

Q: Consider the following statement regarding trade subsidies of WTO:

1. Green box are policies that are not restricted by the trade agreement.
2. Amber box is used for all domestic support measures considered to distort production and trade.
3. Blue box is not the direct payment under a production limiting program.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: a

Explanation:

- Agriculture-related subsidies that fit in WTO's green box are policies that are not restricted by the trade agreement because they are not considered trade distorting.
- To qualify for the green box, WTO says a subsidy must not distort trade, or at most cause minimal distortion.
- These green box subsidies must be government-funded — not by charging consumers higher prices, and they must not involve price support. They tend to be programs that are not directed at particular products, and they may include direct income supports for farmers that are decoupled from current production levels and/or prices, reports the Information and Media Relations Division of the World Trade Organization.
- Agriculture's amber box, according to the WTO, is used for all domestic support measures considered to distort production and trade.
- Included in the blue box are any support payments that are not subject to the amber box reduction agreement because they are direct payments under a production limiting program.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Mangrove Pitta birds:

1. They are only found in few areas of western India.
2. They are nearly threatened species.
3. They are found in coastal mangrove forests of India.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Mangrove pitta birds are a **nearly threatened species** found in a few pockets of eastern India, including Bhitarkanika in Odisha and the Sundarbans in West Bengal.
- The mangrove pitta is found in coastal mangrove forests of India, foraging on the ground and resting on the trees.

Q: Consider the following statement North Pacific Subtropical Gyre (NPSG):

1. They are located just north of equator in the Pacific Ocean.
2. It consists of the Kuroshio, North Pacific, California, and North Equatorial currents and moves in a clockwise direction.

Choose the correct option from the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Ans: c

Explanation:

- The North Pacific Subtropical Gyre (NPSG) is one such, located just north of the equator in the Pacific Ocean.
- It consists of the Kuroshio, North Pacific, California, and North Equatorial currents and moves in a clockwise direction.
- These currents flow adjacent to 51 Pacific Rim countries. Any trash that enters one of these currents, from any of these countries, could become part of the gyre.

Q: Consider the following:

1. Brick jalis for ventilation
2. Terracotta tiles

3. Using cleaner cooking fuels

Which among the following could be the possible measures for reducing the urban heat island effects?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: d

Explanation:

Reducing the urban heat island effect:

- This will require a push for greater usage of permeable materials in civic infrastructure and residential construction and enhancing natural landscapes in urban areas.
- Urban layouts such as brick jalis for ventilation and terracotta tiles to allow hot air to escape, and curbs on anthropogenic heat emissions from vehicles, factories, etc. may be considered.
- Urban building standards should be upgraded to avoid usage of heat-absorbent galvanized iron and metal roof sheets.
- Additionally, using cleaner cooking fuels will reduce indoor air pollution, which may also help reduce urban heat.
- Streets with low ventilation may need further expansion, or an increase in natural vegetation.
- Other measures can also be considered – from embracing public transportation, to reducing personal vehicle usage and, most importantly, reducing the size of landfills.

Q: Consider the following statements with respect to Sudan:

- 1. It is a landlocked country in Africa.
- 2. It is drained by the Nile River and its tributaries.
- 3. Its capital Khartoum is located where the White Nile and the Blue Nile rivers meet.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 2 and 3 only
- b) 1 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: a

Explanation:

- Sudan is a country in Northeast Africa.
- It is bordered with the Chad to the west, Egypt to the north, South Sudan to the south and the Red Sea.
- Sudan's capital Khartoum, which is located in the central part of the country where the White Nile and the Blue Nile rivers meet.
- It is mainly composed of vast plains and plateaus that are drained by the Nile River and its tributaries.
- This river system runs from south to north across the entire length of the east-central part of the country.
- The immense plain of which Sudan is composed is bounded on the west by the Nile-Congo watershed and the highlands of Darfur.
- It is covered on the east by the Ethiopian Plateau and the Red Sea Hills.
- Most of northern Sudan is a sand- or gravel-covered desert, diversified by flat-topped mesas of Nubian sandstone and island like steep-sided granite hills.
- The volcanic highlands of the Marrah Mountains rise out of the Darfur Plateau form the Nile-Congo watershed and the western boundary of the clay plain.
- In northeastern Sudan the Red Sea Hills region is an uplifted escarpment that are deeply incised by streams.
- The escarpment overlooks a narrow coastal plain with dunes and coral reefs.
- Farther south the eastern uplands constitute the foothills of the Ethiopian highland massif.
- The climate of Sudan varies with location.
- It is tropical in the south and arid in the north.