Geography

DAILY PRACTICE 27/11/2026 · UPSC CSE · Geography

Q1.

The proposed greenfield airport near Silchar in Assam is expected to improve regional connectivity. Which of the following geographical and developmental considerations best explains its strategic significance?

A. It will primarily connect Assam with India's western coastal industrial corridor.

B. It can strengthen connectivity between the Barak Valley and neighbouring northeastern states, facilitating trade, tourism and regional integration.

C. It will eliminate the need for all existing airports in Northeast India.

D. It will primarily serve as an international transit hub connecting India with Southeast Asia.

Correct answer: Option B — It can strengthen connectivity between the Barak Valley and neighbouring northeastern states, facilitating trade, tourism and regional integration.

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Improved air connectivity can strengthen regional integration and economic linkages across southern

Assam and neighbouring northeastern states.

1. **Geographical location:** Silchar is situated in the Barak Valley of southern Assam, which has geographical connectivity with Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura.
2. **Regional connectivity:** Improved aviation infrastructure can reduce travel constraints in a region where difficult terrain and inadequate surface connectivity create logistical challenges.
3. **Economic development:** Better connectivity can support tourism, trade, investment and movement of people.
4. **Greenfield infrastructure:** A greenfield airport involves developing a new airport facility rather than merely expanding an existing airport.
5. **Strategic significance:** Improved transport infrastructure can strengthen the integration of geographically peripheral regions with the national economy.

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Q2.

In India, a farmer owns agricultural land beneath which a commercially valuable mineral deposit is discovered. Which of the following best describes the legal position regarding mineral ownership and extraction?

A. Ownership of agricultural land automatically confers unrestricted ownership of all minerals beneath it.

B. All minerals beneath privately owned land automatically belong to the Central Government.

C. Mineral rights and surface land ownership are legally distinct, and mineral extraction is subject to statutory regulation and applicable lease and consent requirements.

D. A mining company can extract minerals from private agricultural land without obtaining any statutory approval if it has a government concession.

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Correct answer: Option C — Mineral rights and surface land ownership are legally distinct, and mineral extraction is subject to statutory regulation and applicable lease and consent requirements.

Explanation

Correct Answer: (c) — Surface ownership and mineral rights are distinct legal interests, governed by applicable legislation and regulatory conditions.

1. **Constitutional framework:** Entry 54 of the Union List and Entry 23 of the State List allocate legislative competence over mines and mineral development, subject to the constitutional framework.
2. **MMDR Act, 1957:** The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act provides the principal statutory framework for regulating mineral concessions and mining operations.
3. **Mineral rights:** Ownership and control of minerals depend on applicable laws, land tenure and relevant government rights; it is not accurate to assume that every mineral beneath private land automatically belongs to the Union Government.
4. **Environmental safeguards:** Mining requires applicable environmental and other statutory clearances, alongside compliance with land acquisition, rehabilitation and compensation requirements where relevant.

Q3.

A country experiences a decline in net migration despite continuing to receive a large number of international students and skilled workers. Which of the following situations could explain this trend?

A. Immigration exceeds emigration, while natural population growth becomes negative.

B. Emigration increases sufficiently to offset a substantial proportion of immigration.

C. International students are excluded from immigration statistics in all circumstances.

D. A decline in net migration necessarily indicates that the country has stopped issuing work visas.

Correct answer: Option B — Emigration increases sufficiently to offset a substantial proportion of immigration.

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Net migration is the difference between immigration and emigration; higher departures can reduce it even when substantial immigration continues.

1. **Net migration:** It is calculated as the number of immigrants entering a country minus the number of emigrants leaving it during a specified period.

2. **Gross immigration:** It measures the total number of people entering, irrespective of departures.
3. **Migration composition:** Students and skilled workers may contribute significantly to immigration while earlier migrant cohorts leave after completing their studies or employment.
4. **Policy implications:** Changes in visa rules can influence both arrivals and departures, but net migration alone does not reveal the complete migration pattern.

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Q4.

International migration is influenced by employment opportunities, educational mobility and immigration policies. Which of the following best describes the difference between net migration and gross immigration?

A. Net migration includes only permanent migrants, whereas gross immigration includes temporary migrants.

B. Net migration is the difference between the number of immigrants and emigrants, whereas gross immigration counts people entering a country.

C. Net migration measures the number of foreign-born residents, whereas gross immigration measures the number of citizens returning from abroad.

D. Net migration includes only economic migrants, whereas gross immigration includes all categories of migrants.

Correct answer: Option B — Net migration is the difference between the number of immigrants and emigrants, whereas gross immigration counts people entering a country.

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Net migration is the difference between immigration and emigration.

1. **Net migration:** It is calculated by subtracting the number of emigrants from the number of immigrants during a specified period.
2. **Gross immigration:** It represents the total number of people entering a country to establish residence, according to the

statistical definition being used.

3. A country can experience high immigration and high emigration simultaneously while recording relatively low net migration.

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Q5.

A metropolitan region is planning a ring road to reduce congestion and improve regional connectivity. Which of the following outcomes is most likely if the project is supported by effective land-use and transport planning?

A. Elimination of all traffic congestion within the city.

B. Reduction in through-traffic within the urban core and improved movement between peripheral areas.

C. Complete prevention of urban sprawl by restricting development along the corridor.

D. Replacement of the need for public transport and other mass-transit systems.

Correct answer: Option B — Reduction in through-traffic within the urban core and improved movement between peripheral areas.

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Reduction in through-traffic and improved peripheral connectivity.

1. **Traffic decongestion:** Ring roads allow vehicles travelling between different parts of a metropolitan region to bypass congested central areas.
2. **Regional connectivity:** They can improve movement of freight and passengers between highways, industrial zones and peripheral settlements.

3. **Urban planning:** Without appropriate land-use regulation, ring roads may encourage unplanned urban sprawl and speculative development.
4. **Integrated mobility:** Ring roads complement rather than replace public transport, pedestrian infrastructure and other sustainable mobility systems.

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Q6.

During winter, Srinagar experiences deterioration in air quality due to emissions from vehicles, waste burning and the use of coal and wood for heating. Which atmospheric condition can intensify the accumulation of air pollutants near the ground?

A. Strong vertical convection that rapidly disperses pollutants.

B. Temperature inversion that suppresses vertical air mixing.

C. Increased atmospheric instability that promotes pollutant dilution.

D. Strong horizontal winds that continuously replace polluted air.

Correct answer: Option B — Temperature inversion that suppresses vertical air mixing.

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Temperature inversion suppresses vertical air mixing.

1. **Normal atmospheric conditions:** Air temperature generally decreases with altitude, allowing warmer surface air to rise and disperse pollutants.
2. **Temperature inversion:** A layer of warmer air above cooler surface air restricts vertical movement and traps pollutants close to the ground.

3. **Winter conditions:** Calm winds, low temperatures and inversion conditions can contribute to prolonged episodes of poor air quality.
4. **Health impacts:** Increased exposure to particulate matter and other pollutants raises the risk of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

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Q7.

The Bab-el-Mandeb Strait is strategically significant in international maritime trade primarily because it:

A. Connects the Persian Gulf directly with the Arabian Sea.

B. Links the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, forming a major route towards the Suez Canal.

C. Connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Black Sea.

D. Separates the Arabian Peninsula from the Persian Gulf.

Correct answer: Option B — Links the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, forming a major route towards the Suez Canal.

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — It links the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean.

1. **Geographical significance:** Bab-el-Mandeb lies between Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula and Djibouti and Eritrea in the Horn of Africa.
2. **Trade connectivity:** It connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, providing maritime access towards the Suez Canal and Mediterranean Sea.
3. **Energy security:** Disruptions can force vessels to use longer alternative routes, increasing shipping costs, insurance premiums and delivery times.

4. **Strategic vulnerability:** Conflict involving regional actors can threaten commercial shipping and international energy supply chains.

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Q8.

Consider the following pairs of infrastructure projects and their principal economic functions:

Infrastructure project	Principal function
1. Greenfield airport	Development of a new airport facility on a previously undeveloped site
2. Container terminal	Handling and transfer of containerised cargo between different modes of transport
3. Dry port	Provision of seaport facilities directly on the coastline
4. Multimodal logistics park	Integration of different modes of freight transport and logistics services

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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A. Only one

B. Only two

C. Only three

D. All four

Correct answer: Option C — Only three

Explanation

Correct Answer: (c) — Only three pairs are correctly matched.

1. **Pair 1 is correct:** A greenfield airport is developed on a new site rather than by merely expanding an existing airport.

2. **Pair 2 is correct:** Container terminals facilitate loading, unloading, storage and transfer of containerised cargo.
3. **Pair 3 is incorrect:** A dry port is an inland intermodal terminal connected to a seaport, not a coastal seaport.
4. **Pair 4 is correct:** Multimodal logistics parks integrate transport modes and logistics activities to improve freight efficiency.

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Q9.

Which of the following best explains the economic significance of developing high-speed expressway corridors connecting major urban and industrial centres?

A. They eliminate the need for rail-based freight transportation.

B. They reduce spatial economic disparities automatically, irrespective of regional planning.

C. They reduce logistics costs and travel time, improve market access and encourage the development of economic clusters.

D. They primarily increase government revenue through toll collection rather than supporting productive economic activity.

Correct answer: Option C — They reduce logistics costs and travel time, improve market access and encourage the development of economic clusters.

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Explanation

Correct Answer: (c) — Expressways improve connectivity and reduce transport-related economic costs.

1. **Logistics efficiency:** Faster movement of goods reduces travel time, fuel consumption and inventory costs.
2. **Market integration:** Improved connectivity expands access to suppliers, consumers and industrial markets.
3. **Economic clusters:** Expressways can encourage industrial corridors, warehousing hubs and logistics parks.
4. **Regional development:** Their benefits are not automatic; complementary investments and balanced spatial planning are

necessary to prevent concentration of growth in already-developed regions.

Q10.

With reference to El Niño and its implications for the Indian monsoon, consider the following statements:

1. El Niño involves an abnormal warming of the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.
2. El Niño generally weakens the Walker circulation and can influence rainfall patterns across the tropics.
3. Every El Niño event necessarily results in deficient monsoon rainfall in India.
4. Changes in sea-surface temperatures in the Pacific can influence agricultural productivity in India through their impact on monsoon variability.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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A. 1, 2 and 4 only

B. 1 and 3 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

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

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — 1, 2 and 4 only

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** El Niño is characterised by abnormal warming of sea-surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** El Niño weakens the normal Walker circulation, altering atmospheric pressure, convection and rainfall distribution.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** El Niño increases the probability of a weaker Indian monsoon but does not guarantee deficient rainfall. Other oceanic and atmospheric factors also influence monsoon performance.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** Monsoon variability affects irrigation availability, crop selection, sowing patterns and agricultural output.

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