

CURRENT AFFAIRS



MCQ PRACTICE

ENVIRONMENT & GEOGRAPHY



# Week 97

THE TUTORS ACADEMY

## QUESTION 1

Umrangso coal reserves were recently in the news. These reserves are located in:

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Assam
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Meghalaya



## QUESTION 2

Which of the following forms part of the coastal ecosystems?

1. Rocky Headlands
2. Lagoons
3. Salt marshes
4. Sand dunes

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 1 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

### QUESTION 3

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is associated with:

- (a) United Nations Environment Programme
- (b) Greenpeace
- (c) European Union
- (d) Global Environment Facility



## QUESTION 4

Which of the following countries are well known as the two largest cocoa producers in the world? (UPSC 2024)

- (a) Algeria and Morocco
- (b) Botswana and Namibia
- (c) Cote d' Ivoire Coast and Ghana
- (d) Madagascar and Mozambique

## QUESTION 5

The 'foot rot' or 'bakanae' disease is associated with:

- (a) Maize
- (b) Cotton
- (c) Wheat
- (d) Rice



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# Week 97

## Answers and Explanations

## QUESTION 1

Umrangso coal reserves were recently in the news. These reserves are located in:

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Assam
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Meghalaya



## 1.Explanation

- ✓ The bodies of five miners who had been trapped and killed in a flooded coal mine in Assam's Dima Hasao in early January were recovered, bringing an end to a 44-day long recovery operation.
- ✓ On January 6, nine miners operating in a rat-hole mine in Dima Hasao's Umrangso coal deposits became trapped when the pit flooded while they were working.
- ✓ The biggest problem was the volume of water that had entered the mine and continued to flow into it via the interconnected network of rat-hole mines nearby, despite efforts to dewater the shaft using pumps. The mine features a central pit with a depth of 310 feet and numerous low and narrow tunnels – known as rat-holes – branching off of it, where the workers operate and dig for coal.
- ✓ Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

## QUESTION 2

Which of the following forms part of the coastal ecosystems?

1. Rocky Headlands
2. Lagoons
3. Salt marshes
4. Sand dunes

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 1 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

## 2.Explanation

- ✓ In a study published in the journal Nature, researchers looked at how coastal habitats like mangroves, marshes and coral reefs retreated and adapted at the end of the last Ice Age and how they could cope with predicted sea level rises in this century.
- ✓ Coastal areas have become increasingly important in recent years as a result of rising human populations and rapid development near coasts.
- ✓ Beaches are found between the lowest low tide level and a landward limit, which is typically defined by a coastal cliff or dune with permanent vegetation or a man-made structure.
- ✓ The coastal ecosystem includes a diverse range of coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, coral reefs, seagrasses, salt marshes, and sand dunes. The coastline includes rocky headlands, sandy beaches, estuaries, lagoons, and so on.
- ✓ Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

### QUESTION 3

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is associated with:

- (a) United Nations Environment Programme
- (b) Greenpeace
- (c) European Union
- (d) Global Environment Facility



### 3.Explanation

- ✓ The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is a world first that will affect imported goods from industries with high emissions, such as steel, cement, aluminium, fertilisers, and energy generation.
- ✓ It means that if a firm in the European Union (EU) wants to sell steel but does not meet EU environmental requirements — or does not compensate for the associated emissions in some way — the importer must purchase CO2 pollution certificates proportional to the level of climate damage.
- ✓ Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

## QUESTION 4

Which of the following countries are well known as the two largest cocoa producers in the world? (UPSC 2024)

- (a) Algeria and Morocco
- (b) Botswana and Namibia
- (c) Cote d' Ivoire Coast and Ghana
- (d) Madagascar and Mozambique

## 4.Explanation

- ✓ The price of cocoa beans, the most important raw material in chocolates, has skyrocketed, hitting a record \$12,000 a tonne in April, 2024, around four times last year's price.
- ✓ Cocoa processors — who turn the beans into butter and liquor that are then converted to chocolate by companies — have thus reduced production because they cannot afford the beans.
- ✓ The direct cause of the ongoing issue is a terrible harvest season in West African countries Ghana and Ivory Coast, which produce 60% of the world's cocoa beans.
- ✓ Due to the development of El Nino — a weather pattern, which refers to an abnormal warming of surface waters in the equatorial Pacific Ocean — in 2023, West Africa experienced heavier-than-usual rainfalls. This created an ideal ground for the spread of black pod disease, which causes cocoa pods (a case that holds a plant's seeds) to rot on the branches of cocoa trees.
- ✓ Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

## QUESTION 5

The 'foot rot' or 'bakanae' disease is associated with:

- (a) Maize
- (b) Cotton
- (c) Wheat
- (d) Rice



## 5.Explanation

- ✓ Foot rot is a fungal disease that affects Basmati rice crops particularly at the seedling stage, though it might also cause infection after transplantation in case infected seedlings are transplanted.
- ✓ It is caused by the fungus *Fusarium verticillioides*, a soil-seed borne pathogen which spreads the infection through the root of the plant, and eventually leads to the colonisation of the stem base.
- ✓ Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.