

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Walking Leaves:

1. They are insects that look very similar to leaves.
2. Their natural range extends from islands in the Indian Ocean.
3. These insects reproduce asexually.

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:

- Walking Leaves, also called leaf insects, are insects that look very similar to leaves.
- They are any of more than 50 species of flat, usually green insects (order Phasmida or Phasmatodea) that are known for their striking leaflike appearance.
- They feed on plants and typically inhabit densely vegetated areas.
- Their natural range extends from islands in the Indian Ocean, across parts of mainland South Asia and Southeast Asia, to Papua New Guinea and Australia in the western Pacific.
- These insects reproduce sexually, with females laying eggs. The eggs often resemble seeds or plant structures, adding to their camouflage.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Takahe Bird:

1. It is one of the world's rarest creatures native to Turkey
2. The birds had been formally declared extinct in 1898.
3. They live on a high-fibre diet of starchy leaves and seeds.

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:

- Takahe Bird is hailed as one of the world's rarest creatures native to New Zealand.
- They have been an intrinsic part of New Zealand's ecosystem since the prehistoric Pleistocene era, as evidenced by fossil remains.
- Their population nosedived during the late 1800s when European settlers came along with their animal companions— stoats, cats, ferrets and rats.
- The birds had been formally declared extinct in 1898. It was rediscovered in 1948 in several remote valleys on New Zealand's South Island, and their numbers have been steadily growing since then.
- They live on a high-fibre diet of starchy leaves and seeds.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Taiwan Strait:

1. It is wide strait separating the island of Taiwan and continental Asia.
2. Amoy and Kaohsiung are chief ports.

Choose 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:

- Taiwan Strait, also called Formosa Strait, is a 180-kilometre-wide strait separating the island of Taiwan and continental Asia.
- The strait extends from southwest to northeast between the South and East China Seas.
- The narrowest part is 130 km wide.
- It reaches a depth of about 230 feet (70 m) and contains the Pescadores Islands (which are controlled by the government of Taiwan).
- The chief ports are Amoy in mainland China and Kaohsiung in Taiwan.
- Taiwan is an island territory in East Asia, between the East China Sea in the north and the South China Sea in the south.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Ethanol:

1. It is a by-product of the sugar production process.
2. Ethanol is more affordable than petrol.
3. Using ethanol-blended fuel can help reduce our carbon footprint.

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: d

Explanation:

- Ethanol (also called ethyl alcohol or alcohol) is a biofuel with the chemical formula C_2H_5OH .
- It is a by-product of the sugar production process and can be an excellent substitute for petrol as a fuel mix.
- Ethanol is more affordable than petrol, as it can be produced domestically from crops, unlike crude oil, which needs to be imported.
- It is a complex derivative of biomass left by agricultural feedstocks such as corn, sugarcane, hemp (bhang), potato, and rice, among many other things.
- Using ethanol-blended fuel can help reduce our carbon footprint and create a cleaner, healthier environment for future generations.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding Hoolock Gibbon

1. It is native to eastern Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Southwest China.
2. Like all apes, they are extremely intelligent.
3. It is the only ape not found in 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: a

Explanation:

- Hoolock Gibbon is the only ape found in India.
- It is native to eastern Bangladesh, Northeast India, Myanmar, and Southwest China.
- Gibbons, the smallest and fastest of all apes, live in tropical and subtropical forests in the southeastern part of Asia.
- The Hoolock gibbon, unique to India's northeast, is one of 20 species of gibbons on Earth.
- It is categorised into Western Hoolock Gibbon and Eastern Hoolock Gibbon.
- Like all apes, they are extremely intelligent, with distinct personalities and strong family bonds.