


SCAN



**PRELIMS  
PLATINUM  
NOTES**



**PRELIMS MCQ's  
ELIMINATION  
TECHNIQUES  
(VOLUME-1)**

## WORD OF CAUTION

1. This document has to be referred only after you are thoroughly done with your preparation as nothing beats a diligent and disciplined preparation. No tricks or trends can replace the value of standard resources. This document does not encourage shortcuts over hard-work.
2. Basic Conceptual clarity is must for using these tricks and techniques.
3. First approach to solve the question should be through knowledge and hard work. **Use the knowledge gained from this document only in Round 3.** Do not use this knowledge in round 1 and round 2. These tricks should be used only as a measure of last resort.
4. These techniques should be amalgamated with knowledge of **Contemporary issues, etymology, historical significance and current affairs** (if any).
5. The content in this document will not help you to pass UPSC CSE Prelims examination, but it may help you to intelligently guess in a few questions so that you get a **few net positive marks in the range of 5 to 10.**
6. The content in this document will not give you direct correct answers but will help you to eliminate options so that you arrive at an answer based on your own knowledge base, logical analysis and common sense.
7. **Use these tricks extensively in your mocks first** and try to gauge your performance before trying in the actual examination.
8. Although, there is **no guarantee that all the trends will repeat in UPSC CSP GS1 2023.** However, since there is a human element involved in framing MCQs, a careful analysis of these trends might help you in identifying those aspects in the questions which will help you eliminate options.
9. For better understanding of this document , Kindly scan the QR code to get easy and crisp explanation of these elimination techniques on our you tube platform.



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## ELIMINATION TECHNIQUES

### ELIMINATION Technique No.: 1

Statements consisting of Extreme words are generally wrong. Example: All/None, Only, Steadily, Always, Never, Drastically, Entirely, Enormously, Completely, Mandatory, Compulsarily, Continuously.

#### ➤ ILLUSTRATION: 1

#### DESCRIPTION

What is/are the most likely advantages of implementing 'Goods and Services Tax (GST)' ?

[UPSC (Pre) 2017]

1. It will replace multiple taxes collected by multiple authorities and will thus create a single market in India.
2. It will drastically reduce the 'Current Account Deficit' of India and will enable it to increase its foreign exchange reserves.
3. It will enormously increase the growth and size of economy of India and will enable it to overtake China in the near future.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

• Statement 2 consists of an extreme word 'Drastically' which makes the statement less likely to be correct.

So, options (b) and (d) can be eliminated.

• Again, in statement 3 extreme word is 'Enormously' making it incorrect.

Therefore, options with statement 3 can be eliminated.



➤ ILLUSTRATION: 2

DESCRIPTION

With reference to Chausath Yogini Temple situated near Morena, consider the following statements: [UPSC (Pre) 2021]

1. It is a circular temple built during the reign of Kachchhapaghata Dynasty.
2. It is the only circular temple built in India.
3. It was meant to promote the Vaishnava cult in the region.
4. Its design has given rise to a popular belief that it was the inspiration behind the Indian Parliament building.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

• Statement 2 consist of an Extreme word - 'Only' which makes the statement less likely to be correct.

Hence, after eliminating statement 2 from the given options, we easily get (c) as the answer.

➤ ILLUSTRATION: 3

DESCRIPTION

Due to some reasons, if there is a huge fall in the population of species of butterflies, what could be its likely consequence/consequences?

[UPSC (Pre) 2017]

1. Pollination of some plants could be adversely affected.
2. There could be a drastic increase in the fungal infections of some cultivated plants.
3. It could lead to a fall in the population of some species of wasps, spiders and birds.

Select the correct using the code given below:

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

• Statement 2 consist of extreme word - 'Drastic' making the complete statement less likely to be correct.

This implies (b) and (d) can be discarded.

• Statement 3 consist of a probable word - 'could lead to' making statements generally right.



➤ ILLUSTRATION: 4

DESCRIPTION

Consider the following statements: [UPSC (Pre) 2018]

1. The Parliament of India can place a particular law in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
2. The validity of a law placed in the Ninth Schedule cannot be examined by any court and no judgement can be made on it.

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

• Statement 2 consists of two extreme words - 'any' and 'no' which makes the statement generally incorrect.  
So, options (b) and (d) can be eliminated.

➤ ILLUSTRATION: 5

DESCRIPTION

Consider the following statements: [UPSC (Pre) 2019]

1. Under Ramsar Convention, it is mandatory on the part of the Government of India to protect and conserve all the wetlands in the territory of India.
2. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 were framed by the Government of India based on the recommendation of Ramsar Convention.
3. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 also encompass the drainage area or catchment regions of the wetlands as determined by the authority.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

In statement 1, 'mandatory' and 'all' are two extreme words which makes the statement incorrect.

Thus, we can eliminate statement 1 from the given answer options.



➤ ILLUSTRATION: 6

Consider the following statements: [UPSC (Pre) 2020]

1. In the case of all cereals, pulses and oil-seeds, the procurement at Minimum Support Price (MSP) is unlimited in any State/UT of India.
2. In the case of cereals and pulses, the MSP is fixed in any State/UT at a level to which the market price will never rise.

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

DESCRIPTION

• Statement 1 has three extreme words - 'all', 'unlimited' and 'any' which makes it wrong.

• Statement 2 has word 'never' which makes it definitely incorrect.

Both statements can be marked as incorrect.

➤ ILLUSTRATION: 7

What are the significances of a practical approach to sugarcane production known as 'Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative' ? [UPSC (Pre) 2014]

1. Seed cost is very low in this compared to the conventional method of cultivation.
2. Drip irrigation can be practiced very effectively in this.
3. There is no application of chemical/inorganic fertilizers at all in this.
4. The scope for intercropping is more in this compared to the conventional method of cultivation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

DESCRIPTION

In statement 3, extreme words are 'no' and 'at all' making it incorrect.

Hence, statement 3 can be eliminated to reach the desired result.



➤ ILLUSTRATION: 8

In the context of solving pollution problems, what is/are the advantage/advantages of bioremediation technique? [UPSC (Pre) 2017]

1. It is a technique for cleaning up pollution by enhancing the same biodegradation process that occurs in nature.
2. Any contaminant with heavy metals such as cadmium and lead can be readily and completely treated by bioremediation using microorganisms.
3. Genetic engineering can be used to create microorganisms specifically designed for bioremediation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

DESCRIPTION Statement 2 has three extreme words - 'any', 'readily' and 'completely' which is generally not possible to be true. Thus, can be eliminated.

➤ ILLUSTRATION: 9

Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Smart India Hackathon 2017?

[UPSC (Pre) 2017]

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme for developing every city of our country into Smart Cities in a decade.
2. It is an initiative to identify new digital technology innovations for solving the many problems faced by our country.
3. It is a programme aimed at making all the financial transactions in our country completely digital in a decade.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

DESCRIPTION Statement 3 consist of extreme words - 'all' and 'completely' making it inaccurate. Thus, statement 3 can be eliminated from (a), (c) and (d).



➤ ILLUSTRATION: 10

What would happen if phytoplankton of an ocean is completely destroyed for some reason?

[UPSC (Pre) 2012]

1. The ocean as a carbon sink would be adversely affected.
2. The food chains in the ocean would be adversely affected.
3. The density of ocean water would drastically decrease.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

DESCRIPTION

Statement 3 consists of an extreme word - 'Drastically' which makes it less likely to be true. Hence, it can be eliminated from the options (c) and (d).





## ELIMINATION Technique No.: 2

Moderate or Probable type of statements are generally right.

Example: can be, may be, seems to be, likely to be, may lead to, might be, expected to improve or decline.

### ➤ ILLUSTRATION: 1

### DESCRIPTION

It is possible to produce algae based biofuels, but what is/are the likely limitation(s) of developing countries in promoting this industry?

[UPSC (Pre) 2017]

1. Production of algae based biofuels is possible in seas only and not on continents.
2. Setting up and engineering the algae based biofuels production requires high level of expertise/ technology until the construction is complete.
3. Economically viable production necessitates the setting up of large scale facilities which may raise ecological and social concerns.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Statement 3 consists of a Probable word - 'may' which makes the statement generally right.

Also, statement 1 has an extreme word 'Only' making it incorrect. (Technique 1)

Thus, options (a) and (d) can be excluded from the given options.



➤ ILLUSTRATION: 2

DESCRIPTION

With reference to agricultural soils, consider the following statements: [UPSC (Pre) 2018]

1. A high content of organic matter in soil drastically reduces its water holding capacity.
2. Soil does not play any role in the sulphur cycle.
3. Irrigation over a period of time can contribute to the salinization of some agricultural lands.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Statement 1 and 2 has extreme words - 'Drastically' and 'any' making it less likely to be correct.

Statement 3 has a Probable word 'can' making it more likely to be correct.

Hence, (b) is the correct answer.

➤ ILLUSTRATION: 3

DESCRIPTION

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

[UPSC (Pre) 2016]

Proper design and effective implementation of UNREDD+ Programme can significantly contribute to:

1. Protection of biodiversity
2. Resilience of forest ecosystems
3. Poverty reduction

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

All the given statements are contributing to fulfil the demand of the question.

Thus, (d) can be the most suitable answer.



## ELIMINATION Technique No.: 3

### Application of Deduced Logic

↳ Through basic logic and common sense, we can mark some statements as correct and incorrect.

#### ➤ ILLUSTRATION: 1

#### DESCRIPTION

Under the Kisan Credit Card scheme, short-term credit support is given to farmers for which of the following purposes? [UPSC (Pre) 2020]

1. Working capital for maintenance of farm assets
2. Purchase of combine harvesters, tractors and mini trucks.
3. Consumption requirements of farm households
4. Post-harvest expense
5. Construction of family house and setting up of village cold storage facility.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

From the given statements, statement 5 can be excluded as it is less likely to construct family houses from 'Kisan Credit Card Scheme'

Kisan credit card is a type of loan given to farmers to buy seeds, fertilizers etc.

Hence, from this logic, we can eliminate

Statement 2 and 5 from the given answer options.



➤ ILLUSTRATION: 2

What is the importance of using Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines in India? [UPSC (Pre) 2020]

1. These vaccines are effective against pneumonia as well as meningitis and sepsis.
2. Dependence on antibiotics that are not effective against drug resistant bacteria can be reduced.
3. These vaccines have no side effects and cause no allergic reactions.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

DESCRIPTION

Statement 3 can be eliminated from the phrase 'No side effects' and 'No allergic reactions' which is not possible from any medicine or vaccine. Headache is the common side effect which is seen from intake of vaccines. Hence, options (c) and (d) can be safely discarded.

➤ ILLUSTRATION: 3

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

[UPSC (Pre) 2020]

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 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

DESCRIPTION

Statement 2 says 'no human habitation inside the park' which is nearly impossible in reality. Communities like 'Dhanis' exist within the park and are also integral part of this ecosystem. Thus, options (a), (b) and (d) can be eliminated.



➤ ILLUSTRATION: 4

DESCRIPTION

With reference to India, the terms 'Halbi, Ho and Kui' pertain to..... [UPSC (Pre) 2021]

- (a) Dance forms of Northwest India
- (b) Musical instruments
- (c) Pre-historic cave paintings
- (d) Tribal languages

Here, Deduced logic can be taken from 'Ho' which is also the name of Tribal Revolt occurred in Bihar and adjoining regions.

Thus, 'Tribal language' is the most suitable answer given in the options.

➤ ILLUSTRATION: 5

DESCRIPTION

In India, if a species of tortoise is declared protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, what does it imply?

[UPSC (Pre) 2017]

- (a) It enjoys the same level of protection as the tiger.
- (b) It no longer exists in the wild, a few individuals are under captive protection; and now it is impossible to prevent its extinction.
- (c) It is endemic to a particular region of India.
- (d) Both (b) and (c) stated above are correct in this context

Option (b) contains a extreme statement with words like 'no longer exists' and 'impossible'. Thus option (b) and (d) can be eliminated.

Question talks about Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 which is concerned with 'protection' and

not with endemic status.

Thus, option (c) can be eliminated and option (a) can be marked as answer.





➤ ILLUSTRATION: 8

DESCRIPTION

With reference to India, consider the following statements: [UPSC (Pre) 2021]

1. There is only one citizenship and one domicile.
2. A citizen by birth only can become the Head of State.
3. A foreigner once granted the citizenship cannot be deprived of it under any circumstances.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Statement 3 consist of extreme word - 'any' which makes it incorrect (Technique 1)

Statement 2 can be negated from the fact that Naturalised citizen can also become the President of India (which is not the case with USA).

➤ ILLUSTRATION: 9

DESCRIPTION

Consider the following statements: [UPSC (Pre) 2019]

1. Coal sector was nationalized by the Government of India under Indira Gandhi.
2. Now, coal blocks are allocated on lottery basis.
3. Till recently, India imported coal to meet the shortages of domestic supply, but now India is self-sufficient in coal product.

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

Statement 3 can be easily eliminated from the logic that India is still one of the largest importer of coal. So, cannot be self sufficient.

Option (a) can be marked as answer.







➤ ILLUSTRATION: 12

DESCRIPTION

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

[UPSC (Pre) 2020]

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

Birds are generally named after colour of neck and colour and type of beak.

Thus, white throated make it a bird and

option (a) can be marked as answer.



## ELIMINATION Technique No.: 4

Progressive statements are generally right whereas Restrictive statements are generally wrong in Science and Technology questions.

### ILLUSTRATION: 1

### DESCRIPTION

With reference to "Blockchain Technology" consider the following statements:

[UPSC (Pre) 2020]

1. It is a public ledger that everyone we inspect, but which no single user controls
2. The structure and design of blockchain is such that all the data in it are about cryptocurrency only.
3. Applications that depend on basic features of blockchain can be developed without anybody's permission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Statement 2 is somewhat restrictive in nature as it is limiting Blockchain technology to cryptocurrency only.

Thus, statement 2 can be eliminated from options (b) and (c).

Statement 3 has a probable word 'can be' which makes it right.  
(Technique 2)

Hence, (d) is the correct answer.



➤ ILLUSTRATION: 2

DESCRIPTION

With reference to agriculture in India, how can the technique of 'genome sequencing', often seen in the news, be used in the immediate future?

[UPSC (Pre) 2017]

1. Genome sequencing can be used to identify genetic markers for disease resistance and drought tolerance in various crop plants.
2. This technique helps in reducing the time required to develop new varieties of crop plants.
3. It can be used to decipher the host pathogen relationships in crops.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

All the three statements are progressive in nature. Also, statement 1, 2 and 3 are the applications of genome sequencing.

Thus, option (d) can be marked as answer.

➤ ILLUSTRATION: 3

DESCRIPTION

In which of the following areas can GPS technology be used? [UPSC (Pre) 2018]

1. Mobile phone operations
2. Banking operations
3. Controlling the power grids

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

GPS applications fall into 5 major categories :-  
 ↳ Location  
 ↳ Navigation  
 ↳ Tracking  
 ↳ Mapping  
 ↳ Timing

All the given statements lie in the above categories.

Hence, answer option can be (d).



➤ ILLUSTRATION: 4

With reference to the use of Nano technology in health sector, which of the following statements is/are correct? [UPSC (Pre) 2015]

1. Targeted drug delivery is made possible by nanotechnology.
2. Nanotechnology can largely contribute to gene therapy.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

DESCRIPTION

Nanotechnology is an emerging technology useful in various fields. Here, both the statements are futuristic and progressive in nature. Thus, option (c) can be marked as answer.

➤ ILLUSTRATION: 5

Organic Light Emitting Diodes (OLEDs) are used to create digital display in many devices. What are the advantages of OLED displays over Liquid Crystal displays?

[UPSC (Pre) 2017]

1. OLED displays can be fabricated on flexible plastic substrates.
2. Roll-up displays embedded in clothing can be made using OLEDs.
3. Transparent displays are possible using OLEDs.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- (a) 1 and 3 only  
(b) 2 only  
 (c) 1, 2 and 3  
(d) None of the above statements is correct

DESCRIPTION

All the statements regarding OLEDs are correct. Also, it is more advanced technology and expected to overcome disadvantages of LCDs.



## ELIMINATION Technique No.: 5

Positive initiative or a process have positive impact or outcome.  
Negative process will have negative impact/outcome.

### ➤ ILLUSTRATION: 1

There is some concern regarding the nanoparticles of some chemical elements that are used by the industry in the manufacture of various products. Why? [UPSC (Pre) 2014]

1. They can accumulate in the environment and contaminate water and soil.
2. They can enter the food chains.
3. They can trigger the production of free radicals.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

DESCRIPTION *Question deals with concerns regarding nanoparticles. All the given statements are negative impact of the same. Thus, we can safely mark (d) as the answer.*

### ➤ ILLUSTRATION: 2

What can be the impact of excessive/inappropriate use of nitrogenous fertilizers in agriculture? [UPSC (Pre) 2015]

1. Proliferation of nitrogen fixing microorganisms in soil can occur.
2. Increase in the acidity of soil can take place.
3. Leaching of nitrate to the ground water can occur.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

DESCRIPTION *Question deals with inappropriate use of nitrogenous fertilizers. Statement 1 talks about positive impact, can be discarded. Statement 2 and 3 are the negative impacts which coincides with nature of question. Thus, option (c) is the desired answer.*



## ELIMINATION Technique No.: 6

Opposite or contradictory statements are generally seen as part of the answer option in both single statement and multiple statement MCQ. Also, Both opposite options cannot come together.  
(Concluded after analysing last 10 years prelims paper).

### > ILLUSTRATION: 1

### DESCRIPTION

In rural road construction, the use of which of the following is preferred for ensuring environmental sustainability or to reduce carbon footprint? [UPSC (Pre) 2020]

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

Statement 2 and 4 are opposite to each other. Thus, generally they should not come together in the answer option. This implies, option (b) can be eliminated. Also, one of them generally seen in the answer.  $\Rightarrow$  option (d) can be discarded. Now, mindful choice should be made between (a) and (c) to mark the correct answer.



➤ ILLUSTRATION: 2

DESCRIPTION

An increase in the Bank Rate generally indicates that the [UPSC (Pre) 2013]

- (a) Market rate of interest is likely to fall
- (b) Central Bank is no longer making loans to commercial banks
- (c) Central Bank is following an easy money policy
- (d) Central Bank is following a tight money policy

Options (c) and (d) are opposite of each other.  
 ⇒ Hence, (a) and (b) can't be the answer.  
 Now, working mechanism of RBI should be properly employed to reach answer options from (c) and (d).

➤ ILLUSTRATION: 3

DESCRIPTION

Supply of money remaining the same when there is an increase in demand for money, there will be [UPSC (Pre) 2013]

- (a) A fall in the level of prices
- (b) An increase in the rate of interest
- (c) A decrease in the rate of interest
- (d) An increase in the level of income and employment

Options (b) and (c) are contrary to each other. One of these must be the answer.  
 With basic knowledge of Inflation and Interest rate, we can reach the correct answer option.

➤ ILLUSTRATION: 4

DESCRIPTION

The increasing amount of carbon dioxide in the air is slowly raising the temperature of the atmosphere, because it absorbs [UPSC (Pre) 2012]

- (a) The water vapour of the air and retains its heat.
- (b) The ultraviolet part of the solar radiation.
- (c) All the solar radiations.
- (d) The infrared part of the solar radiation.

Option (b) and (d) are diverse yet similar options.  
 Plus basic readings from NCERT class XII - Bio, correct answer option can be chosen.



### ➤ ILLUSTRATION: 5

### DESCRIPTION

Consider the following statements:

[UPSC (Pre) 2019]

1. According to the Indian Patents Act, a biological process to create a seed can be patented in India.
2. In India, there is no Intellectual Property Appellate Board.
3. Plant varieties are not eligible in the patented in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Statement 1 and 3 are opposite. Thus, both of them, may not come together.

Thus, (a) and (d) can be eliminated.

Statement 2 can be negated by the general knowledge that India has a Intellectual Property Appellate Board.

### ➤ ILLUSTRATION: 6

### DESCRIPTION

Consider the following statements:[UPSC (Pre) 2018]

Human capital formation as a concept is better explained in terms of a process, which enables

1. Individuals of a country to accumulate more capital.
2. Increasing the knowledge, skill levels and capacities of the people of the country.
3. Accumulation of tangible wealth.
4. Accumulation of intangible wealth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Statement 3 and 4 are opposite of each other i.e 'Tangible' and 'Intangible'.  
⇒ option (d) can be discarded.

One of them should be in answer. ⇒ option (a) can be eliminated and also option (b)

Thus, we can mark (c) as the answer.





➤ ILLUSTRATION: 7

DESCRIPTION

Consider the following statements:

[UPSC (Pre) 2018]

1. The Barren Island volcano is an active volcano located in the Indian Territory.
2. Barren Island lies about 140 km east of Great Nicobar.
3. The last time the Barren Island volcano erupted was in 1991 and it has remained inactive since then.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

In statement 1, it is said to be an active volcano and in statement 3, it is said to be inactive.

These are opposite of each other and cannot come together.

Hence, (d) can be discarded.

In statement 2, place has been tweaked. The island lies in Andaman islands group.

➤ ILLUSTRATION: 8

DESCRIPTION

The Parliament can make any law for whole or any part of India for implementing international treaties [UPSC (Pre) 2013]

- (a) With the consent of all the States  
(b) With the consent of the majority of States  
(c) With the consent of the States concerned  
(d) Without the consent of any State

Statement (a) and (d) are contrary of each other.

With basic knowledge of powers of union government and 7th schedule correct answer can be marked.



➤ ILLUSTRATION: 9

The most important fishing grounds of the world are found in the regions where. [UPSC (Pre) 2013]

- (a) Warm and cold atmospheric currents meet
- (b) Rivers drain out large amounts of fresh water into the sea
- (c) Warm and cold oceanic currents meet
- (d) Continental shelf is undulating

DESCRIPTION

options (a) and (c) are opposite of each other. Hence, one of them has to be answer. Though basic concept of ocean currents is required to mark the answer.

➤ ILLUSTRATION: 10

Why are dewdrops not formed on a cloudy night?

[UPSC (Pre) 2019]

- (a) Clouds absorb the radiation released from the Earth's surface.
- (b) Clouds reflect back the Earth's radiation.
- (c) The Earth's surface would have low temperature on cloudy nights.
- (d) Clouds deflect the blowing wind to ground level.

DESCRIPTION

options (a) and (b) are contrary of each other. Though, general mechanism of formation of dew drops should be known to mark the correct answer.



## ELIMINATION Technique No.: 7

If a statement has a mention of any organisation, Department or Ministry, it is mostly false. (Generally tweaked to make statements incorrect).

### ➤ ILLUSTRATION: 1

### DESCRIPTION

With reference to organic farming in India, consider the following statements:

[UPSC (Pre) 2018]

1. 'The National Programme for Organic Production' (NPOP) is operated under the guidelines and directions of the Union Ministry of Rural Development.
2. 'The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority' (APEDA) functions as the Secretariat for the implementation of NPOP.
3. Sikkim has become India's first fully organic State.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

In statement 1, Ministry name is incorrect.

Ministry of Commerce has implemented National Programme for Organic Production since 2001.

Thus, statement 1 can be eliminated. Options (a) and (d) can be discarded.



➤ ILLUSTRATION: 2

DESCRIPTION

Consider the following statements:

[UPSC (Pre) 2018]

1. The definition of "Critical Wildlife Habitat" is incorporated in the Forest Rights Act, 2006.
2. For the first time in India, Baigas have been given Habitat Rights.
3. Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change officially decides and declares Habitat Rights for Primitive and Vulnerable Tribal Groups in any part of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

District level committee ensures habitat rights of all PVTGs as declared under the Forest Rights Act, 2006; not the Union Ministry of Environment forest and climate change.

Therefore, statement 3 can be eliminated.

➤ ILLUSTRATION: 3

DESCRIPTION

Consider the following statements:

[UPSC (Pre) 2018]

1. The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 replaced the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.
2. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is under the charge of Director General of Health Services in the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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

Statement 2 can be eliminated as FSSAI is not under Director General rather an independent (autonomous) body.



➤ ILLUSTRATION: 4

DESCRIPTION

Consider the following statements:[UPSC (Pre) 2017]

1. The Election Commission of India is a five member body.
2. Union Ministry of Home Affairs decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections.
3. Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognized political parties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Election Commission of India (ECI) decides the election schedule for the conduct of general and bye - elections, not the union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Hence, statement 2 can be eliminated to reach (d) as the answer option.

➤ ILLUSTRATION: 5

DESCRIPTION

Consider the following in respect of 'National Career Services': [UPSC (Pre) 2017]

1. National Career Service is an initiative of the Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India.
2. National Career Service has been launched in a Mission Mode to improve the employment opportunities to uneducated youth of the country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

National career services is an initiative of labour and employment ministry.  
Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.



➤ ILLUSTRATION: 6

DESCRIPTION

With reference to Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, consider the following statements:

[UPSC (Pre) 2018]

1. It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
2. It, among other things, will also impart training in soft skills, entrepreneurship, financial and digital literacy.
3. It aims to align the competencies of the unregulated workforce of the country to the National Skill Qualification Framework.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Statement 1 can be eliminated as PM-Kaushal Vikas yojana is a flagship scheme of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Thus, options (a) and (d) can be discarded.

➤ ILLUSTRATION: 7

DESCRIPTION

With reference to the Genetically Modified mustard (GM mustard) developed in India, consider the following statements:[UPSC (Pre) 2018]

1. GM mustard has the genes of a soil bacterium that give the plant the property of pest-resistance to a wide variety of pests.
2. GM mustard has the genes that allow the plant cross pollination and hybridization.
3. GM mustard has been developed jointly by the IARI and Punjab Agricultural University.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

'GM Mustard' was developed by Delhi University based Centre for Genetic Manipulation of crop plants under leadership of Deepak Pantal.

Hence, statement 3 can be discarded.



➤ ILLUSTRATION: 8

Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the 'Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)?

[UPSC (Pre) 2017]

1. It decides the RBI's benchmark interest rates.
2. It is a 12-member body including the Governor of RBI and is reconstituted every year.
3. It functions under the chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

DESCRIPTION

Governor of the Reserve Bank of India is the ex-officio chairman of 'Monetary Policy Committee' (MPC).  
(not the Finance Minister)  
Hence, statement 3 can be eliminated.

➤ ILLUSTRATION: 9

Consider the following statements in respect of Trade Related Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce (TRAFFIC):

[UPSC (Pre) 2017]

1. TRAFFIC is a bureau under United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. The mission of TRAFFIC is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

DESCRIPTION

'TRAFFIC' was established in 1976 by IUCN and World Wildlife Fund (WWF).  
It is not a bureau under UNEP.  
Statement 1 can be eliminated.



➤ ILLUSTRATION: 10

DESCRIPTION

Consider the following statements:[UPSC (Pre) 2017]

1. The Nuclear Security Summits are periodically held under the aegis of the United Nations.
2. The International Panel on Fissile Materials is an organ of International Atomic Energy Agency.

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

Nuclear Security Summits are an US-led initiative and are not under the aegis of United Nations.

Therefore, statement 1 is incorrect.

International Panel on Fissile Materials is an independent group of arms control and non-proliferation experts. It is not an organ of IAEA.

∴, statement 2 is incorrect.

\* **ADVISORY :-** It is seen from the last few years papers that organisation names are generally incorrect as illustrated above.

However, mindful choice based upon knowledge should be made while attempting these type of questions.





## ELIMINATION Technique No.: 8

Elimination of options by knowing basic facts of core subjects like Polity, History, Geography and Economy.

### ➤ ILLUSTRATION: 1

### DESCRIPTION

Consider the following statements:

[UPSC (Pre) 2018]

1. In the first Lok Sabha, the single largest party in the opposition was the Swatantra Party.
2. In the Lok Sabha, a "Leader of the Opposition" was recognised for the first time in 1969.
3. In the Lok Sabha, if a party does not have a minimum of 75 members, its leader cannot be recognised as the Leader of the Opposition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

From the basic knowledge about the Parliament,

The leader of the largest opposition party, having not less than one-tenth of Total strength of the House is recognised as the leader of opposition in that house.

Hence, statement 3 can be eliminated.



➤ ILLUSTRATION: 2

What was the exact constitutional status of India on 26th January, 1950? [UPSC (Pre) 2021]

- (a) A democratic Republic
- (b) A Sovereign Democratic Republic
- (c) A Sovereign Secular Democratic Republic
- (d) A Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic

DESCRIPTION

Words like 'Secular' and 'Socialist' are added through 42<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976. Thus, with this fact known, options (c) and (d) can be easily eliminated.

➤ ILLUSTRATION: 3

Consider the following statements: [UPSC (Pre) 2019]

1. The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 exempts several posts from disqualification on the grounds of 'Office of Profit'.
2. The above-mentioned Act was amended five times.
3. The term 'Office of Profit' is well-defined in the Constitution of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

DESCRIPTION

The definition of 'office of Profit' has evolved over the years with interpretations made in various court judgements.

However, 'office of Profit' is not defined in the Constitution of India.

Hence, elimination of Statement 3 discards

all other options except (a).



## ELIMINATION Technique No.: 9

Data, years, figures have more probability of being incorrect in a statement.

### ➤ ILLUSTRATION: 1

### DESCRIPTION

With reference to 'Agenda 21', sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements:

[UPSC (Pre) 2016]

1. It is a global action plan for sustainable development.
2. It originated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002.

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

Agenda 21 is the product of the Earth Summit (UN conference on Environment and Development) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992.

Therefore, statement 2 becomes incorrect and can be eliminated.





➤ ILLUSTRATION: 4

DESCRIPTION

With reference to Agni-IV Missile, which of the following statements is/are correct?

[UPSC (Pre) 2014]

1. It is surface-to surface missile.
2. It is fuelled by liquid propellant only.
3. It can deliver one-tonne nuclear warheads about 7500km away.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Statement 2 consist of extreme word 'only' making it incorrect. (Agni IV missile is a two stage solid propellant missile).  
- options (b) and (d) can be eliminated.

Statement 3 becomes incorrect - It is nuclear capable long range ballistic missile with strike range of 4000 Km.

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