects.

5. **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Outsourcing of Activities by Indian Insurers) Regulations, 2002:** These regulations govern the outsourcing of activities by insurance companies, ensuring that the interests of policyholders are protected.

6. **The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972:** This act mandates employers to provide gratuity to employees after a certain period of service.

S99. Ans.(d)

Sol. 1-A, 2-B

Revenue Expenditure

1. Interest Payment on Government Securities

2. Defence

3. Subsidies

4. Grants to States and Union Territories

5. Pensions

6. Police

7. Assistance to States from National Calamity Contingency Fund

8. Economic and Technical Assistance to States (including for the development of science and technology, etc.)

9. Other Grants

10. Social Security

11. Postal Deficit

12. Expenditure of Union Territories without Legislature

13. Amount met from National Calamity Contingency Fund

14. Grants to Foreign Governments

Capital Expenditure

1. Defence

2. Other Non-plan Capital Outlay

3. Loans to Public Enterprises

4. Loans to State and U.T. Governments

5. Loans to Foreign Governments

6. Others Non-plan Expenditure: Revenue Non-Plan Expenditure + Capital Non-Plan Expenditure.

S100. Ans.(b)

Sol. The incorrect statement:

- **ii. Retail banking activities:** Merchant banks do not engage in typical retail banking services such as savings accounts, personal loans, or mortgages. These services are typically provided by commercial banks or retail banks, not merchant banks.

Thus, **ii** is the incorrect statement about merchant banking

