**ALL ANSWERS ARE MARKED IN YELLOW**

**Explanations are provided at the end**

1. **Who created the state of Israel in 1948?**
2. The British
3. United States
4. Arabs
5. United Nations
6. **After which war did Israel gain the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza from Egypt?**
7. Ramadan
8. 4 Days war
9. Arab-Israeli war
10. Six Days War
11. **Jerusalem is a holy place of pilgrimage for which group of people?**
12. Christians
13. Jews
14. Muslims
15. all of these people
16. **Why was there international support to create the state of Israel in 1948?**
17. the land was unoccupied at the time
18. the Holocaust opened peoples' eyes to the persecution of the Jews
19. Arab countries in the area supported the creation of a Jewish homeland
20. all national groups in the former Ottoman Empire were promised homelands by the UN
21. **Jewish places for prayer and worship are called...**
22. Cathedral
23. Churches
24. Torah
25. Synagogues
26. **Which are the main countries involved in the South China´s sea conflict**
27. China, Japan, India
28. Philippines, China, U.S.A
29. Spain, Japan and Brunei
30. None
31. **Which superpower invaded Afghanistan in 1979?**
32. Soviet Union
33. United States
34. China
35. Great Britain
36. **One of the main goals of Islamic fundamentalism has been to**
37. promote enlightenment ideas throughout the Middle East.
38. return to the traditional beliefs and values of Islam and reject western ideas.
39. obtain rights for women and minorities.
40. increase oil production throughout the World.
41. **Arrange the following greenhouse gases in decreasing order of their Global Warming Potential (GWP)**
42. Carbon dioxide
43. Sulphur hexafluoride
44. Nitrous oxide
45. Methane
46. i ii iii iv
47. iv iii i ii
48. ii iii iv i
49. ii I iv iii

**10.The Kigali agreement was an amendment to which of the following international conventions aimed at conserving the environment?**

1. Montreal Protocol
2. Stockholm Convention
3. Bonn Convention
4. Kyoto Protocol

**11. Which of the following global biodiversity hot spots are located in India either partly/completely?**

1. Eastern Himalayas
2. Indo-Burma Region
3. Western Ghats
4. Sundaland
5. i and iii only
6. ii, iii and iv
7. i, iii and iv
8. i, ii, iii and iv
   1. **One potential problem that could be caused by the tremendous growth of the international financial system in recent years is,**
      1. lower standards of living around the world
      2. that a disturbance in one financial market can spread more quickly to other countries.
      3. that the additional transactions will make the international financial markets less efficient.
      4. that economic growth will be likely to slow down in many countries.
   2. **Under the present international monetary system,**
      1. exchange rates fluctuate freely without government intervention.
      2. although central banks are allowed to intervene, they have done so only rarely.
      3. supply and demand are the primary forces that determine exchange rates, but central banks may intervene if they believe currency values are over- or undervalued.
      4. it is illegal for central banks of major countries to coordinate their intervention activities.
   3. **Which of the following raises funds to make development loans to the world's poorest countries?**
      1. World Bank
      2. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
      3. Bank for International Settlements (BIS)
      4. International Finance Corporation
   4. **The Minimum Support price in declared by the Government every**  
      (a) year  
      (b) four years  
      (c) five years  
      (d) ten years

**Answer 6. Explanation:**

**South China Sea** disputes involve both island **and maritime** claims by several sovereign states within the region, namely Brunei, the People's Republic of **China** (PRC), Taiwan (Republic of **China**/ROC), Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, **and** Vietnam.

**Answer 9. Explanation:**

# Understanding Global Warming Potentials

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) warm the Earth by absorbing energy and slowing the rate at which the energy escapes to space; they act like a blanket insulating the Earth. Different GHGs can have different effects on the Earth's warming. Two key ways in which these gases differ from each other are their ability to absorb energy (their "radiative efficiency"), and how long they stay in the atmosphere (also known as their "lifetime").

The Global Warming Potential (GWP) was developed to allow comparisons of the global warming impacts of different gases. Specifically, it is a measure of how much energy the emissions of 1 ton of a gas will absorb over a given period of time, relative to the emissions of 1 ton of carbon dioxide (CO2). The larger the GWP, the more that a given gas warms the Earth compared to CO2 over that time period. The time period usually used for GWPs is 100 years. GWPs provide a common unit of measure, which allows analysts to add up emissions estimates of different gases (e.g., to compile a national GHG inventory), and allows policymakers to compare emissions reduction opportunities across sectors and gases.

* CO2, by definition, has a GWP of 1 regardless of the time period used, because it is the gas being used as the reference. CO2 remains in the climate system for a very long time: CO2 emissions cause increases in atmospheric concentrations of CO2 that will last thousands of years.
* Methane (CH4) is estimated to have a GWP of 28–36 over 100 years CH4 emitted today lasts about a decade on average, which is much less time than CO2. But CH4 also absorbs much more energy than CO2. The net effect of the shorter lifetime and higher energy absorption is reflected in the GWP. The CH4 GWP also accounts for some indirect effects, such as the fact that CH4 is a precursor to ozone, and ozone is itself a GHG.
* Nitrous Oxide (N2O) has a GWP 265–298 times that of CO2 for a 100-year timescale. N2O emitted today remains in the atmosphere for more than 100 years, on average.
* Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF6) are sometimes called high-GWP gases because, for a given amount of mass, they trap substantially more heat than CO2. (The GWPs for these gases can be in the thousands or tens of thousands.)

**Answer 10. Explanation:**

Historically, [chlorofluorocarbons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chlorofluorocarbon) (cfcs) were used in these applications, but we discovered in the 1970s the deleterious effect of these gases on the [ozone layer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ozone_layer), which was rewarded by a [Nobel Prize in Chemistry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Prize_in_Chemistry) in 1995. The [Montreal Protocol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montreal_Protocol), signed in 1987 by many states and entered into force in 1989, decided to phase out cfcs. The use of HFCS then developed as a replacement.

These gases save the ozone layer, but they are powerful [greenhouse gases](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenhouse_gases). While their lifespan in the atmosphere is quite short, they filter infrared waves very strongly. For example, [HFC-23](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trifluoromethane) has a [global warming potential](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming_potential) (GWP) at 100 years of 12,400, compared to just 1 for CO  
2. Basically, each molecule of HFC-23 is 12,400 times more powerful as a greenhouse gas than CO  
2. Eliminating emissions of these gases could significantly lower the effects of [global warming](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_warming) and may avoid a full half a degree Celsius of warming by the end of the century

**Answer 11. Explanation:**

# Biodiversity hotspots of India

## These amazing biodiversity hotspots of India are home to innumerable unique and fragile species of flora and fauna.

Nature has liberally painted a variety of landscapes in our country. Many of these have been demarcated as Biodiversity Hotspots — areas that have extremely rich and diverse flora and fauna and are under threat of getting endangered. Officially, four out of the 36 Biodiversity Hotspots in the world are present in India: the Himalayas, the Western Ghats, the Indo-Burma region and the Sundaland. To these may be added the Sundarbans and the Terrai-Duar Savannah grasslands for their unique foliage and animal species.

## Himalayas

If you drive northwards, up the Himalayas, you will not only feel the change in climate but also witness a continuously changing panorama — broad-leaved trees giving way to evergreen forests of oak and conifers to alpine meadows at much higher elevations where trees can’t grow because of the harsh climate and only ground-hugging plants thrive. Among the innumerable animal species to be seen here is the charismatic western tragopan. Its beautiful plumage — shades of blue, black, crimson and brown speckled with white — would make a textile designer swoon. The male shows off during courtship by erecting two blue horn-like feathers and inflating its purple throat. In the higher reaches, amongst the snowy peaks, roams the solitary snow leopard whose favourite prey is the **bharal and ibex.**

## Indo-Burma region

The Indo-Burma region, one of the largest hotspots, covers Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos PDR and also includes the Gangetic plains, areas around the Brahmaputra river and parts of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. This hotspot comprises plains that are fed with rich alluvial soil by several large Asian rivers besides the Ganga and Brahmaputra. Although it is one of the most biologically rich areas, it is also the most threatened. Many of the species found here like the Annamite muntjac and grey-crowned crocias have rarely been seen by human eyes. Threats such as illegal wildlife trade and habitat loss hang over them like Damocles’ Sword. This region is in dire need of stringent legal protection.

## Terrai-duar Savannah

The world’s tallest and rarest grasslands are found in the Terrai-duar Savannah region, which form a narrow stretch at the base of the Himalayas — a continuation of the Indo-Gangetic plain in India, Nepal and Bhutan. These grasslands are fed by the rich silt deposited by the monsoon floods every year. The elephant grass is home to the one-horned rhinoceros that appears to be like a grey boulder in the tall grass, Asian elephants and sloth bears, among other animals.

## Western Ghats

The **International Union for Conservation of Nature** has declared the Western Ghats, which run from north to south just beyond the western coast of India, as a **World Heritage Site**. The **montane tropical rain forests** on these slopes shelter a variety of animals like tigers, black panthers, and leopards. In the southern forests live the arboreal and shy lion-tailed macaques who are in grave danger of going extinct, as man’s activities are causing their forests to shrink. During the monsoon, one can spot the weird pig-nosed purple frog in these forests. Naturalists are still discovering new species of frogs, caecilians and spiders here; but, sadly, many species are also disappearing at the same time.

## Sundaland

The part of India that falls in the Sundaland Hotspot is the Nicobar Islands. Interestingly, it extends to the tectonic plates under the Indian Ocean. The hotspot is home to iconic species like **orangutans, pig-tailed langurs, Javan and Sumatran rhinos, and proboscis monkeys found only in Borneo**. Sundaland also has the distinction of being home to the world’s largest flowers, the rafflesia, which measure one metre across.

## Sunderbans

# The Sunderbans, a set of 104 islands formed by the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta, comprises the largest mangrove forest in the world. In this World Heritage Site, the Royal Bengal tigers swim in the creeks, the Gangetic dolphins play in the rivulets, while the estuarine crocodiles bask on the river-banks. In addition, it harbours innumerable species of birds, mammals and fish. The rising sea, owing to global warming, poses a grave danger of drowning these bountiful islands.