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OPSC OCS Pre Previous Year Question

FREE DEMO

20 Selected Questions (2015 – 2025) with Full Solutions

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OPSC OCS PRE – 20 SELECTED PYQ

Hand-picked from OPSC OCS Prelims GS Paper-I and Paper-II of 2015 to 2025 – 7 Easy, 9 Moderate and 4 Hard, with the same step-by-step solutions you get in the full pack.

EASY QUESTIONS

Q-1 The only landlocked country in south-east Asia is :
[OPSC OCS Pre 2023 GS P-I]
(A) Laos
(B) Thailand
(C) Vietnam
(D) Cambodia

Ans- (A) Laos

Explanation: **Laos** is the only **landlocked** country in **South-East Asia**, which means it has no sea coast. Its capital is **Vientiane**, and the **Mekong** river runs along much of its western border. It has borders with **five** countries: China, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Key Points:
✦ *ASEAN:* **Laos joined on 23 July 1997**
✦ *Rail link:* **China-Laos railway opened on 3 December 2021**
✦ *Official name:* **Lao People's Democratic Republic**

Other Options:
(B) Thailand — It has a long sea coast on the **Gulf of Thailand** and the **Andaman Sea**.
(C) Vietnam — Its coast on the **South China Sea** is about **3,260 km** long.
(D) Cambodia — Its port **Sihanoukville** is on the **Gulf of Thailand**.

Q-2 Myopia, also known as near-sightedness, can be corrected by use of :
[OPSC OCS Pre 2015 GS P-I]
(A) Convex lens
(B) Concave lens
(C) Plane lens
(D) Magnifying lens

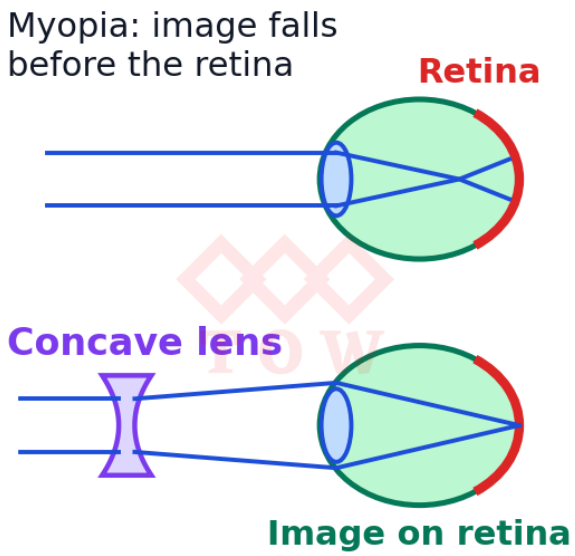
Ans-(B) Concave lens

Explanation: **Myopia** (near-sightedness) is corrected by a **concave lens**. A myopic person sees **near things clearly** but **far things look blurred**. This happens because the **eyeball is too long** or the eye lens bends light too much. So the image

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of a far object forms **in front of the retina**. A concave lens **spreads the rays out**, so the eye lens now forms the image **on the retina**.



Key Points:

✦ *Power of a concave lens:* **negative, written in D (dioptre), for example −2 D**

✦ *Normal near point of the eye:* **25 cm**

✦ *Other name of a concave lens:* **spreading lens (diverging lens)**

💡 **Memory Hook:** Myopia = Minus lens.

Other Options:

(A) Convex lens — It **brings rays together** and corrects **far-sightedness** (hypermetropia), where near things look blurred.

(C) Plane lens — It has **flat faces** and **no power to bend light**, so it does not change the focus of the eye.

(D) Magnifying lens — It is a **convex lens** of short focal length that shows **small things bigger**, such as print or a stamp.

Q-3 Who among these was not a member of the Cabinet Mission ?

[OPSC OCS Pre 2017 GS P-I]

(A) A. V. Alexander

(B) Archibald Wavell

(C) Stafford Cripps

(D) Pethick Lawrence

Ans-(B) Archibald Wavell

Explanation: **Archibald Wavell** was not in the **Cabinet Mission**. He was the **Viceroy** of India (**1943–47**). The Cabinet Mission came in **March 1946** and had three British ministers: **Pethick-Lawrence**, **Stafford Cripps** and **A. V. Alexander**. It

gave its plan on **16 May 1946**. The plan asked for a **Union of India** and a **Constituent Assembly**.

Key Points:

✦ *Muslim League's reply:* **Direct Action Day, 16 August 1946**
✦ *Constituent Assembly seats:* **389**
✦ *Next Viceroy:* **Lord Mountbatten, March 1947**

Other Options:

(A) A. V. Alexander — He was a member, and in the British cabinet he was the **First Lord of the Admiralty**.
(C) Stafford Cripps — He was a member, and he had come earlier with the **Cripps Mission** of **1942**.
(D) Pethick Lawrence — He was the head of the mission, as **Secretary of State for India**.

Q-4 Which one of the following persons is the First Lokpal of India ?

[OPSC OCS Pre 2019 GS P-I]

(A) Ranjan Gogoi
(B) T. S. Thakur
(C) Pinaki Chandra Ghose
(D) Madan Lokur

Ans-(C) Pinaki Chandra Ghose

Explanation: **Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose**, a retired **Supreme Court** judge, became the **first Lokpal of India**. President **Ram Nath Kovind** gave him the oath on **23 March 2019** in Delhi. The **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013** had been passed years earlier, and it came into force on **16 January 2014**. The Lokpal looks into **corruption** complaints against public servants, including the **Prime Minister** with some limits. **Update: Justice A. M. Khanwilkar** was named the Lokpal chairperson in **February 2024**.

Key Points:

✦ *Selection panel:* **headed by the Prime Minister**
✦ *Idea first proposed:* **L. M. Singhvi, 1963**
✦ *First ARC:* **1966 asked for Lokpal and Lokayukta**

Other Options:

(A) Ranjan Gogoi — He was the **46th Chief Justice of India** from **3 October 2018** to **17 November 2019**.
(B) T. S. Thakur — He was the **43rd Chief Justice of India** from **3 December 2015** to **3 January 2017**.
(D) Madan Lokur — He was a **Supreme Court judge** from **2012** to **December 2018** and later became a judge of **Fiji's Supreme Court**.

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Q-5 In a certain code TEACHER is written as VGCEJGT. How is CHILDREN written in that code ?

[OPSC OCS Pre 2016 GS P-II]

(A) EJKNEGTP
(B) EGKNFITP
(C) EJKNFGTO
(D) EJKNFTGP

Ans- (D) EJKNFTGP

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STEP 1 Find the rule

Each letter of TEACHER moves 2 places forward in A to Z.

T	E	A	C	H	E	R
+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2
V	G	C	E	J	G	T

T → U → V, E → F → G, A → B → C

STEP 2 Apply to CHILDREN

C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N
+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2
E	J	K	N	F	T	G	P

D → E → F, R → S → T, E → F → G

HINT: Three options start with EJKN. Look at letters 5 and 6: D + 2 = F and R + 2 = T, so the code has FT there.

FINAL ANSWER: EJKNFTGP

Q-6 Pointing towards a person, a man said to a woman, "His mother is the only daughter of your father." How is the woman related to that person ?

[OPSC OCS Pre 2016 GS P-II]

(A) Daughter
(B) Sister
(C) Mother
(D) Wife

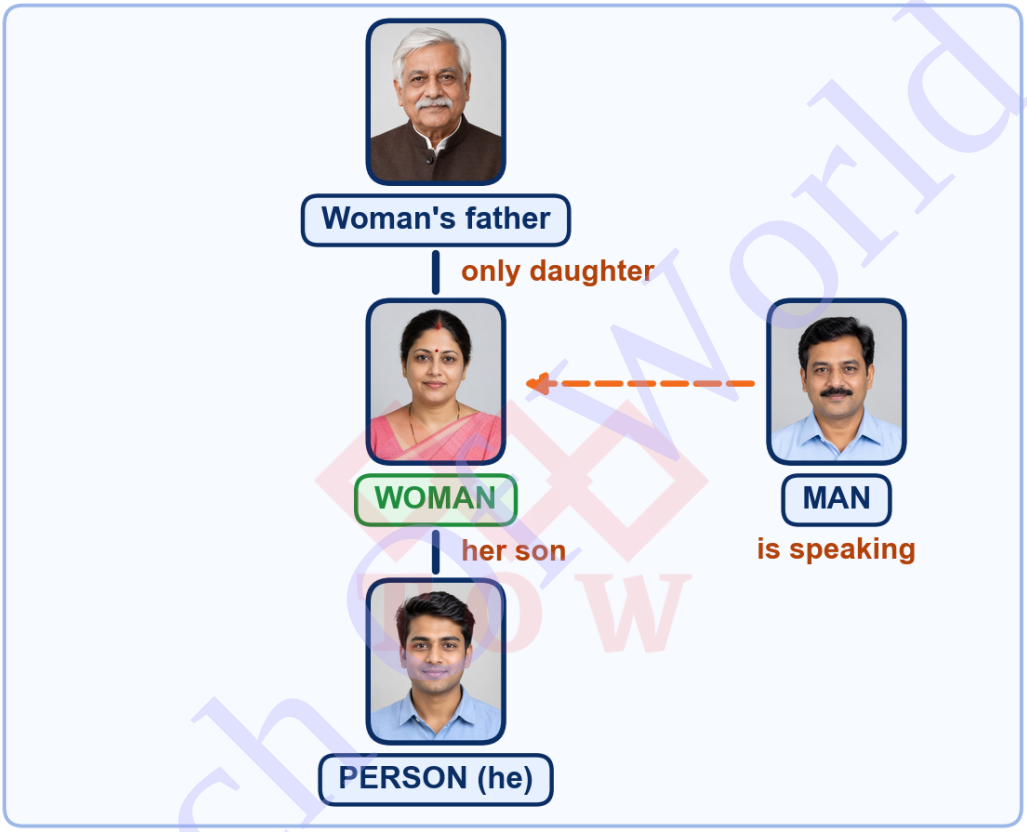


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Ans- (C) Mother

STEP 1 Read the clue

The man speaks TO the woman: "the only daughter of your father". Her father's only daughter is the woman herself.



STEP 2 Answer

"His mother is the woman." So the woman is the MOTHER of that person.

HINT: **"Only daughter of your father", said to a woman, always means that woman herself.**

FINAL ANSWER: Mother

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Q-7 A man is facing North-West. He turns 90° in the clock wise direction, then 180° in the anticlockwise direction and then 90° in the same direction. Which direction is he facing now?

[OPSC OCS Pre 2024 GS P-II]

(A) South
(B) South-West
(C) West
(D) South-East

Ans- (D) South-East

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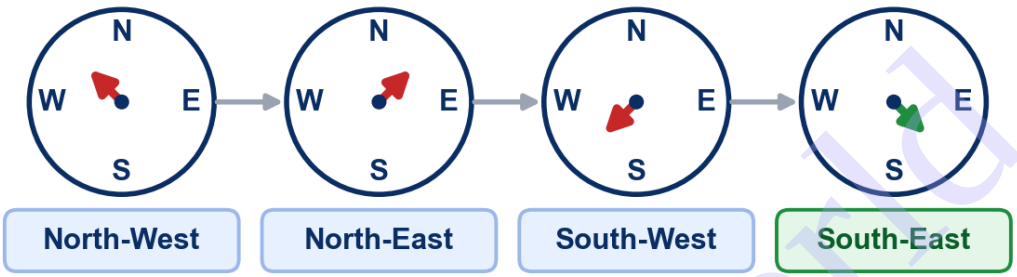
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The man starts facing North-West.

Clockwise = turn to his right.

Anticlockwise = turn to his left.



1. Start: he faces North-West.
2. 90° clockwise: North-West → North-East.
3. 180° anticlockwise: North-East → South-West.
4. 'Same direction' = anticlockwise again.
5. 90° anticlockwise: South-West → South-East.

Net turn = +90° − 180° − 90° = −180°

(a half turn, so he faces the opposite way)

HINT: North-West and South-East are opposite directions. A half turn takes you from one to the other.

FINAL ANSWER: South-East

MODERATE QUESTIONS

Q-8 If interest payments are subtracted from gross fiscal deficit, the remainder will be :

[OPSC OCS Pre 2015 GS P-I]

(A) Revenue deficit

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(B) Gross primary deficit
(C) Capital deficit
(D) Budgetary deficit

Ans-(B) Gross primary deficit

Explanation: If **interest payments** are taken out of the **gross fiscal deficit**, what remains is the **gross primary deficit**. The fiscal deficit shows the **total money the government must borrow** in a year. The primary deficit shows the borrowing needed for the **new spending** of the year, as interest on old loans is left out. So: **Primary deficit = Fiscal deficit − Interest payments**.

Key Points:
✦ Fiscal deficit: total spending minus **revenue receipts** and non-debt capital receipts
✦ Law: the **FRBM Act, 2003** set a goal of **3 per cent** of GDP for the fiscal deficit
✦ If the primary deficit is **zero**, borrowing is only to pay **interest**
💡 **Memory Hook:** Fiscal minus Interest = Primary.

Other Options:
(A) Revenue deficit — Revenue deficit is **revenue spending** minus **revenue receipts**; it shows a gap in the day-to-day account.
(C) Capital deficit — Capital deficit is the gap in the **capital account**, which is capital spending minus capital receipts.
(D) Budgetary deficit — Budgetary deficit was the gap between **total spending** and **total receipts**; it was dropped after **1997-98**.

Q-9 The "Montreaux Record" is a register of :

[OPSC OCS Pre 2019 GS P-I]

(A) Invasive alien species and their ecological hazard outside their native environment
(B) Wetland sites under the threats of anthropogenic activities
(C) Endangered species of tropical and sub-tropical fauna
(D) Coastal cities under direct threat of consequences of global warming

Ans-(B) Wetland sites under the threats of anthropogenic activities

Explanation: The **Montreux Record** is a list of **wetland sites** under the **Ramsar Convention**. These are sites where nature has changed, or may change, because of **human activity** such as pollution or too much water use. It was set up in **1990** at a Ramsar meeting held in **Montreux, Switzerland**. Two Indian sites are on it now: **Keoladeo National Park** in Rajasthan and **Loktak Lake** in Manipur. The list helps the country give **special attention** to save these sites.

Key Points:
✦ *Treaty:* signed on **2 February 1971** at **Ramsar, Iran**

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✦ *India joined:* **1982**
✦ *Chilika:* listed in **1993** and taken off in **2002** after the silt problem was solved

Other Options:
(A) Invasive alien species — These are plants or animals taken to a new place, and the **IUCN** lists the **"100 worst"** ones.
(C) Endangered species — The **IUCN Red List**, started in **1964**, gives the status of threatened species.
(D) Coastal cities — The **IPCC**, set up in **1988**, reports how **sea-level rise** from global warming threatens coastal cities.

Q-10 In which Article of Indian Constitution the 'Doctrine of Estoppel' is found _____?

[OPSC OCS Pre 2025 GS P-I]

(A) Art. 115
(B) Art. 117
(C) Art. 123
(D) None of the Article in the Constitution

Ans- (D) None of the Article in the Constitution

Explanation: No Article of the **Constitution** names the **Doctrine of Estoppel**. It comes from **Section 115** of the **Indian Evidence Act, 1872**, now **Section 121** of the **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023**. It stops a person from going back on what he made another person believe. **Promissory estoppel** is a court-made rule used against the Government in **Motilal Padampat Sugar Mills (1979)**.

Key Points:
✦ *Estoppel sections in BSA:* **Sections 121 to 123**
✦ *English roots:* **High Trees case, 1947**
✦ *BSA in force from:* **1 July 2024**

Other Options:
(A) Art. 115 — It deals with **supplementary, additional or excess grants** of the Union.
(B) Art. 117 — It sets special rules for **Financial Bills**.
(C) Art. 123 — It gives the **President** power to issue **Ordinances** when Parliament is not sitting.

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Q-11 The Mughal school of painting is characterised by
(i) Miniature paintings

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(ii) Excellency in portrait painting and color composition
(iii) Keen appreciation of nature
(iv) Democratic and popular in content
(v) Courtly and aristocratic in content
(vi) Secular and materialistic
(vii) Spiritual and mystic
Choose the answer from the codes below:
[OPSC OCS Pre 2025 GS P-I]
(A) i, ii, iii, iv and v
(B) i, ii, iii, v and vi
(C) ii, iii, iv, v and vi
(D) ii, iv and vi only

Ans- (B) i, ii, iii, v and vi

Explanation: The **Mughal school** grew at the royal court from the time of **Akbar** and mixed **Persian** and **Indian** styles. Its pictures are **miniatures**, made for books and for albums called **muraqqa** (picture albums). Artists drew fine **portraits** in rich **colours**. Under **Jahangir** the artist **Ustad Mansur** became famous for pictures of **birds and animals**, which shows love of **nature**. The themes were the **court** and **worldly** life.

Key Points:
✦ *First masters:* **Mir Sayyid Ali and Abdus Samad (from Persia, under Humayun)**
✦ *Big early work:* **Hamzanama (made under Akbar)**
✦ *Decline:* **Aurangzeb cut royal support**

Statements:
I. ✓ True — The paintings are **miniatures**, small in size.
II. ✓ True — Artists were very good at **portraits** and **colour** mixing.
III. ✓ True — Birds, flowers and animals were drawn with **close observation**.
IV. ✗ False — It was not for common people; it was **court art**.
V. ✓ True — It showed **royal** and **noble** life.
VI. ✓ True — Its themes were **worldly** and **secular**.
VII. ✗ False — It was not **spiritual** or **mystic** in nature.

Q-12 If a man takes 5 minutes to go round a circle of circumference 44 meters, how long he would take to cover a distance equal to the distance of its diameter?
[OPSC OCS Pre 2020 GS P-II]
(A) $\frac{5}{22}$ minutes

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(B) $\frac{15}{22}$ minutes

(C) $\frac{25}{22}$ minutes

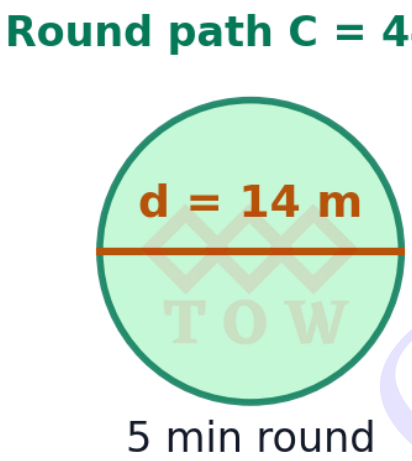
(D) $\frac{35}{22}$ minutes

Ans- (D) $\frac{35}{22}$ minutes

Given:

➔ Circumference = 44 m. Time to go round = 5 minutes.

➔ Distance to cover = diameter d of the circle.



Concept:

➔ Circumference $= \pi d, \quad \pi = \frac{22}{7}$

➔ The man walks at a steady speed, so time is in the same ratio as distance.

Solution:

$\rightarrow \ 44 = \frac{22}{7} \times d$

$\Rightarrow \ d = 14 \text{ m}$

$\rightarrow \ \frac{\text{Time}}{5} = \frac{14}{44}$

$\Rightarrow \ \text{Time} = \frac{5 \times 14}{44} = \frac{35}{22}$ minutes

∴ Ans: (D) $\frac{35}{22}$ minutes

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Direction : Each question given below has a problem and two statements numbered (I) and (II) giving certain information. You have to decide whether the data provided in the statements are sufficient to solve the problem. Select the correct one out of the four given alternatives — A, B, C and D that is needed to answer the question.

Q-13 What is the monthly salary of Alok ?

Statements :

(I) Alok gets 15% more than Sumit while Sumit gets 10% less than Raman.

(II) Raman's monthly salary is Rs. 2,500.

[OPSC OCS Pre 2018 GS P-II]

(A) The data in (I) alone are sufficient to answer the question
(B) The data in (II) alone are sufficient to answer the question
(C) The data either in (I) or (II) alone are sufficient to answer the question
(D) The data in both (I) and (II) together are sufficient to answer the question

Ans- (D) The data in both (I) and (II) together are sufficient to answer the question

Given:

➔ Statement (I): Alok $= 115\%$ of Sumit, Sumit $= 90\%$ of Raman

➔ Statement (II): Raman $= 2500$

Concept:

➔ $\text{Alok} = \frac{115}{100} \times \frac{90}{100} \times \text{Raman}$

Solution:

→ Statement (I) alone: Alok is 1.035 times Raman, but Raman is not known. So (I) alone is not enough.

→ Statement (II) alone: it gives only Raman. It does not link to Alok. So (II) alone is not enough.

→ Both together: Alok $= 1.035 \times 2500 = 2587.5$. So the answer can be found.

∴ Ans: (D) The data in both (I) and (II) together are sufficient to answer the question

Q-14 The sum of squares of two numbers is 146. If the square of their difference is 36, then the product of both the numbers is

[OPSC OCS Pre 2023 GS P-II]

(A) 72
(B) 160
(C) 55
(D) 16

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Ans- (C) 55

Given:
➔ $a^2 + b^2 = 146,\ \ (a-b)^2 = 36$

Concept:
➔ $(a-b)^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab$

Solution:
→ $36 = 146 - 2ab$
⇒ $2ab = 110$
⇒ $ab = 55$
∴ Ans: (C) 55

Hint:
➔ Check: the numbers are 11 and 5.
⇒ $11^2 + 5^2 = 146,\ \ (11-5)^2 = 36,\ \ 11 \times 5 = 55$

Q-15 A bank lends a sum of ₹ 1,500 partly at 3% and partly at 5% per annum simple interest to a person. Total interest received after 3 years was ₹ 180. Find the ratio of the money lent at 3% to that lent at 5%.
[OPSC OCS Pre 2025 GS P-II]
(A) 1 : 1
(B) 3 : 2
(C) 1 : 2
(D) 3 : 5

Ans- (A) 1 : 1

Given:
➔ $\text{Sum} = 1500,\quad \text{Rates} = 3\%,\ 5\%,\quad t = 3\ \text{years},\quad \text{SI} = 180$
➔ x = sum at 3%, y = sum at 5%.
Concept:
➔ $\text{SI} = \dfrac{P \times R \times T}{100}$
➔ $\text{Mean rate} = \dfrac{\text{SI} \times 100}{\text{Sum} \times T}$
➔ Alligation: parts ratio = (higher rate − mean) : (mean − lower rate).
Solution:
→ $\text{Mean rate} = \dfrac{180 \times 100}{1500 \times 3} = 4\%$
→ $x : y = (5-4) : (4-3)$

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$\Rightarrow \ x : y = 1 : 1$

→ Check: 750 at 3% and 750 at 5% give $\frac{750 \times 8 \times 3}{100} = 180.$

∴ Ans: (A) 1: 1

Q-16 A group of 10 excellent students in a college consists of 6 boys and 4 girls. A team of 4 students is to be selected for a quiz program. The probability that 2 are boys and 2 are girls is :

[OPSC OCS Pre 2021 GS P-II]

(A) $\frac{3}{7}$

(B) $\frac{9}{20}$

(C) $\frac{1}{2}$

(D) $\frac{3}{10}$

Ans-(A) $\frac{3}{7}$

Given:

➔ 10 students: 6 boys and 4 girls.

➔ Choose 4 students. We want 2 boys and 2 girls.

Concept:

➔ $P(\text{event}) = \frac{\text{favourable (wanted) ways}}{\text{total ways}}$

➔ Ways to choose r from $n = {}^{n}C_{r}$

Solution:

→ Total ways $= {}^{10}C_4 = 210$

→ Favourable ways $= {}^{6}C_2 \times {}^{4}C_2 = 15 \times 6 = 90$

→ $P = \frac{90}{210} = \frac{3}{7}$

∴ Ans: (A) $\frac{3}{7}$

HARD QUESTIONS

Q-17 Which of the following Ashokan inscriptions indicates that he did not abolish the Capital Punishment ?

[OPSC OCS Pre 2019 GS P-I]

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(A) Minor Rock Edict I
(B) Pillar Edict IV
(C) Rock Edict XIII
(D) Separate Kalinga Edict

Ans-(B) Pillar Edict IV

Explanation: **Pillar Edict IV** was written **26 years** after **Ashoka's** crowning. It says that the judges can still give the **death sentence**, but the prisoners get **three days' time** before it is carried out. In this time, their family can ask for mercy or the prisoner can pray and give gifts. So **capital punishment** was not ended.

Key Points:
✦ *Pillar Edicts*: 7 in number, found on pillars such as Delhi-Topra
✦ *Language and script*: Prakrit in Brahmi
✦ *Rajukas*: officers who got more power to judge, as written in this edict

Other Options:
(A) Minor Rock Edict I — It tells about Ashoka's own **Dhamma** and how his effort grew after he became a **lay follower** of Buddhism.
(C) Rock Edict XIII — It describes the **Kalinga War**, in which about **1,00,000** people were killed and **1,50,000** were taken away.
(D) Separate Kalinga Edict — It was set up at **Dhauli** and **Jaugada** and says that all people are **like my children**.

Q-18 Fill in the blank :
_____ is an excavated site in Orissa which yielded faceted hoes, chisels, pounders, mace heads, and grinding stones.
[OPSC OCS Pre 2021 GS P-I]
(A) Sulabhdihi
(B) Golbai Sasan
(C) Kuchai
(D) Baidapur

Ans- (C) Kuchai

Explanation: **Kuchai** is a **Neolithic** (New Stone Age) site in the **Mayurbhanj** district of Odisha. Its dig gave **faceted hoes** (hoes with flat cut faces), **chisels**, **pounders**, **mace heads** and **grinding stones**. These tools show that people were moving from hunting to **growing food**.

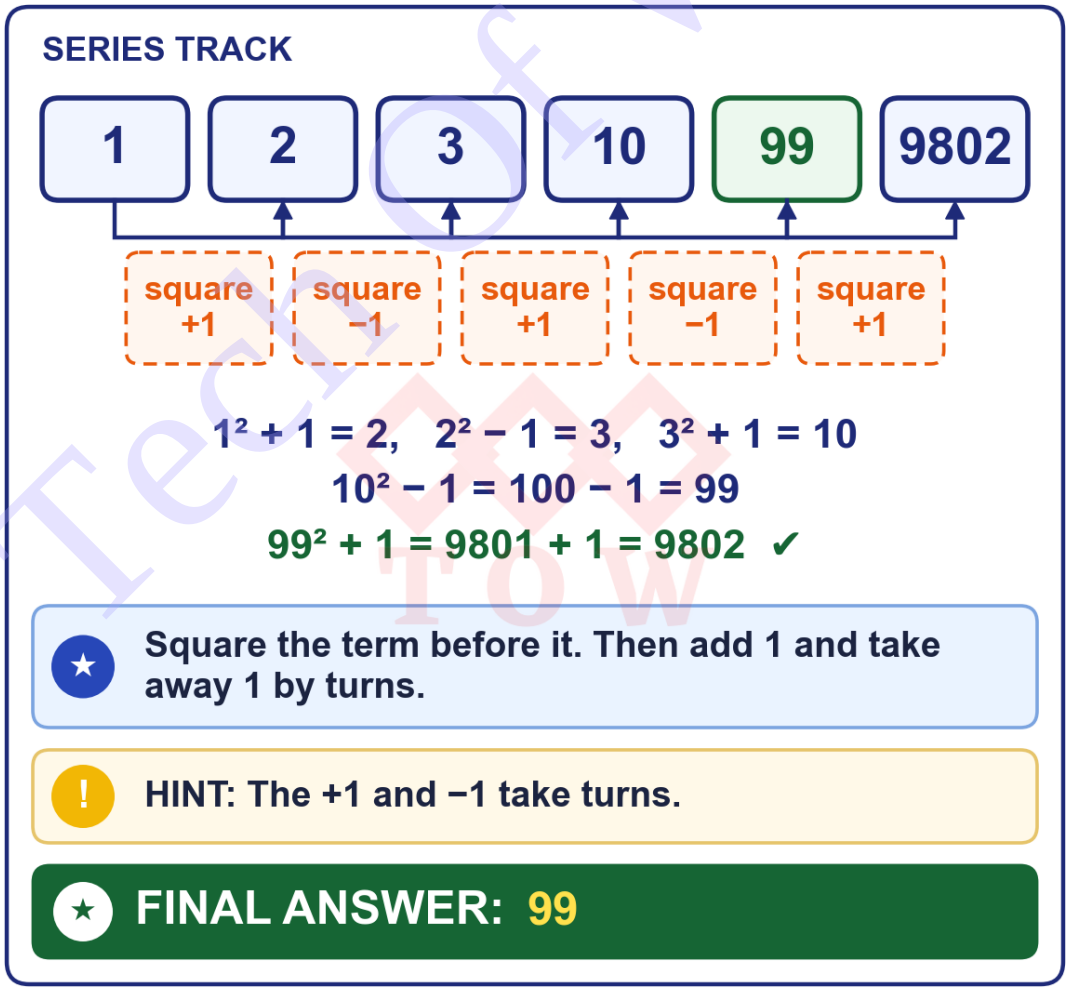
Key Points:
✦ *Dug by:* **Archaeological Survey of India**
✦ *Other find:* **polished butt-end celts (stone axes)**
✦ *Comes after:* **the Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) phase**

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Other Options:
(A) Sulabhdihi — It is known as a place where **celts** (polished stone axes) were made, in the Neolithic belt of northern **Odisha**.
(B) Golbai Sasan — It is a village in **Khurda** district with **Neolithic-Chalcolithic** layers; its **adzes** show boat-building near **Chilika**.
(D) Baidyapur — Its **stone tools** were reported to the ASI by **Paramananda Acharya** in **1923-24**.

Q-19 Find the missing number in the series :
1, 2, 3, 10, ?, 9802
[OPSC OCS Pre 2018 GS P-II]
(A) 99
(B) 199
(C) 299
(D) 999

Ans- (A) 99



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Q-20 The following table gives the percentage profit earned by two companies A and B over six years. Answer the question given below:

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
A	25	45	35	50	30	40
B	40	35	50	45	40	45

If the income of Company B in 2010 and 2011 were in the ratio of 2 : 3 respectively, then what was the ratio of expenditures of that company in these two years?

[OPSC OCS Pre 2022 GS P-II]

(A) 9 : 12
(B) 10 : 29
(C) 20 : 27
(D) 29 : 45

Ans- (D) 29 : 45

Given:

➔ Company B profit: $2010 = 50\%, 2011 = 45\%$

➔ Income ratio (2010 : 2011) $= 2:3$

Concept:

➔ $\text{Income} = \text{Expenditure} \times \left(1 + \frac{\text{Profit\%}}{100}\right)$

$\Rightarrow \text{Expenditure} = \frac{\text{Income}}{1 + \frac{\text{Profit\%}}{100}}$

Solution:

→ Take incomes $2k$ and $3k$.

→ $\text{Expenditure}_{2010} = \frac{2k}{1.50}, \quad \text{Expenditure}_{2011} = \frac{3k}{1.45}$

→ $\text{Ratio} = \frac{2}{1.50} : \frac{3}{1.45} = \frac{4}{3} : \frac{60}{29} = 29:45$

∴ Ans: (D) 29 : 45

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