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Q.1) Consider the following statements about Battle of Haifa

1. It is considered as one of the bravely-contested battles of World War I
2. 15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade helped liberate Haifa from the clutches of the Turkish-German forces

Select the correct statements

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

Q.1) Solution (c)

Battle of Haifa

- Indian cavalry brigades fighting under the leadership of British General Edmund Allenby helped liberate Haifa from the clutches of the Turkish-German forces.
- The Teen Murti memorial was constructed in 1922 in the memory of the Indian soldiers from three princely states namely Jodhpur, Hyderabad and Mysore who served present day Gaza strip, Israel and Palestine during the World War I under British India Army.

15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade

- The 15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade was a brigade-sized formation that served alongside British Empire forces in the Sinai and Palestine Campaign, during the First World War.
- Originally called the Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade it was formed from Imperial Service Troops provided by the Indian Princely States of Hyderabad, Mysore, Patiala and Jodhpur, which each provided a regiment of lancers.
- A maximum of three regiments served in the brigade at any one time.
- The states of Bhavnagar, Kashmir, Kathiawar and Idar provided smaller detachments for the brigade, which was at times reinforced by other British Empire regiments and artillery batteries when on operations.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1545230>

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM)

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1. It was officially established on 1 March 1996 at the first summit in Bangkok
2. India joined ASEM in 2008
3. European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat are the regional organisations involved in ASEM

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q.2) Solution (d)

News: The third ASEM (Asia–Europe Meeting) Conference on ‘Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons’ was held in Seoul, capital of South Korea. It was jointly organised by South Korea and National Human Rights Commission of Korea.

The Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an Asian–European political dialogue forum to enhance relations and various forms of cooperation between its partners. It was officially established on 1 March 1996 at the first summit in Bangkok, Thailand, by the then 15 members of the European Union (EU) and the European Commission, the then 7 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the individual countries of China, Japan, and Korea. A series of enlargements saw additional EU members join as well as India, Mongolia, Pakistan and the ASEAN Secretariat in 2008[citation needed], Australia, New Zealand and the Russian Federation in 2010, Bangladesh, Norway, and Switzerland in 2012, as well as Croatia and Kazakhstan in 2014.

ASEM currently has 53 partners: 51 countries and 2 regional organisations. The countries are Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, the Lao PDR, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and Viet Nam, while the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat are the regional organisations involved.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183257>

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Q.3) UNSC Resolution 2334 is concerned with?

- a) Resolving the constitutional crisis that followed the Gambian presidential election of 2016
- b) United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)
- c) United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti
- d) Israel settlements in Palestine

Q.3) Solution (d)

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 was adopted on 23 December 2016. It concerns the Israeli settlements in "Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem".

Q.4) Consider the following statements about World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

1. It is recognised as a reference organisation by the World Trade Organization (WTO)
2. The World Assembly of Delegates is the highest authority of the OIE

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Q.4) Solution (c)

The need to fight animal diseases at global level led to the creation of the Office International des Epizooties through the international Agreement signed on January 25th 1924. In May 2003 the Office became the World Organisation for Animal Health but kept its historical acronym OIE.

The OIE is the intergovernmental organisation responsible for improving animal health worldwide.

It is recognised as a reference organisation by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and in 2016 has a total of 180 Member Countries. The OIE maintains permanent relations with 71 other international and regional organisations and has Regional and sub-regional Offices on every continent.

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The day-to-day operation of the OIE is managed at the Headquarters situated in Paris and placed under the responsibility of a Director General elected by the World Assembly of Delegates. The Headquarters implements the resolutions passed by the International Committee and developed with the support of Commissions elected by the Delegates.

The World Assembly of Delegates is the highest authority of the OIE.

It comprises the Delegates of all Member Countries and meets at least once a year. The General Session of the Assembly lasts five days and is held every year in May in Paris.

Voting by Delegates within the Assembly respects the democratic principle of 'one country, one vote'.

The OIE's financial resources are derived principally from compulsory annual contributions backed up by voluntary contributions from Member Countries.

Q.5) Consider the following statements about 'FOXSI mission'

1. It is a sounding rocket mission
2. It built specially to image high-energy X-rays from the Sun by directly focusing them
3. It is collaboration between NASA and the European Space Agency

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q.5) Solution (a)

FOXSI is a sounding rocket mission. Derived from the nautical term "to sound," meaning to measure, sounding rockets make brief 15-minute journeys above Earth's atmosphere for a peek at space before falling back to the ground. Smaller, cheaper and faster to develop than large-scale satellite missions, sounding rockets offer a way for scientists to test their latest ideas and instruments — and achieve rapid results.

FOXSI will travel 190 miles up, above the shield of Earth's atmosphere, to stare directly at the Sun and search for nanoflares using its X-ray vision.

FOXSI is the first instrument built specially to image high-energy X-rays from the Sun by directly focusing them

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FOXSI is a collaboration between NASA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, and has co-investigators from the University of Minnesota; University of California at Berkeley; NASA's Goddard and Marshall space flight centers in Greenbelt, Maryland, and Huntsville, Alabama, respectively; the University of Tokyo; Nagoya University; the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan; and Tokyo University of Science. FOXSI is supported through NASA's Sounding Rocket Program at the agency's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia. NASA's Heliophysics Division manages the sounding rocket program.

