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| Question | **Which of the following is/are correct with reference to the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha?**   1. He/she is appointed by the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. 2. He/she is the custodian of the records of the House.   **Select the correct answer using the code given below.** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 only |
| Option | 2 only |
| Option | Both 1 and 2 |
| Option | Neither 1 nor 2 |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | * Both the houses of parliament comprises an office of Secretary-General. * The Secretary-General is the administrative head of the Secretariat of respective houses. * **Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha is appointed by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha**, and holds a rank   equivalent to the Cabinet Secretary, the highest civil servant of the Union Government.   * Role of Secretary-General * He assists the Presiding Officers in conducting the proceedings of the House by giving them advice * and expert opinion. * He does not participate in the debate except for reporting messages from the other house about Bills * or any other matter. * All notices under the rules are addressed to him. * **He is the custodian of the records of the House.** * He prepares full reports of the proceedings of the House and also issues the List of Business for the * day. * On behalf of the President of India, he/she summons members to attend session of Parliament * The Secretary General remains in office till his/her retirement at the age of 60. He/she is answerable only   to the presiding officer, his action cannot be discussed or criticised in or outside the house.   * **Hence both the statements are correct.** |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Which of the following statements are correct regarding the Ahom Kingdom?**   1. The Ahom kingdom was the only kingdom which remained undefeated by the Mughals. 2. The Ahom kings depended upon forced labour called paiks. 3. The capture of wild elephants was declared a royal monopoly by the Ahom kings.   **Select the correct answer using the code given below.** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1, 2 and 3 |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution | * The Ahoms migrated to the **Brahmaputra valley (Northeast India)** from present-day Myanmar in the   thirteenth century. They created a new state by suppressing the older political system of the bhuiyans  (landlords). The Ahoms built a large state, and for this, they used firearms as early as the 1530s.   * However, the Ahoms faced many invasions from the south-west. **In 1662, the Mughals under Mir**   **Jumla attacked the Ahom kingdom.** Despite their brave defence, the Ahoms were defeated. But direct  Mughal control over the region could not last long. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**   * The Ahom state depended upon forced labour. **Those forced to work for the state were called paiks.** A   census of the population was taken. Each village had to send a number of *paiks* by rotation. People from  heavily populated areas were shifted to less populated places. Ahom clans were thus broken up. **Hence**  **statement 2 is correct.**   * By the first half of the seventeenth century, the administration became quite centralised. Almost all adult   males served in the army during the war. At other times, they were engaged in building dams, irrigation  systems and other public works. The Ahoms also introduced new methods of rice cultivation. **The**  **capture of wild elephants was declared a royal monopoly by the Ahom kings. Hence statement 3 is**  **correct.** |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Which of the following statements are correct regarding the Ahom Kingdom?**   1. The Ahom kingdom was the only kingdom which remained undefeated by the Mughals. 2. The Ahom kings depended upon forced labour called paiks. 3. The capture of wild elephants was declared a royal monopoly by the Ahom kings.   **Select the correct answer using the code given below.** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1, 2 and 3 |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution | * The Ahoms migrated to the **Brahmaputra valley (Northeast India)** from present-day Myanmar in the   thirteenth century. They created a new state by suppressing the older political system of the bhuiyans  (landlords). The Ahoms built a large state, and for this, they used firearms as early as the 1530s.   * However, the Ahoms faced many invasions from the south-west. **In 1662, the Mughals under Mir**   **Jumla attacked the Ahom kingdom.** Despite their brave defence, the Ahoms were defeated. But direct  Mughal control over the region could not last long. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**   * The Ahom state depended upon forced labour. **Those forced to work for the state were called paiks.** A   census of the population was taken. Each village had to send a number of *paiks* by rotation. People from  heavily populated areas were shifted to less populated places. Ahom clans were thus broken up. **Hence**  **statement 2 is correct.**   * By the first half of the seventeenth century, the administration became quite centralised. Almost all adult   males served in the army during the war. At other times, they were engaged in building dams, irrigation  systems and other public works. The Ahoms also introduced new methods of rice cultivation. **The**  **capture of wild elephants was declared a royal monopoly by the Ahom kings. Hence statement 3 is**  **correct.** |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Which of the following is/are correct with reference to the C. Rajgopalachari Formula?**   1. It recommended the Muslim majority areas to exercise the right to selfdetermination. 2. It wanted the Muslim League's to endorse the Congress demand for independence. 3. The formula received Gandhiji's support.   **Select the correct answer using the code given below.** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 3 only |
| Option | 1, 2 and 3 |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | * During the 1940s, several efforts were on to solve the ongoing constitutional crisis, basically due to Jinnah   wanting the Congress to accept his idea of Two-nation theory. In the course of time, some individuals also  tried to come up with constitutional proposals. C. Rajagopalachari, the veteran Congress leader, prepared  a formula for Congress-League cooperation. **It was a tacit acceptance of the League's demand for**  **Pakistan. Gandhi supported the formula.** The main points in CR Plan were:   * + **Muslim League to endorse Congress demand for independence.**   + League to cooperate with Congress in forming a provisional government at the centre.   + **After the end of the war, the entire population of Muslim majority areas in the North-West and North-East India to decide by a plebiscite, whether or not to form a separate sovereign state.**   + In case of acceptance of partition, agreement to be made jointly for safeguarding defence, commerce, communications, etc. * **Hence all the statements are correct.** |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **In the context of the medieval history of South India, the terms Manigramam and Nanadesi referred to:** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | Village headmen |
| Option | Sects of Bhakti saints |
| Option | Trade guilds |
| Option | Villages given in the form of gift |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | * There were many kinds of traders in Medieval India. These included the Banjaras. Several traders, especially horse traders, formed associations, with headmen who negotiated on their behalf with warriors who bought horses. * Since traders had to pass through many kingdoms and forests, they usually travelled in caravans and formed guilds to protect their interests. There were several such guilds in south India from the eighth century onwards – the most famous being the Manigramam and Nanadesi. These guilds traded extensively both within the peninsula and with Southeast Asia and China. **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**   There were also communities like the Chettiars and the Marwari Oswal who went on to become the principal trading groups of the country. Gujarati traders, including the communities of Hindu Baniyas and Muslim Bohras, traded extensively with the ports of the Red Sea, Persian Gulf, East Africa, Southeast Asia and China. They sold textiles and spices in these ports and, in exchange, brought gold and ivory from Africa; and spices, tin, Chinese blue pottery and silver from Southeast Asia and China. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **The first Global Stocktake synthesis report, 2023 has been released by** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) |
| Option | The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) |
| Option | The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). |
| Option | The Global Environment Facility (GEF). |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | * **The Global stocktake (GST):** * The global stocktake (GST) aims to serve as a report card on the progress of countries under the 2015 Paris Agreement in achieving their climate action goals. While assessment reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) put forth observations made by scientific experts GST summarises 252 hours of conversations between governments, civil society organisations, experts and the UN bodies. The GST, therefore, combines scientific observations with on-ground experiences. * The **Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA)** under **UNFCCC has the overall responsibility to conduct the global stocktake**. * **Global stocktake synthesis report -UNFCCC.**   + The first global stocktake technical synthesis report is released by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). **Hence option (c) is correct.**   + The report warns that the world is **“not on track”** to meet the long-term goal of limiting global temperatures to 2 degrees Celsius.   + The **synthesis report ties into a larger exercise called the ‘global stocktake,**’ that is expected to take place once in five years.   + T**he report also acknowledged that improved Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)** from countries with ambitious emissions reduction targets have led to near-universal climate action. However, it is clear that the progress is inadequate and the window to “course correct” is rapidly closing.   The synthesis report culminates the second phase of the GST process, summarising three technical discussions held between 2022 and 2023. Its findings are expected to provide a strong science-based foundation for the third and final “**politicalphase” of GST** coming up at the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the UNFCCC in Dubai later this year. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Consider the following statements regarding Electromagnetic Ion Cyclotron (EMIC) Waves:**   1. These waves are the discreet electromagnetic emissions observed in the Earth's magnetosphere. 2. These waves are generated in the equatorial latitudes. 3. These waves can resonate with charged particles causing them to move in a cyclical motion.   **Which of the statements given above is/are correct?** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 1, 2 and 3 |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | * **Electromagnetic Ion Cyclotron Waves:**   + Scientists have identified Electromagnetic Ion Cyclotron (EMIC) waves, a form of plasma waves in the Indian Antarctic station, Maitri.   + The EMIC waves are the discreet electromagnetic emissions observed in the Earth's magnetosphere. Their signatures can be recorded in both spaces as well as ground-based magnetometers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**   + These waves are **generated in the equatorial latitudes** and propagate along magnetic field lines to their footprint in the high-latitude ionosphere. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**   + These waves **can resonate with charged particles**, particularly ions, that are trapped in the magnetosphere, **causing them to move in a cyclical motion. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**   + These waves play an important role in the precipitation of **killer electrons** (electrons having speeds close to the speed of light, which form the radiation belt of planet Earth), which are hazardous to space-borne technology/instruments. * **Magnetosphere**   + Magnetosphere is the cavity in which the Earth lies and stays protected from the wrath of the Sun.   + It is formed by the interaction between Earth's magnetic field and the solar wind, which is a continuous stream of charged particles, mainly electrons and protons, flowing from the Sun.   + Earth's magnetic field is generated by the motion of molten iron in its outer core. * **Magnetometer**   + A magnetometer is a scientific instrument used to measure the strength and direction of magnetic fields.   + It can be used to study the Earth's magnetic field, as well as the magnetic fields of other celestial bodies, such as planets, moons, stars, and galaxies.   Magnetometers work based on the principles of electromagnetic induction or magnetoresistance. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Consider the following countries:**   1. Iran 2. Iraq 3. Saudi Arabia 4. Jordan 5. United Arab Emirates   **Which of the countries given above share border with the Persian Gulf?** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1, 3 and 5 only |
| Option | 1, 3, 4 and 5 only |
| Option | 2, 3 and 5 only |
| Option | 1, 2, 3 and 5 only |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | * Persian Gulf is bordered on the **north, northeast, and east by Iran**; on the **southeast and south by part of Oman** and by the **United Arab Emirate**s; on the **southwest and west by Qatar, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia**; and on the **northwest by Kuwait and Iraq.** * **Jordan doesn’t border with Persian Gulf**. **Hence option 4 is not correct.** |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |