

FREE EXTRACT

General Studies Previous Year Questions

Three questions from inside the book, with the explanation written out as it appears throughout. Nothing here is abridged for the sample.

1

Which one of the following rivers meets the Ganga outside the territory of Uttar Pradesh?

- (A) Ramganga
- (B) Gomti
- (C) Tamsa (Tons)
- (D) Ghaghara

Answer: (D) Ghaghara

The Ghaghara rises in the Tibetan Himalaya, gathers volume in Nepal as the Karnali, and enters Uttar Pradesh in the Bahraich tract before flowing past Ayodhya and Ballia; it finally joins the Ganga near Revelganj, in the Saran district of Bihar, so its confluence lies beyond the state. The other three all end within Uttar Pradesh: the Ramganga joins the Ganga near Kannauj, the Tamsa or Tons at Sirsa in Prayagraj district, and the Gomti at Kaithi in Ghazipur district. A useful way to hold this in memory is that the Ghaghara is the largest tributary of the Ganga by volume, and big Himalayan tributaries tend to travel a long way east before surrendering. Examiners in this paper are fond of confluence towns rather than river sources, so learn the meeting point along with the river name. Do not confuse the Ghaghara with the Gandak and the Kosi, which also join the Ganga in Bihar, or with the Sarayu, which is the local name for the Ghaghara itself in the Ayodhya stretch.

2

Consider the following statements regarding the Legislative Council of a State:

- 1. It can be created or abolished only if the Legislative Assembly of the State passes a resolution to that effect by a special majority.**
- 2. Its total strength shall not exceed one-third of the total strength of the Legislative Assembly of that State and shall in no case be less than forty.**
- 3. Members elected by the electorates of graduates and of teachers together form one-third of the total strength of the Council.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (A) 1 and 2 only

Uttar Pradesh is one of the few states that still has a Vidhan Parishad, so this topic returns to the paper regularly. Under Article 169 Parliament may create or abolish a Council, but only after the Assembly concerned passes a resolution supported by a majority of its total membership and by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting, which makes statement 1 correct; note also that such a law is expressly not treated as a constitutional amendment under Article 368. Article 171 fixes the ceiling at one-third of the Assembly's strength with a floor of forty, so statement 2 is correct. Statement 3 misstates the composition: graduates elect one-twelfth and teachers elect another one-twelfth, so the two together account for one-sixth, not one-third. The remaining seats go one-third to electorates of local authorities, one-third to members elected by the MLAs, and one-sixth to persons nominated by the Governor for their standing in literature, science, art, the co-operative movement or social service. Remember the fractions as one-third, one-third, one-twelfth, one-twelfth and one-sixth, and half the questions on this article answer themselves.

3

Arrange the following events in the correct chronological order and select the answer from the code given below:

1. Kakori train action
2. Formation of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association
3. Chauri Chaura incident
4. Arrival of the Simon Commission in India

(A) 3, 1, 4, 2

(B) 1, 3, 2, 4

(C) 3, 4, 1, 2

(D) 1, 3, 4, 2

Answer: (A) 3, 1, 4, 2

Chauri Chaura, in Gorakhpur district, came first, on 4 February 1922, and Gandhi's withdrawal of the Non-Cooperation Movement soon afterwards left a generation of young volunteers without a programme. Out of that vacuum grew the revolutionary strand, whose most famous action was the stopping of a train at Kakori near Lucknow on 9 August 1925, for which Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Roshan Singh and Rajendra Lahiri were later hanged. The Simon Commission, appointed in late 1927 without a single Indian member, landed at Bombay on 3 February 1928 and was met everywhere by black flags and the cry of go back. Later that year, in September 1928, the survivors and successors of the earlier revolutionary group met at the Feroz Shah Kotla ruins in Delhi and reconstituted themselves as the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, adding the word socialist to mark a shift in aims. Two of these four events took place on Uttar Pradesh soil, which is exactly why this cluster is a favourite with the paper setters, and the safest way to fix the sequence is to anchor the two 1928 events to the months of February and September.

The full book

Every question from the papers, each explained like this.