

Q: In trade agreements, the 'negative listing' refers to which of the following?

- The list containing prohibited goods and services.
- List of goods and services with highest tax and tariffs.
- The list of items which have negative externalities when traded.
- The list of sectors in which countries do not agree to liberalize trade.

Ans: d

Explanation:

- In trade agreements, the negative listing approach is a method for defining market access commitments.
- Instead of listing sectors and sub-sectors where both countries agree to liberalize trade, only those sectors/sub-sectors with limitations or exclusions are explicitly listed under the negative list.
- All other sectors are assumed to be open to trade with the agreed-upon terms.

Q: With reference to the Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS), consider the following statements:

- The grouping was formalized during the 1st meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers on the margins of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 2006.
- South Africa was inducted in 2010 and from there on it has been referred to as BRICS.
- Argentina became a part of the group in 2023.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct:** BRICS is an acronym that refers to a group of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. As a formal grouping, BRIC started after the meeting of the Leaders of Russia, India and China in St. Petersburg on the margins of the G8 Outreach Summit in 2006.
- The grouping was formalized during the 1st meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers on the margins of UNGA in New York in 2006.
- The success of the meet led to the crystallisation of an annual summit under the aegis of BRIC.
- Statement 2 is correct:** Initially, the grouping was termed BRIC as South Africa was inducted in 2010 and from there on it has been referred to as BRICS.
- Statement 3 is incorrect:** Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates have joined BRICS as new full members. It was done as per the decision adopted by the 15th BRICS Summit in 2022. A proposal to admit six countries, including Argentina, into the bloc with effect from January 1. Argentina's new President announced withdrawing his country from becoming a member of the BRICS.

Q: With reference to the Cyber Crimes, consider the following statements:

- It refers to criminal activities that involve the use of computers, networks, and digital technologies.
- Malware is an attempt to acquire sensitive information, such as usernames, passwords, and financial details.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: a

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Cybercrime refers to criminal activities that involve the use of computers, networks, and digital technologies. It encompasses a wide range of illicit activities conducted in the virtual space, often with the intent to compromise, damage, or gain unauthorized access to computer systems, networks, and data.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Malware: Malicious software designed to disrupt, damage, or gain unauthorized access to computer systems. This includes viruses, worms, trojans, ransomware, and spyware. Deceptive attempts to acquire sensitive information, such as usernames, passwords, and financial details, by posing as a trustworthy entity.

Q: With reference to palm oil, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The oil palm tree is native to West and Central Africa.
2. India is the largest exporter of palm oil in Asia.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: a

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Palm Oil is an edible vegetable oil that comes from the fruit of oil palm trees, having the scientific name *Elaeis guineensis*. The oil palm tree is native to West and Central Africa. It also grows extensively in Malaysia and Indonesia.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** India is the largest importer of palm oil in Asia. India buys palm oil mainly from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

Q: Consider the following statements with reference to the PRERANA program.

1. It is an experiential learning for developing leadership qualities in students of class VI to XII.
2. It is a week-long residential program that has been launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

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

Ans: d

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** PRERANA program is a week-long residential program for selected students of class IX to XII. The Ministry of Education has launched the 'Prerana' program. It is an experiential and inspirational learning program for students with the best-in-class technology where heritage meets innovation. A batch of 20 selected students (10 boys and 10 girls) will attend the program every week from various parts of the country.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It will run from a Vernacular School, established in 1888, in one of the oldest living cities of India, Vadnagar, district Mehsana, Gujarat. It will feature yoga, mindfulness, and meditation sessions, followed by experiential learning, thematic sessions, and hands-on interesting learning activities.