

GS FOUNDATION PROGRAM 2024*to be filled by the student:***BATCH: D9**

NAME: _____

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*For Office Use Only***Feedbacks:**

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Immediate Efforts/Improvement Required
Content					
Presentation					
Structure					
Consistency					
Revision/Recall					

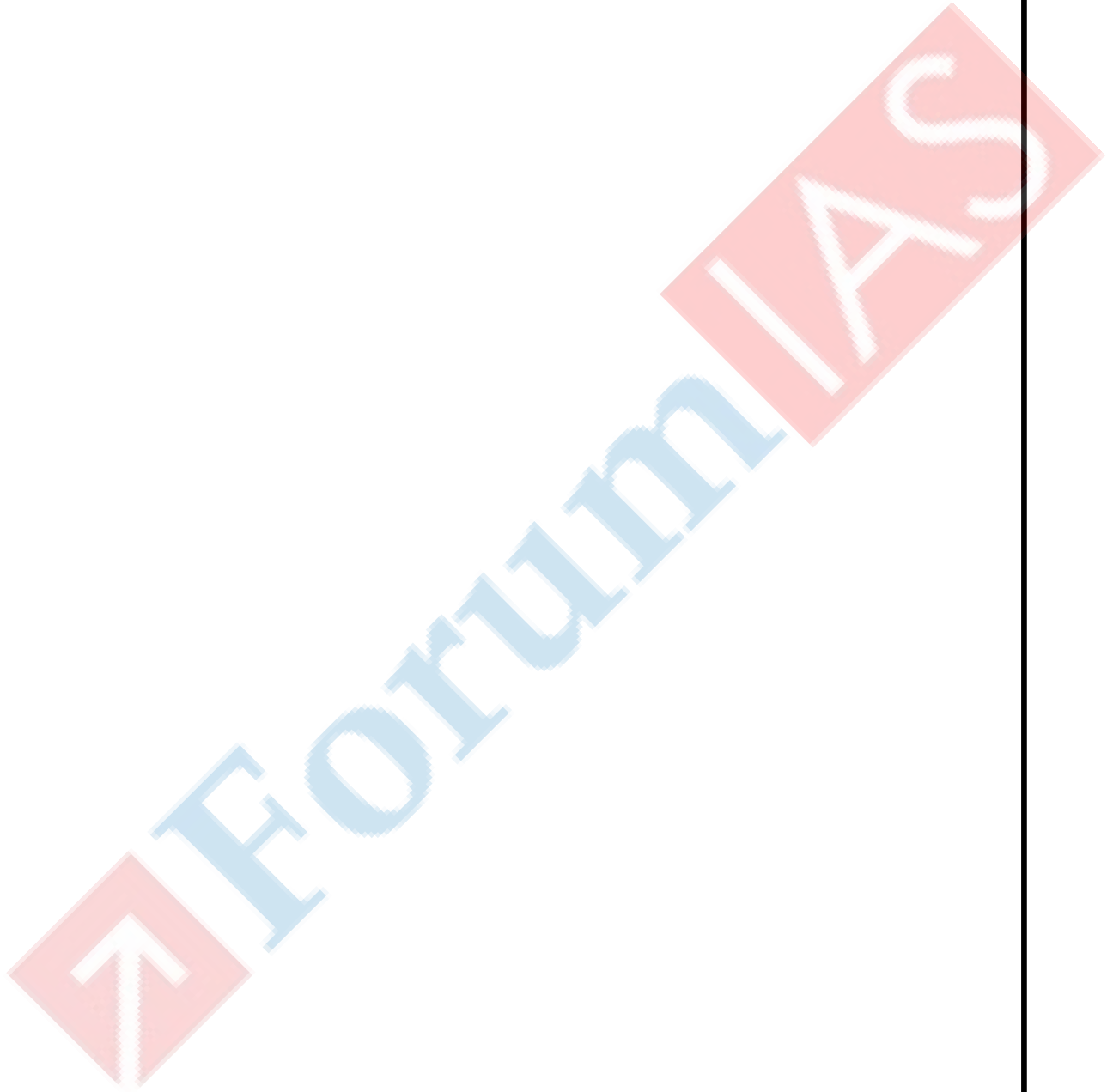
Marks:

Subjective	Objective	Total

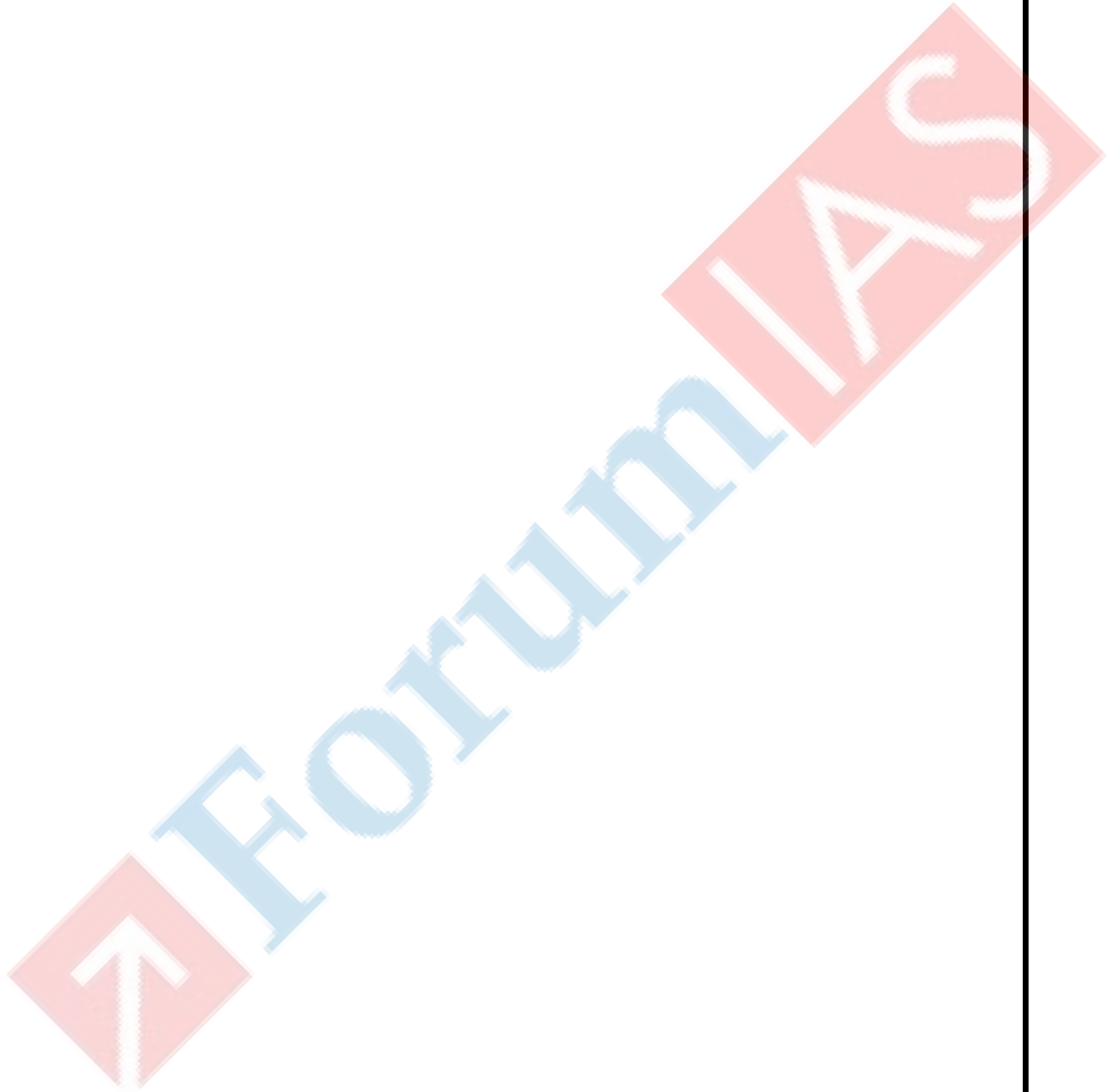
Subjective Questions:

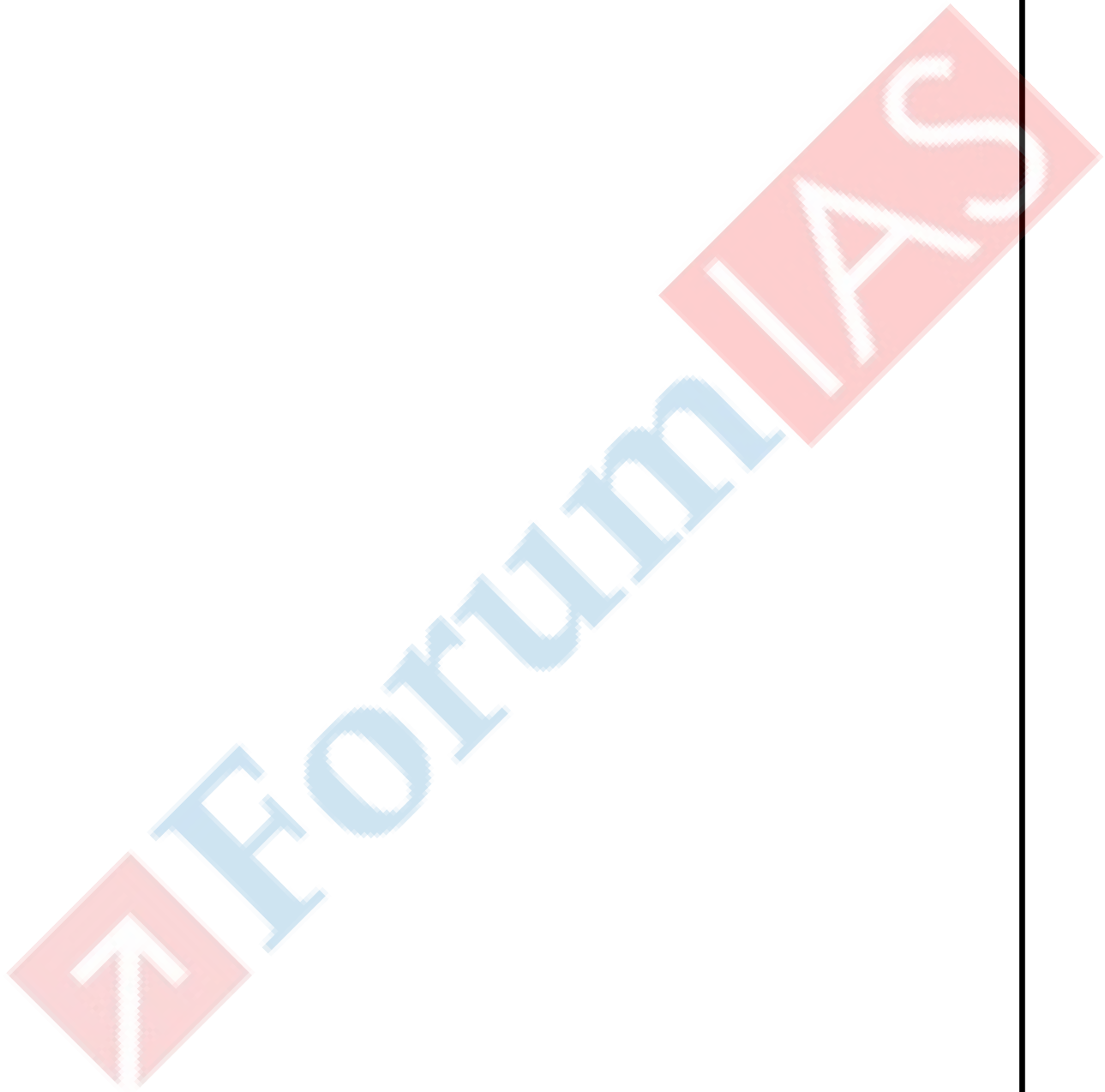
Q.1) Discuss utility of incorporation of Directive Principles of the State Policy (DPSP) in the constitution given their non-justiciable character. (10 marks, 150 words)





Q.2) Explain the Continental drift theory as given by Alfred Wagner. Also, highlight its various limitations. (10 marks, 150 words)





Objective Questions:

Q.1) What is the Big Bang theory?

- a) A scientific theory explaining the creation and expansion of the universe.
- b) A television sitcom about a group of friends living in Pasadena, California.
- c) A theory proposing that Earth was created from a massive explosion.
- d) A theory suggesting that the universe is static and unchanging.

Q.2) Which of the following best describes the geological time scale?

- a) A system used to categorize rocks based on their age.
- b) A timeline that represents the history of the Earth, divided into distinct intervals.
- c) A method for determining the precise age of fossils.
- d) A scale used to measure the intensity of earthquakes.

Q.3) When did the Earth emerge and form?

- a) 4.5 billion years ago.
- b) 2 billion years ago.
- c) 10 million years ago.
- d) 500 million years ago.

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. A 'resolution' can be introduced by private members only to draw the attention of the Parliament to a matter of Public Interest.
2. A 'motion' is a self-contained independent proposal that is necessarily put to vote after discussion in Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the procedures in the Parliament of India:

1. The power of adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer of the House.
2. The Speaker can prorogue the Lok Sabha while in session.
3. Prorogation does not affect the bills or any other business pending before the House.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

GS Foundation Program 2024 | D9 | Benchmark Assignment #43

Subjective Questions:

Q.1) Discuss utility of incorporation of Directive Principles of the State Policy (DPSP) in the constitution given their non-justiciable character.

Directive Principles of the State Policy (DPSP) are a **set of guidelines** enshrined in our Constitution under **Articles 36-51 of Part IV of the Constitution** and are considered **fundamental for the governance of the country**. DPSPs aim to establish **social and economic democracy** through a welfare state. Constitution makers envisioned DPSPs to be the **foundational guidance** for legislations, executive actions and judicial pronouncements.

DPSPs are non-justiciable in nature meaning they cannot be enforced in a court of law. The framers of the constitution made DPSP non-justifiable because:

1. The country **lacked sufficient material resources** to implement them.
2. Vast **diversity and backwardness** would stand in the way of their implementation.
3. Newly independent India was **preoccupied** with many other issues and responsibility to enforce DPSP would have been **additional pressure on the state** given that most of DPSP are **positive obligations** of the state.

Although DPSPs are non-justiciable, they are very important because:

1. DPSP are **constitutional instructions to the government** by the people and **monitored by the people** to advance their overall needs, interests, and rights. Constitutional experts argue that DPSPs stand as ideals on which people of the country can **judge their collective progress**. It thus, enables public **judgement of representatives** of the people.
2. Source of **legal, jurisprudential, and constitutional support for the judiciary** in delivering their decisions and guidance for the governmental bodies. The courts do take **cognizance of the directive principles** in determining the reasonability of restrictions imposed by the legislative enactments on any of the Fundamental Rights of the citizen or to adjudge whether a particular State action was for 'public purpose' or otherwise.
3. It imposes **positive duty** on the state towards good governance and turn India into a welfare state.
4. It has resulted in **formulation of several laws and Supreme Court directives** such as environment safety (SC banning crackers, setting up of Environment Protection Control Authority, setting up of CAMPA), protection of ancient monuments such as Taj, prohibition of illegal cow slaughter etc.

5. They facilitate **stability and continuity** in domestic as well as foreign **policy** with changing government.
6. They are **supplementary to the fundamental rights** and fill in the vacuum in Part-III by providing social and economic rights.

Emphasizing the importance of DPSP, **Supreme Court in Minerva mill** case held that “the Indian Constitution is founded on the bedrock of the balance between the **Fundamental Rights** and the **Directive Principles**. They **together constitute the core of commitment to social revolution**”.

Q.2) Explain the Continental drift theory as given by Alfred Wagner. Also, highlight its various limitations.

APPROACH:

1. Briefly explain continental drift theory.
2. Explain in brief evidence of continental drift theory
3. Highlights the limitation of continental drift theory in short.
4. Conclusion

Ans. Continental drift theory was given by **Alfred Wagner** who accepted the possibility that Continents are in motion. He rejected the view of the permanency of continents and ocean basins. Thus, the main objective of Wegener behind the ‘**displacement hypothesis**’ was to explain the global climatic changes which are reported to have taken place during the past earth's history.

Basic premises of continental drift theory: According to Wegener, all the continents formed a single continental mass, a mega ocean surrounded by the same. The supercontinent was called **Pangaea**, which meant all earth. The mega-ocean was called **Panthalassa**, meaning all water. He argued that, around 200 million years ago, the supercontinent, Pangaea, began to split. Pangaea first broke into two large continental masses as Laurasia and Gondwanaland forming the northern and southern components respectively. Subsequently, Laurasia and Gondwanaland continued to break into various smaller continents that exist today.

Evidence in support of the Continental Drift

1. **The Matching of Continents (Jig-Saw-Fit):** The shorelines of Africa and South America facing each other have a remarkable and unmistakable match.
2. **Rocks of the same age across the Oceans:** The radiometric dating methods developed and have facilitated correlating the rock formation from different continents across the vast ocean. The belt of ancient rocks of 2,000 million years from Brazil's coast matches with those from western Africa. The earliest marine deposits along the

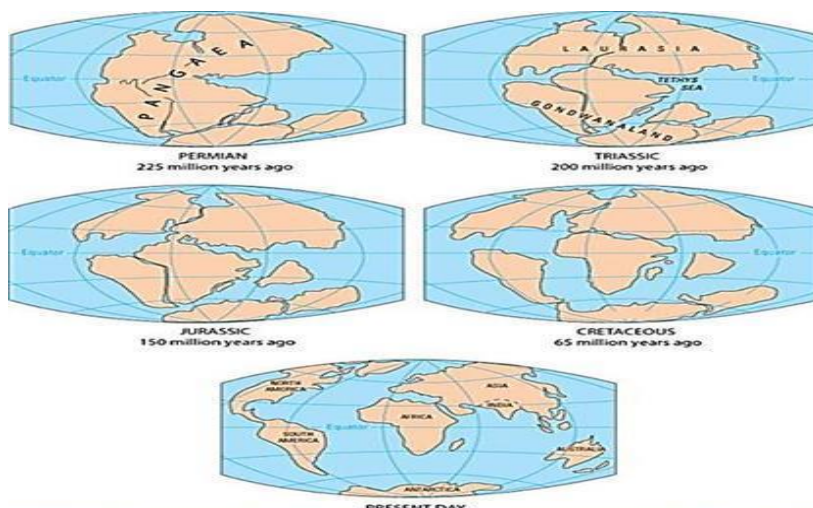
coastline of South America and Africa are of the Jurassic age. This suggests that the ocean did not exist before that time.

3. **Tillite:** It is a sedimentary rock formed out of deposits of glaciers. The Gondwana system of sediments from India is known to have its counterparts in six different landmasses of the Southern Hemisphere. Counterparts of this succession are found in Africa, Falkland Island, Madagascar, Antarctica, and Australia besides India.
4. **Placer deposits:** The occurrence of rich placer deposits of gold in the Ghana coast and the absolute absence of source rock in the region is an amazing fact. The gold-bearing veins are in Brazil, and it is obvious that the gold deposits of Ghana are derived from the Brazil plateau when the two continents lay side by side.
5. **Distribution of fossils:** The observations that Lemurs occur in India, Madagascar, and Africa led some to consider a contiguous landmass “Lemuria” linking these three landmasses. Mesosaurus was a small reptile adapted to shallow brackish water. The skeletons of these are found only in two localities: the Southern Cape Province of South Africa and Iraver formations of Brazil. The two localities presently are 4,800 km apart with an ocean in between them.

Limitation of Continental Drift theory:

1. The **forces** applied by Wegener (the force of buoyancy and tidal force of the sun and the moon) **are not sufficient to drift the continents so apart**. The tidal force as invoked by Wegener to account for the supposed westerly drift of the continents would need to be 10,000 million times as powerful as it is at present to produce the required effects, and, if it had such a value, it would stop the earth’s rotation completely in a year. Similarly, the differential gravitational force and the force of buoyancy are also not adequate to cause equatorward movement of the continents, instead, the force, if so enormous, might have caused the concentration of the continents near the equator.
2. Wegener has described several **contrasting viewpoints**. Initially, sialic masses (continents) were considered by Wegener as freely floating over ‘sima’ **without any friction** offered by ‘sima’ but in the later part of his theory, he has described **forceful resistance** of offered by ‘sima’ in the free movement of sialic continents to explain the origin of mountains along the frontal edges of floating continents.
3. Both coasts of the Atlantic Ocean **cannot be completely refitted**. Thus, the concept of juxtaposition’ or ‘jigsaw fit’ cannot be validated.
4. Wegener has not elaborated on the **direction and chronological sequence** of the displacement of the continents. He did not describe the situations of pre-carboniferous times. Many questions remain unanswered such as, what kept Pangaea together till its disruption in the Mesozoic era? Why did the process of continental drift not start before the Mesozoic era?

Though most of the points of Wegener’s theory was rejected but its central theme of horizontal displacement was retained. The postulation of plate tectonic theory after 1960 is the result of this continental drift theory of Wegener.



Objective Questions:

Q.1) What is the Big Bang theory?

- a) A scientific theory explaining the creation and expansion of the universe.
- b) A television sitcom about a group of friends living in Pasadena, California.
- c) A theory proposing that Earth was created from a massive explosion.
- d) A theory suggesting that the universe is static and unchanging.

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

The Big Bang theory is a well-established scientific theory in cosmology that explains the origin and evolution of the universe. According to this theory, the universe began as a singularity, a point of infinite density and temperature, and underwent a rapid expansion known as the Big Bang around 13.8 billion years ago. As the universe expanded, matter and energy cooled down, allowing the formation of galaxies, stars, and other celestial structures. The Big Bang theory is supported by various pieces of observational evidence, such as the cosmic microwave background radiation and the observed redshift of distant galaxies.

Q.2) Which of the following best describes the geological time scale?

- a) A system used to categorize rocks based on their age.
- b) A timeline that represents the history of the Earth, divided into distinct intervals.
- c) A method for determining the precise age of fossils.
- d) A scale used to measure the intensity of earthquakes.

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

The geological time scale is a framework that organizes and represents the history of the Earth into different time intervals. It provides a chronological order of major events, such as the formation of rocks, the evolution of life forms, and significant geological events. The time

scale is divided into different units, including eons, eras, periods, epochs, and ages. Each unit represents a significant span of time and is characterized by distinct geological and biological features. The geological time scale allows scientists to study and understand the Earth's history, the sequence of events, and the changes that have occurred over millions of years. It provides a valuable tool for dating rocks and fossils and helps in interpreting the Earth's past and predicting future geological events.

Q.3) When did the Earth emerge and form?

- a) 4.5 billion years ago.
- b) 2 billion years ago.
- c) 10 million years ago.
- d) 500 million years ago.

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is correct.

The Earth emerged and formed approximately 4.5 billion years ago. This estimation is based on various scientific evidence and dating methods, including radiometric dating of rocks and meteorites. The process of Earth's formation began with the accumulation of dust, gas, and debris in a rotating disk known as the solar nebula. Over time, this material came together through gravitational attraction, forming a protoplanetary disk. Within this disk, small planetesimals collided and merged, gradually growing. Eventually, the protoplanet that would become the Earth formed. This early Earth was a hot and molten planet due to intense collisions and the heat generated from the decay of radioactive elements. Through further processes like differentiation and volcanic activity, the Earth gradually transformed into the planet we know today. The age of 4.5 billion years is widely accepted by the scientific community as the approximate age of the Earth's formation.

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. A 'resolution' can be introduced by private members only to draw the attention of the Parliament to a matter of Public Interest.
2. A 'motion' is a self-contained independent proposal that is necessarily put to vote after discussion in Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect. A resolution comes in the category of substantive motions. The discussion on a resolution is strictly relevant to and within the scope of the resolution.

Resolutions can be introduced by **private members or a minister** to **draw the attention of the House** on a matter of general public interest.

Statement 2 is incorrect. A motion is a **self-contained independent proposal**, and all **motions are not necessarily put to vote in the house**; however, all the resolutions are required to be voted upon.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the procedures in the Parliament of India:

1. The power of adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer of the House.
2. The Speaker can prorogue the Lok Sabha while in session.
3. Prorogation does not affect the bills or any other business pending before the House.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is correct.

Statement 1 is correct. Adjournment sine die means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period. In other words, when the House is adjourned without naming a day for reassembly, it is called adjournment sine die. The **power of adjournment as well as adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer of the House.**

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **power of prorogation of the house is with the President of India (not speaker)**. The President can summon, prorogue both the houses of Parliament and can dissolve the Lok Sabha.

Statement 3 is correct. Under Article 107 (3) of the Constitution, **a bill pending in Parliament shall not lapse by reason of the prorogation of the Houses.**