World History

DAILY PRACTICE 21/10/2026 · UPSC CSE · World History

Q1.

With reference to protests and social movements in France, consider the following statements:

1. The French Revolution of 1789 contributed to the development of ideas such as popular sovereignty and citizenship.
2. The Constitution of France recognises the right to strike under specified legal conditions.
3. France follows a presidential system in which the President is the sole head of government and the Prime Minister has no constitutional role.
4. Socioeconomic inequality and pension reforms have been among the issues triggering mass protests in France.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1 and 3 only

C. 1, 2 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option C — 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

1. **Statement 1 is correct.** The French Revolution of 1789 challenged absolute monarchy and advanced ideas of popular sovereignty, equality and citizenship.
2. **Statement 2 is correct.** The right to strike is recognised in the preamble to the French Constitution of 1946, incorporated into the constitutional framework of the Fifth Republic, subject to legal regulation.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect.** France follows a semi-presidential system. Executive authority is shared between the President and the Prime Minister, who leads the government.
4. **Statement 4 is correct.** Pension reforms, the cost of living and socioeconomic inequality have repeatedly triggered protests in France.

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Q2.

With reference to protests and democratic rights in France, consider the following statements:

1. The storming of the Bastille in 1789 became a major symbol of the French Revolution.
2. The right to peaceful assembly is recognised as a fundamental democratic freedom in France and other democratic societies.
3. The French Revolution established an uninterrupted democratic system in France that has continued without political regime changes.
4. Public protests can influence government policies and shape political debates.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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A. 1 only

B. 1 and 3 only

C. 1, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2 and 4 only

Correct answer: Option D — 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (c) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

1. Statement 1 — Correct: The storming of the Bastille on 14 July 1789 became a landmark event of the French Revolution.
2. Statement 2 — Correct: Peaceful assembly is protected under democratic principles and international human-rights frameworks, subject to lawful restrictions.
3. Statement 3 — Incorrect: France has experienced several changes in political regimes, including monarchies, empires and republics.
4. Statement 4 — Correct: Protests can influence public debate, government decisions and political reforms.

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Q3.

With reference to the Enlightenment, consider the following statements:

1. Enlightenment thinkers emphasised reason and critical inquiry.
2. Ideas of natural rights and popular sovereignty influenced revolutionary movements.
3. Enlightenment ideas had no influence on the French Revolution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option B — 1 and 2 only

Explanation

Explanation:

Correct Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

1. Statement 1 is correct:
   The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement that emphasised reason, rational inquiry, scientific thinking and criticism of traditional authority. Thinkers such as John Locke, Montesquieu,

Voltaire and Jean-Jacques Rousseau contributed to different aspects of Enlightenment thought.

2. Statement 2 is correct:
   Ideas such as natural rights, liberty, equality, social contract and popular sovereignty influenced political movements and revolutionary transformations. John Locke argued that individuals possessed natural rights, including life, liberty and property. Rousseau developed the idea of the social contract and popular sovereignty, emphasising the role of the general will.
3. Statement 3 is incorrect:
   Enlightenment ideas did influence the French Revolution. Revolutionary thinkers and political actors drew upon concepts of liberty, equality, rights and popular sovereignty. The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (1789) reflected several principles associated with Enlightenment political thought. However, the French Revolution cannot be explained by intellectual ideas alone. Economic crisis, social inequalities, fiscal problems and political conflicts were also major factors.
4. Therefore, statements 1 and 2 are correct.

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Q4.

With reference to the Renaissance, consider the following statements:

1. The Renaissance originated prominently in the Italian city-states.
2. It involved renewed interest in classical Greek and Roman learning.
3. Humanism was an important intellectual feature of the Renaissance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option D — 1, 2 and 3

Explanation

Explanation:

Correct Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

1. Statement 1 is correct:
   The Renaissance emerged prominently in the Italian city-states, particularly places such as Florence, Venice and Rome.

2. Italy's commercial prosperity, wealthy urban groups, patronage of artists and scholars, and connection with classical Roman heritage helped create favourable conditions for the Renaissance.
3. Statement 2 is correct:
   Renaissance scholars developed a renewed interest in the classical literature, philosophy, art and learning of ancient Greece and Rome.
4. The rediscovery and study of classical texts influenced education, literature, political thought and artistic expression.
5. Statement 3 is correct:
   Humanism was an important intellectual movement associated with the Renaissance. It emphasised the study of human beings, classical texts, language, history, philosophy and human potential.
6. Renaissance humanism did not necessarily reject religion; many Renaissance thinkers continued to be deeply religious while also emphasising human intellectual and cultural achievements.
7. Therefore, all three statements are correct.

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Q5.

With reference to the unification of Germany, consider the following statements:

1. Otto von Bismarck played a major role in German unification.
2. Prussia was the leading German state in the unification process.
3. German unification was completed with the establishment of the German Empire in 1871.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option D — 1, 2 and 3

Explanation

Explanation:

Correct Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

1. Statement 1 is correct:
   Otto von Bismarck, the Prussian Chancellor, played a decisive role in German unification. He used diplomacy, political manoeuvring and warfare to bring German states together under Prussian

leadership.

2. Statement 2 is correct:
   Prussia was the most powerful German state and became the central force behind unification.
3. Bismarck's policy is often associated with the concept of Realpolitik, which emphasised practical political considerations rather than ideological principles.
4. Statement 3 is correct:
   The German Empire was proclaimed in 1871, following the Franco-Prussian War.
5. The proclamation took place at the Palace of Versailles in January 1871, with King Wilhelm I of Prussia becoming German Emperor.
6. Therefore, all three statements are correct.

Q6.

With reference to the American Civil War, consider the following statements:

1. The conflict was fought between the Union and the Confederacy.
2. The issue of slavery was closely connected with the causes of the conflict.
3. Abraham Lincoln was the President of the Confederacy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option B — 1 and 2 only

Explanation

Explanation:

Correct Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

1. Statement 1 is correct:
   The American Civil War (1861–1865) was fought between the Union, representing the United States government, and the Confederate States, formed by states that seceded from the Union.

2. Statement 2 is correct:
   Slavery was a central issue in the conflict. The expansion and future of slavery in the territories and states became deeply connected with the political crisis leading to the war.
3. Economic differences, sectional political conflicts and disputes over states' rights were also important dimensions of the conflict.
4. Statement 3 is incorrect:
   Abraham Lincoln was the President of the United States and leader of the Union, not the Confederacy.
5. Jefferson Davis served as the President of the Confederate States.
6. The Union victory resulted in preservation of the United States as a single country and the abolition of slavery through the Thirteenth Amendment.

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Q7.

With reference to the Industrial Revolution, consider the following statements:

1. The development and application of steam power played an important role in industrialisation.
2. Mechanisation contributed to an increase in productivity.
3. The Industrial Revolution had no significant connection with urbanisation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option A — 1 and 2 only

Explanation

Explanation:

Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

1. Statement 1 is correct:
   Steam power became one of the major technological forces behind the Industrial Revolution. Improvements in steam engines enabled factories, mines, transport and other industries to operate more

efficiently.

2. James Watt's improvements to the steam engine during the eighteenth century significantly increased its practical usefulness.
3. Statement 2 is correct:
   Mechanisation increased productivity by allowing machines to perform tasks that had previously depended heavily on manual labour.
4. The textile industry was among the earliest sectors to experience extensive mechanisation.
5. Statement 3 is incorrect:
   The Industrial Revolution had a strong relationship with urbanisation. Industrial employment encouraged large numbers of people to move from rural areas to growing industrial towns and cities.
6. Rapid urban growth also created new social problems such as overcrowding, poor sanitation, pollution and difficult working conditions.
7. Therefore, statements 1 and 2 are correct.

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Q8.

The system of racial segregation and discrimination known as apartheid was formally established as state policy in which of the following countries?

A. South Africa

B. Zimbabwe

C. Kenya

D. Namibia

Correct answer: Option A — South Africa

Explanation

Explanation:

Correct Answer: (a) South Africa

1. South Africa is associated with the apartheid system.
2. The National Party came to power in 1948 and formally introduced apartheid as a systematic state policy of racial segregation.
3. Under apartheid, the population was classified into racial groups and subjected to different legal, political, residential and social rights.
4. The system restricted the political and civil rights of the Black majority and other non-white communities.
5. Apartheid was challenged through prolonged resistance movements, including the struggle associated with the African National Congress (ANC).
6. Apartheid formally ended through a process of political transition in the early 1990s, with Nelson Mandela becoming President in 1994.

7. Thus, South Africa is the correct answer.

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Q9.

With reference to decolonisation after the Second World War, consider the following statements:

1. Nationalist movements in Asia and Africa played an important role in the process.
2. The weakening of European colonial powers after the Second World War contributed to decolonisation.
3. All colonies became independent simultaneously.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option A — 1 and 2 only

Explanation

Explanation:

Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

1. Statement 1 is correct:
   Anti-colonial nationalist movements played a major role in the independence of countries across Asia and Africa.

2. Examples include:
    - Indian independence movement
    - Indonesian struggle against Dutch rule
    - Vietnamese struggle against French colonialism
    - African nationalist movements against European colonial rule
3. Statement 2 is correct:

   The Second World War severely weakened several European colonial powers economically and militarily. This created a more favourable international environment for decolonisation.
4. The rise of anti-colonial nationalism and changing international attitudes toward colonialism further accelerated the process.
5. Statement 3 is incorrect:

   Decolonisation was not simultaneous. Different countries became independent at different times and through different political processes.
6. Therefore, statements 1 and 2 are correct.

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Q10.

With reference to international organisations and military alliances after the Second World War, consider the following statements:

1. NATO was based on the principle of collective defence.
2. The Warsaw Pact was led by the Soviet Union.
3. The United Nations was established before the Second World War.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option A — 1 and 2 only

Explanation

Explanation:

Correct Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

1. Statement 1 is correct:
   NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) was established in 1949. Its central principle is collective defence, meaning an armed attack against one member is treated as a concern for the alliance as a

whole.

2. Statement 2 is correct:
   The Warsaw Pact was established in 1955 under Soviet leadership. It served as the major military alliance of the Soviet-led Eastern European bloc.
3. Statement 3 is incorrect:
   The United Nations was established in 1945, after the Second World War had ended in Europe.
4. The UN Charter was signed in June 1945 and came into force on 24 October 1945.
5. Therefore, statements 1 and 2 are correct.

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