

ENVIRONMENT PRELIMS PYQs (2020 to 2024)

2024

1. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which one of the following is the largest source of sulphur dioxide emissions?

- (a) Locomotives using fossil fuels
- (b) Ships using fossil fuels
- (c) Extraction of metals from ores
- (d) Power plants using fossil fuels

2. Consider the following statements:

1. **Statement I:** India does not import apples from the United States of America.

2. **Statement-II:** In India, the law prohibits the import of Genetically Modified food without the approval of the competent authority.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I.
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I.
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

3. The organisms "Cicada, Froghopper and Pond skater" are :

- (a) Birds
- (b) Fish
- (c) Insects
- (d) Reptiles

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Statement I: Many chewing gums found in the market are a source of environmental pollution.

2. Statement II: Many chewing gums contain plastic as gum base.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

5. Consider the following pairs:

	Country	Animal found in its natural habitat
1.	Brazil	Indri

2.	Indonesia	Elk
3.	Madagascar	Bonobo

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

6. Consider the following statements:

1. Lions do not have a particular breeding season.
2. Unlike most other big cats, cheetahs do not roar.
3. Unlike male lions, male leopards do not proclaim their territory by scent marking.

Which of the statements given above are correct

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

7. Consider the following:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Battery storage | 2. Biomass generators |
| 3. Fuel cells | 4. Rooftop solar photovoltaic units |

How many of the above are considered "Distributed Energy Resources"?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

8. Which one of the following shows a unique relationship with an insect that has coevolved with it and that is the only insect that can pollinate this tree?

- (a) Fig
- (b) Mahua
- (c) Sandalwood
- (d) Silk cotton

9. Consider the following:

- | | | |
|----------------|---------|----------|
| 1. Butterflies | 2. Fish | 3. Frogs |
|----------------|---------|----------|

How many of the above have poisonous species among them?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

10. With reference to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that are used in making many consumer products, consider the following statements:

1. PFAS are found to be widespread in drinking water, food and food packaging materials.
2. PFAS are not easily degraded in the environment.
3. Persistent exposure to PFAS can lead to bioaccumulation in animal bodies.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

11. Consider the following:

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|----------|
| 1. Carabid beetles | 2. Centipedes | |
| 3. Flies | 4. Termites | 5. Wasps |

Parasitoid species are found in how many of the above kind of organisms?

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| (a) Only two | (b) Only three |
| (c) Only four | (d) All five |

12. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Indian Flying Fox is placed under the "vermin" category in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Statement II: The Indian Flying Fox feeds on the blood of other animals.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I
- (c) Statement -I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

2023**1. Consider the following statements:****Once the Central Government notifies an area as a 'Community Reserve'**

1. the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State becomes the governing authority of such forest
2. hunting is not allowed in such area
3. people of such area are allowed to collect non-timber forest produce
4. people of such area are allowed traditional agricultural practices

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) Only three (d) All four

2. Consider the following statements:

1. In India, the Biodiversity Management Committees are key to the realisation of the objectives of the Nagoya Protocol.
2. The Biodiversity Management Committees have important functions in determining access and benefit sharing, including the power to levy collection fees on the access of biological resources within its jurisdiction.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. Consider the following statements:

Statement-1: Marsupials are not naturally found in India.

Statement-II: Marsupials can thrive only in montane grasslands with no predators.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
(c) Statement-1 is correct Statement-II is incorrect
(d) Statement-1 is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

4. 'Invasive Species Specialist Group' (that develops Global Invasive Species Database) belongs to which one of the following organizations?

- (a) The International Union for Conservation of Nature
(b) The United Nations Environment Programme
(c) The United Nations World Commission for Environment and Development
(d) The World Wide Fund for Nature

5. Consider the following fauna:

1. Lion-tailed Macaque

2. Malabar Civet
3. Sambar Deer

How many of the above are generally nocturnal or most active after sunset?

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| (a) Only one | (b) Only two |
| (c) All three | (d) None |

6. Which of the following organisms perform a waggle dance for others of their kin to indicate the direction and the distance to a source of their food?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| (a) Butterflies | (b) Dragonflies |
| (c) Honey Bees | (d) Wasps |

7. Consider the following statements:

1. Some mushrooms have medicinal properties.
2. Some mushrooms have psycho-active properties.
3. Some mushrooms have insecticidal properties.
4. Some mushrooms have bioluminescent properties.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| (a) Only one | (b) Only two |
| (c) Only three | (d) All four |

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian squirrels:

1. They build nests by making burrows in the ground.
2. They store their food materials like nuts and seeds in the ground.
3. They are omnivorous.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| (a) Only one | (b) Only two |
| (c) All three | (d) None |

9. Which one of the following makes a tool with a stick to scrape insects from a hole in a tree or a log of wood?

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| (a) Fishing cat | (b) Orangutan |
| (c) Otter | (d) Sloth bear |

10. Consider the following:

1. Aerosols
2. Foam agents
3. Fire retardants
4. Lubricants

In the making of how many of the above are hydrofluorocarbons used?

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| (a) Only one | (b) Only two |
| (c) Only three | (d) All four |

11. Consider the following activities:

1. Spreading finely ground basalt rock on farmlands extensively
2. Increasing the alkalinity of oceans by adding lime
3. Capturing carbon dioxide released by various industries and pumping it into abandoned subterranean mines in the form of carbonated waters

How many of the above activities are often considered and discussed for carbon capture and sequestration?

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| (a) Only one | (b) Only two |
| (c) All three | (d) None |

12. Consider the following statements:

1. Carbon fibres are used in the manufacture of components used in automobiles and aircrafts.
2. Carbon fibres once used cannot be recycled.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

13 Consider the following statements regarding mercury pollution:

1. Gold mining activity is a source of mercury pollution in the world.
2. Coal-based thermal power plants cause mercury pollution.
3. There is no known safe level of exposure to mercury.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| (a) Only one | (b) Only two |
| (c) All three | (d) None |

14. Consider the following infrastructure sectors:

1. Affordable housing
2. Mass rapid transport
3. Health care
4. Renewable energy

On how many of the above does the UNOPS Sustainable Investments in Infrastructure and Innovation (S₃i) initiative focus for its investments?

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| (a) Only one | (b) Only two |
| (c) Only three | (d) All four |

2022

1. With reference to Indian laws about wildlife protection, consider the following statements:

1. Wild animals are the sole property of the government.
2. When a wild animal is declared protected, such animal is entitled for equal protection whether it is found in protected areas or outside.
3. Apprehension of a protected wild animal becoming a danger to human life is sufficient ground for its capture or killing.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. Certain species of which one of the following organisms are well known as cultivators of fungi?

- | | |
|----------|---------------|
| (a) Ant | (b) Cockroach |
| (c) Crab | (d) Spider |

3. Which one of the following has been constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986?

- (a) Central Water Commission
- (b) Central Ground Water Board
- (c) Central Ground Water Authority
- (d) National Water Development Agency

4. Which one of the following best describes the term "greenwashing"?

- (a) Conveying a false impression that a company's products are eco-friendly and environmentally sound.
- (b) Non-inclusion of ecological/ environmental costs in the Annual Financial Statements of a country.
- (c) Ignoring the disastrous ecological consequences while undertaking infrastructure development.
- (d) Making mandatory provisions for environmental costs in a government project/programme.

5. "Climate Action Tracker" which monitors the emission reduction pledges of different countries is a :

- (a) Database created by coalition of research organisations
- (b) Wing of "International Panel of Climate Change"
- (c) Committee under "United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change"
- (d) Agency promoted and financed by United Nations Environment Programme and World Bank

6. "If rainforests and tropical forests are the lungs of the Earth, then surely wetlands function as its kidneys." Which one of the following functions of wetlands best reflects the above statement?

- (a) The water cycle in wetlands involves surface runoff subsoil percolation and evaporation.
- (b) Algae form the nutrient base upon which fish, crustaceans, molluscs, birds, reptiles and mammals thrive.
- (c) Wetlands play vital role in maintaining sedimentation balance and soil stabilization.
- (d) Aquatic plants absorb heavy metals and excess nutrients.

7. In the context of WHO Air Quality Guidelines, consider the following statements:

1. The 24-hour mean of PM_{2.5} should not exceed 15 µg/m³ and annual mean of PM_{2.5} should not exceed 5 µg/m³.
2. In a year, the highest levels of ozone pollution occur during the periods of inclement weather.
3. PM₁₀ can penetrate the lung barrier and enter the bloodstream.
4. Excessive ozone in the air can trigger asthma.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

8. With reference to "Gucchi" sometimes mentioned in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a fungus.
2. It grows in some Himalayan forest areas.
3. It is commercially cultivated in the Himalayan foothills of north-eastern India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9. Which of the following is *not* a bird?

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| (a) Golden Mahseer | (b) Indian Nightjar |
| (c) Spoonbill | (d) White Ibis |

10. Which of the following are nitrogen-fixing plants?

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| 1. Alfalfa | 2. Amaranth |
| 3. Chickpea | 4. Clover |
| 5. Purslane (Kulfa) | 6. Spinach |

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

11. "Biorock technology" is talked about in which one of the following situations?

- (a) Restoration of damaged coral reefs
- (b) Development of building materials using plant residue
- (c) Identification of areas for exploration/extraction of shale gas
- (d) Providing salt licks for wild animals in forests/protected areas

12. The "Miyawaki method" is well known for the:

- (a) Promotion of commercial farming in arid and semi-arid areas
- (b) Development of gardens using genetically modified flora
- (c) Creation of mini forests in urban areas
- (d) Harvesting wind energy on coastal areas and on sea surfaces

2021**1. Consider the following statements:**

Statement 1: The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the Arbor Day Foundation have recently recognized Hyderabad as 2020 Tree City of the World.

Statement 2: Hyderabad was selected for the recognition for a year following its commitment to grow and maintain the urban forests.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct and Statement 2 is the correct explanation for Statement 1
- (b) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct but Statement 2 is not the correct explanation for Statement 1
- (c) Statement 1 is correct but Statement 2 is not correct
- (d) Statement 1 is not correct but Statement 2 is correct

2. In the context of India's preparation for Climate-Smart Agriculture, consider the following statements:

- 1. The 'Climate-Smart Village' approach in India is a part of a project led by the Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), an international research programme.
- 2. The project of CCAFS is carried out under Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) headquartered in France.
- 3. The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in India is one of the CGIAR's research centres.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

3. Consider the following kinds of organisms:

- 1. Copepods
- 2. Cyanobacteria
- 2. Diatoms
- 4. Foraminifera

Which of the above are primary producers in the food chains of oceans?

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

4. Consider the following animals:

- 1. Hedgehog
- 2. Marmot
- 3. Pangolin

To reduce the chance of being captured by predators, which of the above organisms rolls up/roll up and protects/protect its/their vulnerable parts?

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

5. With reference to the 'New York, Declaration on Forests', which of the following statements are correct?

1. It was first endorsed at the United Nations Climate Summit in 2014.
2. It endorses a global timeline to end the loss of forests.
3. It is a legally binding international declaration.
4. It is endorsed by governments, big companies and indigenous communities.
5. India was one of the signatories at its inception.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

6. Magnetite particles, suspected to cause neurodegenerative problems, are generated as environmental pollutants from which of the following?

1. Brakes of motor vehicles
2. Engines of motor vehicles
3. Microwave stoves within homes
4. Power plants
5. Telephone line

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

7. Which one of the following is a filter feeder?

- (a) Catfish
(b) Octopus
(c) Oyster
(d) Pelican

8. In case of which one of the following biogeochemical cycles, the weathering of rocks is the main source of release of nutrient to enter the cycle?

- (a) Carbon cycle
(b) Nitrogen cycle
(c) Phosphorus cycle
(d) Sulphur cycle

9. Which of the following are detritivores?

1. Earthworms
2. Jellyfish
3. Millipedes
4. Seahorses
5. Woodlice

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

10. The 'Common Carbon Metric', supported by UNEP, had been developed for

- (a) Assessing the carbon footprint of building operations around the world
- (b) Enabling commercial farming entities around the world to enter carbon emission trading
- (c) Enabling governments to assess the overall carbon footprint caused by their countries
- (d) Assessing the overall carbon footprint caused by the use of fossil fuels by the world in a unit time

11. Which of the following have species that can establish symbiotic relationship with other organisms?

- 1. Cnidarians
- 2. Fungi
- 3. Protozoa

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

12. 'R2 Code of Practices' constitutes a tool available for promoting the adoption of

- (a) Environmentally responsible practices in electronics recycling industry.
- (b) Ecological management of 'Wetlands of International Importance' under the Ramsar Convention.
- (c) Sustainable practices in the cultivation of agricultural crops in degraded lands.
- (d) 'Environmental Impact Assessment' in the exploitation of natural resources.

13. Why is there a concern about copper smelting plants?

- 1. They may release lethal quantities of carbon monoxide into environment.
- 2. The copper slag can cause the leaching of some heavy metals into environment.
- 3. They may release sulphur dioxide as a pollutant.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

14. With reference to furnace oil, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a product of oil refineries.
- 2. Some industries use it to generate power.

3. Its use causes sulphur emissions into environment.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

15. What is blue carbon?

- (a) Carbon captured by oceans and coastal ecosystems.
- (b) Carbon sequestered in forest biomass and agricultural soils.
- (c) Carbon contained in petroleum and natural gas.
- (d) Carbon present in atmosphere.

16. In the nature, which of the following is/are most likely to be found surviving on a surface without soil?

- 1. Fern
- 2. Lichen
- 3. Moss
- 4. Mushroom

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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



2020

1. Which of the following are the reasons/factors for exposure to benzene pollution?

1. Automobile exhaust
2. Tobacco smoke
3. Wood burning
4. Using varnished wooden furniture
5. Using products made of polyurethane

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

2. What are the advantages of fertigation in agriculture?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

4. Consider the following statements:

1. 36% of India's districts are classified as 'overexploited' or 'critical' by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA).
2. CGWA was formed under the Environment (Protection) Act.
3. India has the largest area under groundwater irrigation in the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct.

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

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

- (a) Corbett (b) Ranthambore
(c) Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem (d) Sundarbans

6. If a particular plant species is placed under Schedule VI of The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, what is the implication?

- (a) A licence is required to cultivate that plant.
(b) Such a plant cannot be cultivated under any circumstances.
(c) It is a Genetically Modified crop plant.
(d) Such a plant is invasive and harmful to the ecosystem.

7. Which of the following statements best describes the term 'Social Cost of Carbon'?

It is a measure, in monetary value, of the

- (a) long-term damage done by a tonne of CO₂ emissions in a given year.
(b) requirement of fossil fuels for a country to provide goods and services to its citizens, based on the burning of those fuels.
(c) efforts put in by a climate refugee to adapt to live in a new place.
(d) contribution of an individual person to the carbon footprint on the planet Earth.

8. With reference to Indian elephants, consider the following statements:

1. The leader of an elephant group is a female.
2. The maximum gestation period can be 22 months.
3. An elephant can normally go on calving till the age of 40 years only.
4. Among the States in India, the highest elephant population is in Kerala.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

10. With reference to India's biodiversity, Ceylon frogmouth, Coppersmith barbet, Gray-chinned miniyet and White-throated redstart are

- (a) Birds (b) Primates
(c) Reptiles (d) Amphibians

11. Which one of the following protected areas is well-known for the conservation of a sub-species of the Indian swamp deer (Barasingha) that thrives well on hard ground and is exclusively graminivorous?

(a) Kanha National Park

b) Manas National Park

(c) Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary

(d) Tal Chhapar Wildlife Sanctuary

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 3 and 4 only

(d) 1 and 4 only

13. In rural road construction, the use of which of the following is preferred for ensuring environmental sustainability or to reduce carbon footprint?

1. Copper slag
2. Cold mix asphalt technology
3. Geotextiles
4. Hot mix asphalt technology
5. Portland cement

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only

(b) 2, 3 and 4 only

(c) 4 and 5 only

(d) 1 and 5 only

14. Consider the following statements:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

15. What is the use of biochar in farming?

1. Biochar can be used as a part of the growing medium in vertical farming.
2. When biochar is a part of the growing medium, it promotes the growth of nitrogen-fixing microorganisms.
3. When biochar is a part of the growing medium, it enables the growing medium to retain water for longer time.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3