

UPSC 2021 Prelims
GEOGRAPHY Answer Key with Explanation

1. With reference to the Indus river system, of the following four rivers, three of them pour into one of them which joins the Indus direct. Among the following, which one is such river that joins the Indus direct?

- (a) Chenab
- (b) Jhelum
- (c) Ravi
- (d) Sutlej

Answer: A



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/07/Indus_river-hu.svg/444px-Indus_river-hu.svg.png

2. With reference to India, Didwana, Kuchaman, Sargol and Khchaman are the names of

- (a) Glaciers
- (b) Mangrove Areas
- (c) Ramsar sites
- (d) Saline lakes

Answer: D

Explanation

Didwana: Didwana is a town in the Nagaur district of Rajasthan. It also has a famous Didwana salt-water lake of Rajasthan.

Kuchaman: Sambhar lake is one of the major salt sources in Rajasthan as well as for India. Also known as Kuchaman, the lake attracts a wide array of migrating birds like Pink Flamingos and other birds from all around the world.

3. Consider the following rivers:

- 1. Brahmani
- 2. Nagavali
- 3. Subarnarekha
- 4. Vamsadhara

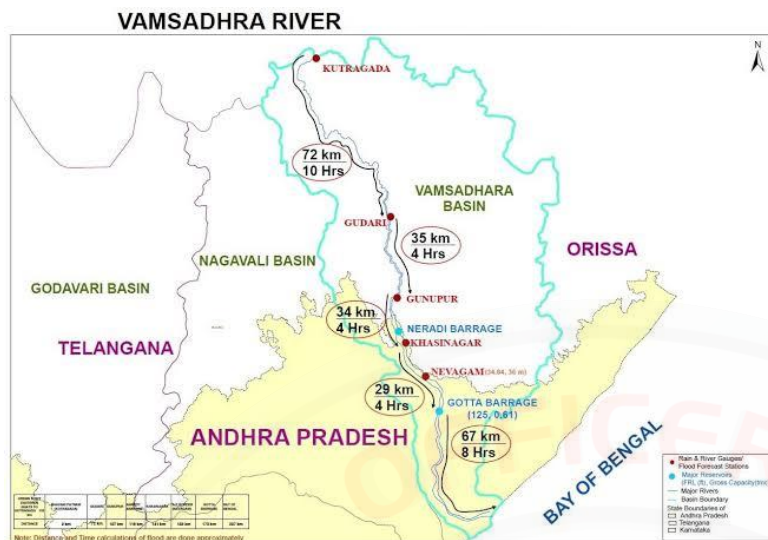
Which of the above rise from the Eastern Ghats?

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

Answer: B

Explanation

2 and 4 (Nagavali and Vamsadhara) rise from eastern ghats.



4. Among the following, which one is the least water- efficient crop?

- (a) Sugarcane
- (b) Sunflower
- (c) Pearl millet
- (d) Red gram

Answer: A

Explanation

- Sugarcane is an exceptionally water-intensive crop, needing between 1,500 and 3,000 litres of water per kilogram of cane.
- The water use efficiency for sugarcane cultivation was at 3.13 HP hours of water for producing one quintal of annual output indicating that it is the least water efficient crop.

<https://claroenergy.in/5-most-water-intensive-crops/>

<https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B1216&title=Pearl%20Millet%20for%20Grain>

5. Consider the following statements:

1. In the tropical zone, the western sections of the oceans are warmer than the eastern sections owing to the influence of trade winds.
2. In the temperate zone, westerlies make the eastern sections of oceans warmer than the western sections.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

Both the statements are correct.

6. With reference to the water on the planet Earth, consider the following statement:

1. The amount of water in the rivers and lakes is more than the amount of groundwater.
2. The amount of water in polar ice caps and glaciers is more than the amount of groundwater.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- Groundwater represents about 30% of the world's fresh water. From the other 70%, nearly 69% is captured in the ice caps and mountain snow/glaciers and merely 1% is found in rivers and lakes. Hence **statement 1 is incorrect and statement 2 is correct.**

<https://www.un-igrac.org/what-groundwater#:~:text=Groundwater%20represents%20about%2030%25%20of,found%20in%20river%20and%20lakes.>

7. The black cotton soil of India has been formed due to the weathering of

- (a) brown forest soil
- (b) fissure volcanic rock
- (c) granite and schist
- (d) shale and limestone

Answer: B

Explanation

- Black Cotton Soil has been formed due to the weathering of fissure volcanic rock.

