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Daily MCQs: 06-05-2024

1. Consider the following statements about Monkeypox

- 1) It is a zoonotic disease.
- 2) It is caused by a virus belonging to the same family as the Smallpox virus.
- 3) Smallpox is completely eradicated globally unlike monkeypox.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only
- B) 1 and 2 only
- C) 1 and 3 only
- D) 1,2 and 3

2. Consider the following statements

- 1) Ecological hypoxia
- 2) Harmful algal blooms
- 3) Extreme temperature
- 4) Abrupt salinity changes

How many of the above are the possible causes of fish kills?

- A) Only one
- B) Only two
- C) Only three
- D) All four

3. With reference to diplomatic passports, consider the following statements

- 1) Holders of such passports are entitled to certain privileges and immunities in the host country.
- 2) Any Indian Citizen is eligible to have a diplomatic passport.
- 3) The Ministry of Home Affairs issues diplomatic passports.
- 4) The provisions relating to the revoking of a diplomatic passport is provided in the Passport Act,1967.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A) Only one
- B) Only two
- C) Only three
- D) All four

4. Mount Ruang Volcano which erupted recently is in which of the following countries?

- A) Indonesia
- B) Italy

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- C) Philippines
- D) Japan

5. Oxytocin is a natural hormone involved in which of the following?

- A) Regulating blood sugar levels
- B) Stimulating uterine contraction in childbirth
- C) Increasing alertness
- D) Regulating body temperature

Solutions

1. Answer: D

Explanation

- Monkeypox, or mpox is caused by the **monkeypox virus** which belongs to the **orthopoxvirus genus** of the **Poxviridae family**.
 - The orthopoxvirus genus of viruses also includes the **variola virus**, which causes smallpox, and **vaccinia virus**, which was used in the smallpox vaccine. Hence **statement 2 is correct**.
- Monkeypox causes **symptoms similar to smallpox, although they are less severe**.
- While **vaccination eradicated smallpox worldwide** in 1980, monkeypox continues to occur in a swathe of countries in Central and West Africa, and has on occasion showed up elsewhere. Hence **statement 3 is correct**.
- Transmission, when it occurs, can be through **contact with bodily fluids, lesions on the skin or on internal mucosal surfaces**, such as in the mouth or throat, **respiratory droplets and contaminated objects**.

Zoonotic disease

- Monkeypox is a **zoonosis**, that is, a disease that is transmitted from infected animals to humans. Hence **statement 1 is correct**.
- According to the WHO, **cases occur close to tropical rainforests inhabited by animals that carry the virus**. Monkeypox virus infection has been detected in squirrels, Gambian pouched rats, dormice, and some species of monkeys.
- **Human-to-human transmission is limited in nature**.
- According to the WHO, the **proportion of patients who die has varied between 0 and 11%** in documented cases, and has been **higher among young children**.
- There is **no safe, proven treatment for monkeypox yet**. The WHO recommends **supportive treatment** depending on the symptoms. Awareness is important for prevention and control of the infection.

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2. Answer: D

Explanation

What is fishkill?

- **Fish kills** or **mass mortalities of fish** can be defined as a sudden and significant death of fish.
- This is characterized by a large number of fish dying over a **short period of time** within the defined area.

Causes

Natural causes

- Globally fish kills are most frequently linked to natural causes such as **ecological hypoxia** (low dissolved oxygen) or **anoxia** (no or zero dissolved oxygen), **harmful algal blooms** (toxic and non-toxic freshwater cyanobacteria, marine dinoflagellates), **diseases**, **extreme** or abrupt changes of **temperature**, **salinity**, **floods**, **upwelling of the oceans**. Hence **all the statements are correct**.
- Minor and occasional natural causes of fish kills are volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and meteorites.

Anthropogenic causes

- **Human activities** are also responsible for a number of fish kills, for example, **accidental spills** (e.g. oil), **runoff**, and **drainage discharge of pesticides** and **herbicides** from agriculture farmlands into water bodies.
- In addition, **mass killing** in the name of **recreational fishing** may also be responsible for significant fish kills in some countries.

Pollution Indicators

- Fish kills event is an indicator of **environmental stress**, a decline in aquatic ecosystem health, and **water quality problems**.
- Fish kills events provide useful information on the distributions of **pollutants** (e.g. nutrients, pesticides, trace metals, oils) in aquatic environments.

Why in the news?

- Fishkills were witnessed in Vietnam due to increasing heat waves.

3. Answer: B

Explanation

What is a Passport?

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- A Passport is an **official travel document** for those who wish to travel abroad for education, pilgrimage, tourism, business purposes, medical attendance and family visits.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** is responsible for issuance of Passports to Indian Citizens.

What is a Diplomatic Passport?

- Diplomatic passports have **maroon covers**, and are **valid for five years or less**.
- **Statement 1 is correct: Holders of such passports are entitled to certain privileges and immunities** as per the international law, including immunity from arrest, detention, and certain legal proceedings in the host country.

Eligibility for having a diplomatic passport

- Diplomatic passports are issued to people falling under the five categories:
 - 1) Those with diplomatic status;
 - 2) government-appointed individuals traveling abroad for official business;
 - 3) officers working under the branches A and B of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), normally at the rank of Joint Secretary and above; and
 - 4) relatives and immediate family of officers employed in IFS and MEA.
 - 5) select individuals who are authorized to undertake official travel on behalf of the government". This includes union ministers and MPs who often travel abroad representing the government. The validity of these passports is concurrent with the term of the MP. Hence **statement 2 is incorrect**.
- **Issuing Authority: Consular, Passport & Visa Division of Ministry of External Affairs** issues diplomatic passports. Hence **statement 3 is incorrect**.

Revoking Authority

- **Statement 4 is correct:** The provisions relating to the revoking of a diplomatic passport is provided in the **Passport Act,1967**.
- As per the Act, The passport authority may impound or revoke a passport
 - 1) if the holder is in wrongful possession, or if it was obtained by the suppression of material information; or
 - 2) if the passport authority deems it necessary to do so in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, or friendly relations of India with any foreign country.
 - 3) if the holder has, after the issue of the passport, been convicted by a court in India, and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years.
 - 4) A diplomatic passport can be revoked upon orders from a court during proceedings with respect to an offense allegedly carried out by the passport holder before a criminal court.

4. Answer: A

Explanation

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- **Mount Ruang** recently erupted from Tagulandang island in Sitaro, North Sulawesi in Indonesia.

About Volcanoes

- Volcanoes are **vents, or openings in Earth's crust**, that release ash, gases and steam, and hot liquid rock called **lava**.

How are Volcanoes formed?

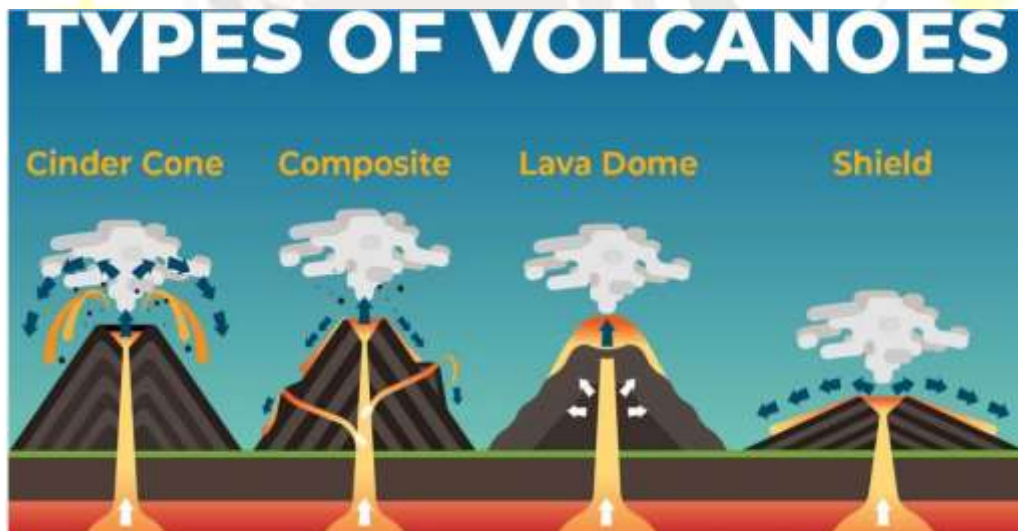
Over Land

- On land, volcanoes form when **one tectonic plate moves under another**. Usually a thin, heavy oceanic plate subducts, or moves under, a thicker continental plate. When this happens, **the ocean plate sinks into the mantle**.
- Water trapped in the rocks in this plate gets squeezed out. This causes some of the rocks to melt.
- The **melted rock, or magma, is lighter than the surrounding rock and rises up**. This magma collects in magma chambers, but it is still miles below the surface.
- When **enough magma builds up in the magma chamber**, it forces its way up to the surface and erupts, often causing volcanic eruptions.

Underwater volcanoes

- In the ocean, volcanoes erupt **along cracks that are opened in the ocean floor** by the spreading of two plates called a **mid-ocean ridge**.
- Magma from Earth's upper mantle rises up to fill these cracks. As the lava cools, it forms a new crust on the edges of the cracks. These mid-ocean ridges are actually long chains of underwater volcanoes
- About 80 to 90 percent of all volcanic eruptions occur where the plates spread apart.

Types of Volcanoes



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5. Answer: B

Explanation

- Oxytocin is a **natural hormone** that stimulates **uterine contractions in childbirth and lactation after childbirth**. It also affects aspects of human behavior and the male and female reproductive systems.
 - Hormones are **chemicals that coordinate different functions** in our body by carrying messages through blood to the organs, muscles and other tissues. These signals tell our body what to do and when to do it
- It is **secreted by the hypothalamus** but **stored and released into our bloodstream by the posterior pituitary gland**.

