



Date : 13th Jan 2024

English Language - RC

English

**Direction (1 - 5): Read the passage and answer the following questions:**

The mountain range that runs along the west coast of peninsular India from Tamil Nadu through Kerala, Karnataka and Goa to Maharashtra is known as the Western Ghats and is well known for its majestic beauty. It is also among the top eight biodiversity hotspots in the world. The Western Ghats host over 400 species and seven distinct vegetation types.

Forest cover has declined by up to 50 percent in parts of the Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka and the evergreens in Kerala face a threat of extinction. Overall deforestation is reported to have accelerated over recent decades. In the meantime, water distribution remains a contentious issue among states in the region.

The Ghats run perpendicular to the moisture-laden south-west monsoon winds gusting in from the Arabian Sea, forcing the winds to climb the mountain range to get over to the other side. This climb leads to an expansion of the winds since pressure decreases with height in the atmosphere and the expansion leads to a cooling and, thus, condensation of the moisture, resulting in annual rainfall ranging from 2,000 mm to nearly 7,800 mm.

**Q:1 What is reported to have accelerated over recent decades?**

1. Afforestation
2. Flow of water over the mountain
3. Deforestation
4. Vegetation

**Q:2 How many distinct vegetation types are there in western ghats?**

1. 400
2. 7
3. 50
4. 2000

**Q:3 What remains as a contentious issue among states in the region?**

1. Water distribution
2. Threat of extinction
3. Deforestation
4. Deposition of moisture

**Q:4 What could be inferred from the line 'moisture-laden' as mentioned in the passage?**

1. Escalating moisture continuously
2. Dropping moistures from the atmosphere
3. Carrying a lot of moisture
4. Vulnerable to lack of moistures

**Q:5 What is the antonym of the word 'majestic' as mentioned in the passage?**

1. Exalted
2. Sublime
3. Pathetic
4. Obnoxious

**Direction (6 - 10): Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

The emu is the second-largest living bird by height, after its ratite relative, the ostrich. It is endemic to Australia where it is the largest native bird and the only extant member of the genus *Dromaius*. The emu's range covers most of mainland Australia, but the Tasmanian, Kangaroo Island and King Island subspecies became extinct after the European settlement of Australia in 1788. The bird is sufficiently common for it to be rated as a least-concern species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Emus are soft-feathered, brown, flightless birds with long necks and legs, and can reach up to 1.9 meters in height. Emus can travel great distances, and when necessary can sprint at 50 km/h; they forage for a variety of plants and insects, but have been known to go for weeks without eating. They drink infrequently, but take in copious amounts of water when the opportunity arises.

Breeding takes place in May and June, and fighting among females for a mate is common. Females can mate several times and lay several clutches of eggs in one season. The male does the incubation; during this process, he hardly eats or drinks and loses a significant amount of weight. The eggs hatch after around eight weeks, and the young are nurtured by their fathers. They reach full size after around six months, but can remain as a family unit until the next breeding season. The emu is an important cultural icon of Australia, appearing on the coat of arms and various coins. The bird features prominently in Indigenous Australian mythology.



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**Q:6 Which among these is not a speciality of Imu?**

1. They are infrequent in drinking water.
2. They can go weeks without eating.
3. They can travel great distances.
4. Imu is the largest native bird in the world.

**Q:7 How can we say that Imu is an important cultural icon of Australia?**

1. It features prominently in Indigenous Australian mythology.
2. It appears on the coat of arms and various coins.
3. It is the only extant member of the genus Dromaius.
4. They remain as a family unit until the next breeding season.

**Q:8 How much time does an Imu take to reach its full height after its birth?**

1. 21 days
2. Eight weeks
3. Six months
4. One year

**Q:9 What is the synonym of the word 'Indigenous' as mentioned in the passage?**

1. Native
2. Migrant
3. Expatriate
4. Adventitious

**Q:10 Which statement is incorrect as per the passage?**

1. Imu is endemic to Australia where it is the largest native bird.
2. Emus are soft-feathered, brown, flightful birds with long necks and legs.
3. They drink infrequently, but take in copious amounts of water when the opportunity arises.
4. The Imu bird features prominently in Indigenous Australian mythology.

## Answer Key

1. (3)	2. (2)	3. (1)	4. (3)	5. (3)
6. (4)	7. (2)	8. (3)	9. (1)	10. (2)

## Answers and Solutions

**Q:1** The correct answer is **option 3** i.e. **Deforestation**.  
In the second paragraph of the passage, it has been mentioned that 'The overall deforestation is reported to have accelerated over recent decades'.

Hence, option 3 is correct.

**Q:2** The correct answer is **option 2** i.e. **7**.

The passage cites a line answering this question as 'The Western Ghats host over 400 species and **seven distinct vegetation types**'.

Hence, option 2 is correct.

**Q:3** The correct answer is **option 1** i.e. **Water distribution**.

It is mentioned in that passage that, 'In the meantime, water distribution remains a contentious issue among states in the region.'

Hence, option 1 is correct.

**Q:4** The correct answer is **option 3** i.e. **Carrying a lot of moisture**.

Meaning of the word 'laden' is heavily loaded or weighed down. So, it can be inferred that moisture-laden means carrying a lot of moisture.

Hence, option 3 is correct.

**Q:5** The correct answer is **option 3** i.e. **Pathetic**.

The word majestic means having or showing impressive beauty or scale.

The words like exalted and sublime seem to be its synonym as they are also positive words.

Obnoxious means extremely unpleasant.

**Pathetic means arousing pity, especially through vulnerability or sadness.**

Hence, option 3 is correct.

**Q:6** The correct answer is **option 4** i.e. **Imu is the largest native bird in the world**.

The statement in option 4 is incorrect because Imu is the largest native bird of Australia, not the world. Hence, option 4 is correct.

**Q:7** The correct answer is **option 2** i.e. **It appears on the coat of arms and various coins**.

In the last paragraph of this passage, it has been mentioned that 'The emu is an important cultural icon of Australia, appearing on the coat of arms and various coins.'

Hence, option 2 is correct.

**Q:8** The correct answer is **option 3** i.e. **Six months**.

The passage cites a line answering this question as 'The eggs hatch after around eight weeks, and the young are nurtured by their fathers. They reach full size after around six months, but can remain as a family unit until the next breeding season.'

Hence, option 3 is correct.

**Q:9** The correct answer is **option 1** i.e. **Native**.

Meaning of the word 'Indigenous' is originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native.

The synonym of it is 'native' as it means associated with the place or circumstances of a person's birth.

Hence, option 1 is correct.

**Q:10** The correct answer is **option 2** i.e. **Emus are soft-feathered, brown, frightful birds with long necks and legs**.

The above-mentioned point is incorrect as per the passage because Emus are soft-feathered, brown, **flightless** birds with long necks and legs.

Hence, option 2 is the correct answer.