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Q.1) Réunion, an island in Indian Ocean is an

- a) French Territory
- b) British Territory
- c) Spanish Territory
- d) Dutch Territory

Q.1) Solution (a)

It is an island and region of France in the Indian Ocean, east of Madagascar and 175 kilometres (109 mi) southwest of Mauritius.

The island has been inhabited since the 17th century when people from France, Madagascar and Africa settled there. Slavery was abolished on 20 December 1848 (a date celebrated yearly on the island), after which indentured workers were brought from Tamil Nadu, Southern India, among other places. The island became an overseas department of France in 1946.

As elsewhere in France, the official language is French. In addition, the majority of the region's population speaks Réunion Creole.

Administratively, Réunion is one of the overseas departments of France. Like the other four overseas departments, it is also one of the 18 regions of France, with the modified status of overseas region, and an integral part of the Republic with the same status as Metropolitan France. Réunion is an outermost region of the European Union and, as an overseas department of France, part of the Eurozone.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/france-wants-to-work-with-india-in-indo-pacific/article20460960.ece>

Q.2) What does virtual water (VW) imply?

- a) Volume of heavy water required to replace ordinary water
- b) Volume of water required to produce a commodity
- c) Volume of water saved by using rainwater harvesting
- d) Volume of water utilized by an effective flood control

Q.2) Solution (b)

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Virtual water trade (also known as trade in embedded or embodied water) refers to the hidden flow of water if food or other commodities are traded from one place to another. For instance, it takes 1,340 cubic meters of water (based on the world average) to produce one metric tonne of wheat.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/a-flood-of-questions/article19892691.ece>

Q.3) Consider the following statements

1. The Headquarters of the International Organisation for Standardization are located in Rome.
2. ISO 9001 is related to the quality management system and standards.
3. ISO 14000 relates to environmental management system standards.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 3 only
- c) 2 and 3
- d) None

Q.3) Solution (c)

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is an international standard-setting body composed of representatives from various national standards organizations. Founded on 23 February 1947, the organization promotes worldwide proprietary, industrial and commercial standards. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and as of March 2017 works in 162 countries.

It was one of the first organizations granted general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/department-of-consumer-affairs-working-on-bringing-hallmarking-regulations-under-the-117110301041_1.html

ISO 14000 is a family of standards related to environmental management that exists to help organizations (a) minimize how their operations (processes, etc.) negatively affect the environment (i.e., cause adverse changes to air, water, or land); (b) comply with applicable

laws, regulations, and other environmentally oriented requirements; and (c) continually improve in the above.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-telangana/four-decades-in-power-generation/article20377413.ece>

The ISO 9001 family of quality management systems standards is designed to help organizations ensure that they meet the needs of customers and other stakeholders while meeting statutory and regulatory requirements related to a product or program.

Source: <http://www.firstpost.com/india/keralas-kavanur-adopts-e-literacy-to-become-countrys-first-iso-9001-certified-village-4175657.html>

Q.4) Who among the following repealed the Vernacular Press Act?

- a) Lord Dufferin
- b) Lord Ripon
- c) Lord Curzon
- d) Lord Hardinge

Q.4) Solution (b)

In British India, the Vernacular Press Act (Act of 1878) was enacted to curtail the freedom of the Indian press and prevent the expression of criticism toward British policies—notably, the opposition that had grown with the outset of the Second Anglo-Afghan War (1878–80). The act was proposed by Lord Lytton, then Viceroy of India, and was unanimously passed by the Viceroy's Council on March 14, 1878. The act excluded English-language publications as it was meant to control seditious writing in 'publications in Oriental languages' everywhere in the country, except for the South. But the British totally discriminated the Indian Press.

The act empowered the government to impose restrictions on the press in the following ways:

- Modelled on the Irish press act, this act provided the government with extensive rights to censor reports and editorials in the Vernacular press.
- From now on the government kept regular track of Vernacular newspapers.
- When a report published in the newspaper was judged as seditious, the newspaper was warned.

All the native associations irrespective of religion, caste and creed denounced the measure and kept their protests alive. All the prominent leaders of Bengal and India condemned the

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Act as unwarranted and unjustified, and demanded its immediate withdrawal. The newspapers themselves kept criticizing the measure without end. The succeeding administration of Lord Ripon reviewed the developments consequent upon the Act and finally withdrew it. However, the resentment it produced among Indians helped fuel India's growing independence movement. The Indian Association, which is generally considered to be one of the precursors of the Indian National Congress, was one of the Act's biggest critics.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/takeaways-from-modis-address-at-dina-thanthi-event/article19991496.ece>

Q.5) Universal Product Code (UPC) is associated with?

- a) Against adulteration eatables
- b) Earthquake-resistant building code
- c) Fire safety code in buildings
- d) Bar code

Q.5) Solution (d)

A UPC, short for universal product code, is a type of code printed on retail product packaging to aid in identifying a particular item. It consists of two parts – the machine-readable barcode, which is a series of unique black bars, and the unique 12-digit number beneath it.

