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Prelims
2026

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MAP-ZINE
VOLUME - 3 (Sample)
OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2025

This volume includes coverage of:
Important Seas of the World



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Preface

Mapwork is one of the most complicated learning requirements of many of the present-day examinations. It demands great attention to detail across a large volume of information. Not only is Mapwork a challenge for exam aspirants, it is also a difficult proposition for authors and publishers.

While it is not a viable option to leave out information, packing too much of it is also not conducive to learning.

We have tried our best to make the maps given in the book visually appealing and content-rich.

The most obvious and effective way of learning is a little bit at a time. So rather than confounding the student with broad and wastefully general maps we have taken smaller and specific regions in this book for greater understanding and retention.

Furthermore, we have tried to ensure that the student has an opportunity to practice the newly acquired learning with relative ease by providing practice maps.

All this in the book is supplemented by the corresponding video-lectures provided on a dedicated YouTube channel for more detailed explanations and reinforcement.

But the primary feature that sets our effort apart is something else. Almost all examinations these days are gravitating towards a more Current-Affairs-centric approach. Not matter what the topic or subject, the questions framed these days are mostly related to the current happenings across the globe. We have identified this pattern and set our questions relevant to the most important current-affairs topics of the present time. This is sure to benefit the examinees in a major way.

Contents

SECTION - A		
S.No.	Maps	Page No.
1	Southeast Asia Countries	001
2	Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit	002
3	Mekong River	003
4	Kra Canal	004
5	Strait of Malacca	005
6	Alaska (U.S.A.)	006
7	The Great Lakes	007
8	Panama Canal	008
9	Amazon Rainforest	009
10	Amazon Basin	010
11	Lithium Triangle	011
12	Egypt	012
13	Horn of Africa (HOA)	013
14	Sahara Desert	014
15	Sahel Region	015
16	Golden Triangle	016
17	Golden Crescent	017
18	Pantanal Wetland	018
19	Lake Titicaca	019
20	South America	020
21	Kachchatheevu Island	021
22	Bangladesh	022

PLACES IN NEWS (OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2025)

SECTION - B		
S.No.	Maps	Page No.
23	Mediterranean Sea	023
24	Mediterranean Sea	024
25	Mediterranean Sea	025
26	Sea of Marmara	026
27	Mediterranean Sea	027
28	Adriatic Sea	028
29	Aegean Sea	029
30	Mediterranean Sea	030
31	India to Black Sea	031
32	Black Sea	032
33	Sea of Azov	033
34	Celtic Sea	034
35	Caspian Sea	035
36	India to Caspian Sea	036
37	Baltic Sea	037
38	Aral Sea	038
39	Red Sea	039
40	Gulf of Aqaba	040
41	Gulf of Aden	041
42	Persian Gulf	044
43	Gulf of Oman	043
44	Dead Sea	044

IMPORTANT SEAS OF THE WORLD

Contents

SECTION - B		
S.No.	Maps	Page No.
45	Arabian Sea	045
46	Bay of Bengal	046
47	Coastline of India	047
48	South China Sea	048
49	South China Sea	049
50	South China Sea	050
51	East China Sea	051
52	East China Sea	052
53	Yellow Sea	053
54	Sea of Japan	054
55	Caribbean Sea	055
56	Caribbean Sea	056
57	Gulf of Mexico	057
58	Hudson Bay	058
59	Tasman Sea	059
60	Coral Sea	060
61	Bering Sea	061
62	Kara Sea	062
	<i>SOLUTIONS & EXPLANATIONS</i>	
	<i>PRACTICE MAPS</i>	

IMPORTANT SEAS OF THE WORLD

QUESTION A-02

Consider the following statements regarding the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project:

1. The Kaladan project aims to provide India's northeastern states with an alternative access to the Bay of Bengal, bypassing the Siliguri Corridor.
2. The project connects Kolkata port to Sittwe port in Myanmar, then proceeds inland via the Kaladan River up to Paletwa, and further by road to Mizoram.
3. The Kaladan River flows entirely within India before entering Myanmar, making the project largely an inland Indian initiative.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

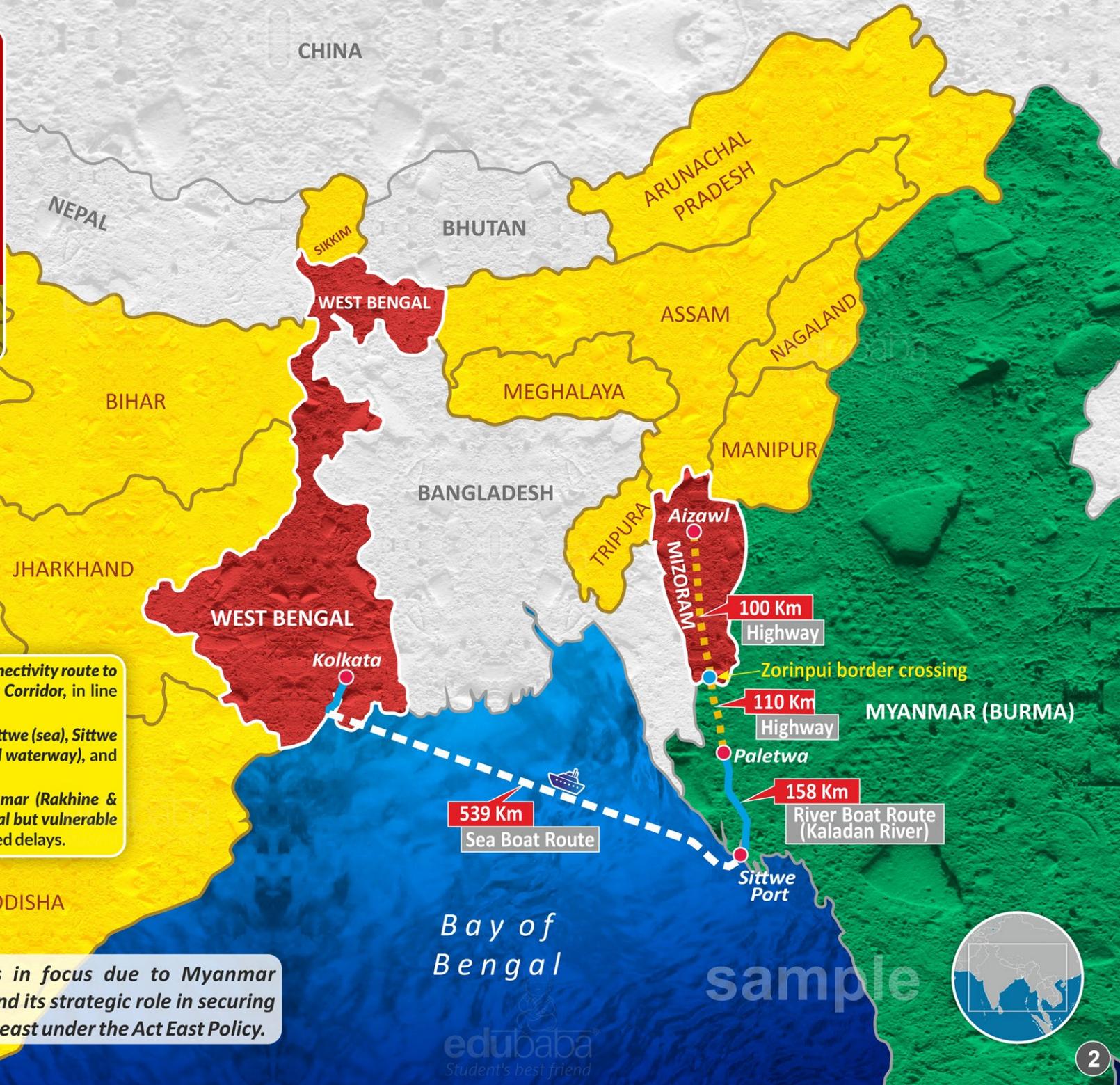
- a) 1 and 2 only c) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 and 3 only d) 1, 2 and 3

UPSC KEY FACTS

- ✓ The project provides an *alternative connectivity route to India's Northeast, bypassing the Siliguri Corridor*, in line with India's Act East Policy.
- ✓ It is a *three-mode corridor: Kolkata → Sittwe (sea), Sittwe → Paletwa via the Kaladan River (inland waterway), and Paletwa → Zorinpui, Mizoram (road)*.
- ✓ The route runs largely through Myanmar (Rakhine & Chin regions), making it *strategically vital but vulnerable to security disruptions*, which have caused delays.



Significance: The Kaladan project is in focus due to Myanmar instability, delays in implementation, and its strategic role in securing alternative connectivity to India's Northeast under the Act East Policy.



QUESTION A-06

Consider the following statements regarding Alaska:

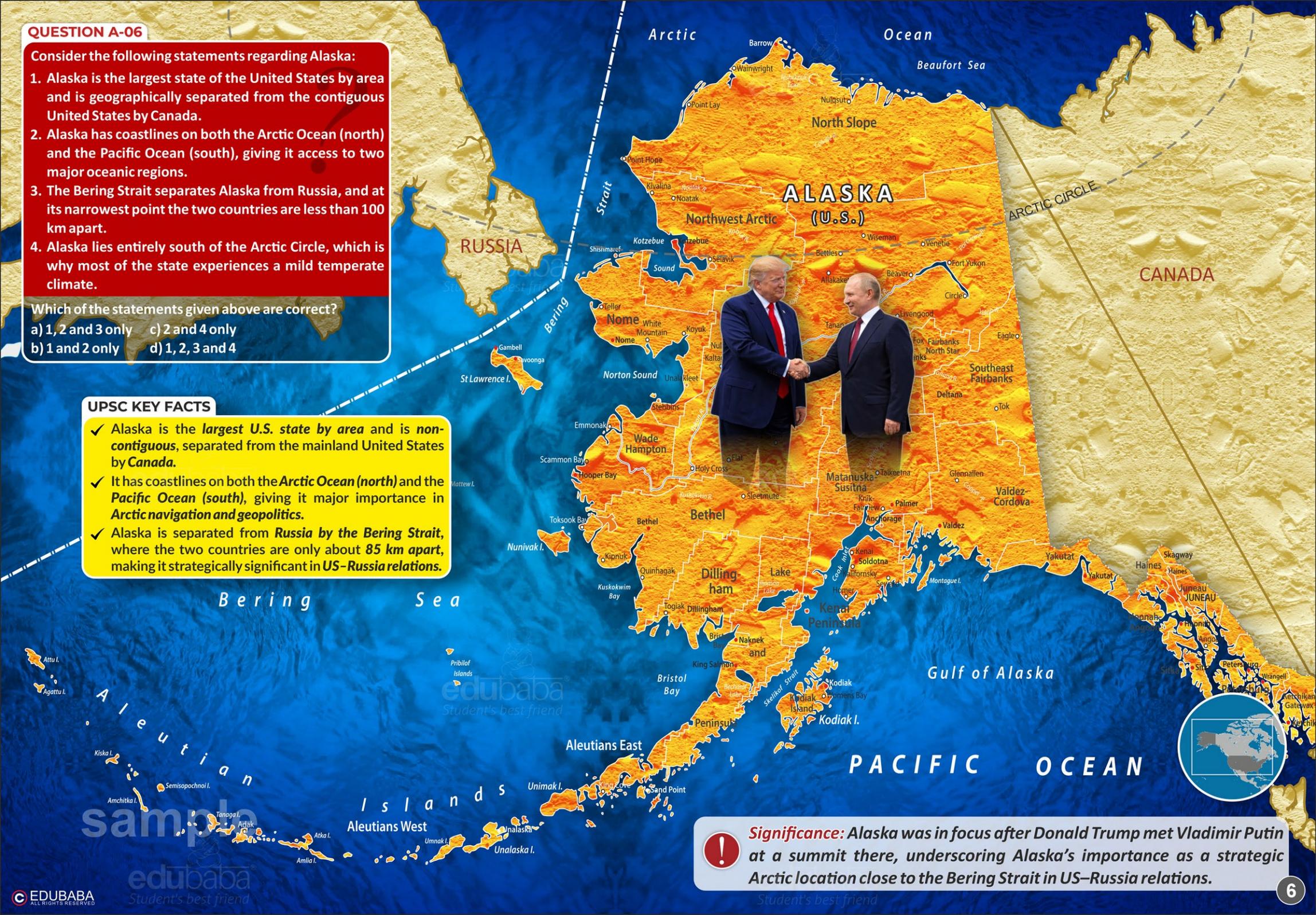
1. Alaska is the largest state of the United States by area and is geographically separated from the contiguous United States by Canada.
2. Alaska has coastlines on both the Arctic Ocean (north) and the Pacific Ocean (south), giving it access to two major oceanic regions.
3. The Bering Strait separates Alaska from Russia, and at its narrowest point the two countries are less than 100 km apart.
4. Alaska lies entirely south of the Arctic Circle, which is why most of the state experiences a mild temperate climate.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

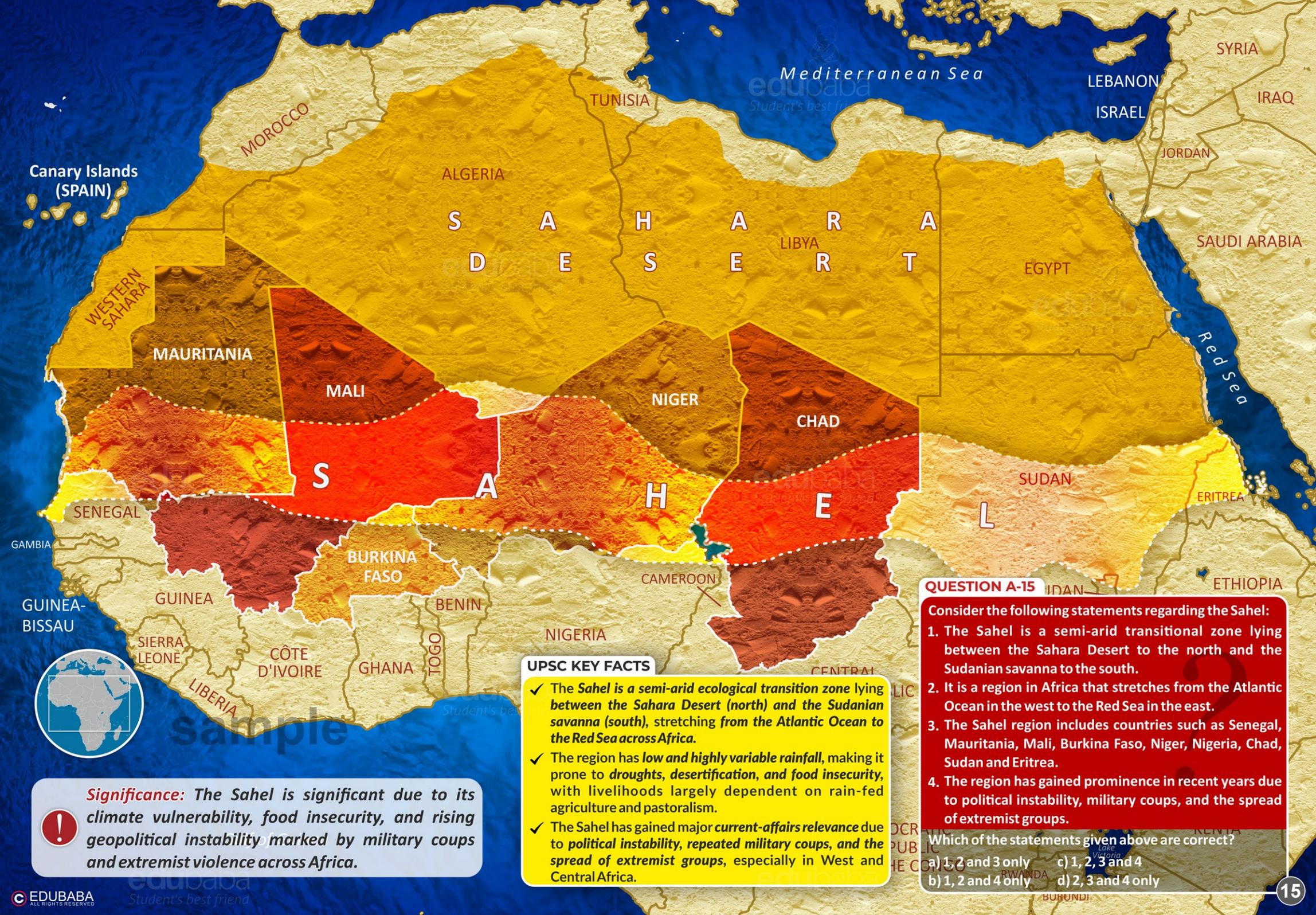
- a) 1, 2 and 3 only c) 2 and 4 only
b) 1 and 2 only d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

UPSC KEY FACTS

- ✓ Alaska is the **largest U.S. state by area** and is **non-contiguous**, separated from the mainland United States by **Canada**.
- ✓ It has coastlines on both the **Arctic Ocean (north)** and the **Pacific Ocean (south)**, giving it major importance in **Arctic navigation and geopolitics**.
- ✓ Alaska is separated from **Russia by the Bering Strait**, where the two countries are only about **85 km apart**, making it strategically significant in **US–Russia relations**.



Significance: Alaska was in focus after Donald Trump met Vladimir Putin at a summit there, underscoring Alaska's importance as a strategic Arctic location close to the Bering Strait in US–Russia relations.



Canary Islands (SPAIN)

WESTERN SAHARA

MAURITANIA

MALI

NIGER

CHAD

SENEGAL

S

A

H

E

L

SUDAN

ERITREA

GAMBIA

GUINEA-BISSAU

GUINEA

BURKINA FASO

BENIN

CAMEROON

NIGERIA

SIERRA LEONE

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

GHANA

TOGO

CENTRAL AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

ETHIOPIA



Significance: The Sahel is significant due to its climate vulnerability, food insecurity, and rising geopolitical instability marked by military coups and extremist violence across Africa.

UPSC KEY FACTS

- ✓ The Sahel is a semi-arid ecological transition zone lying between the Sahara Desert (north) and the Sudanian savanna (south), stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea across Africa.
- ✓ The region has low and highly variable rainfall, making it prone to droughts, desertification, and food insecurity, with livelihoods largely dependent on rain-fed agriculture and pastoralism.
- ✓ The Sahel has gained major current-affairs relevance due to political instability, repeated military coups, and the spread of extremist groups, especially in West and Central Africa.

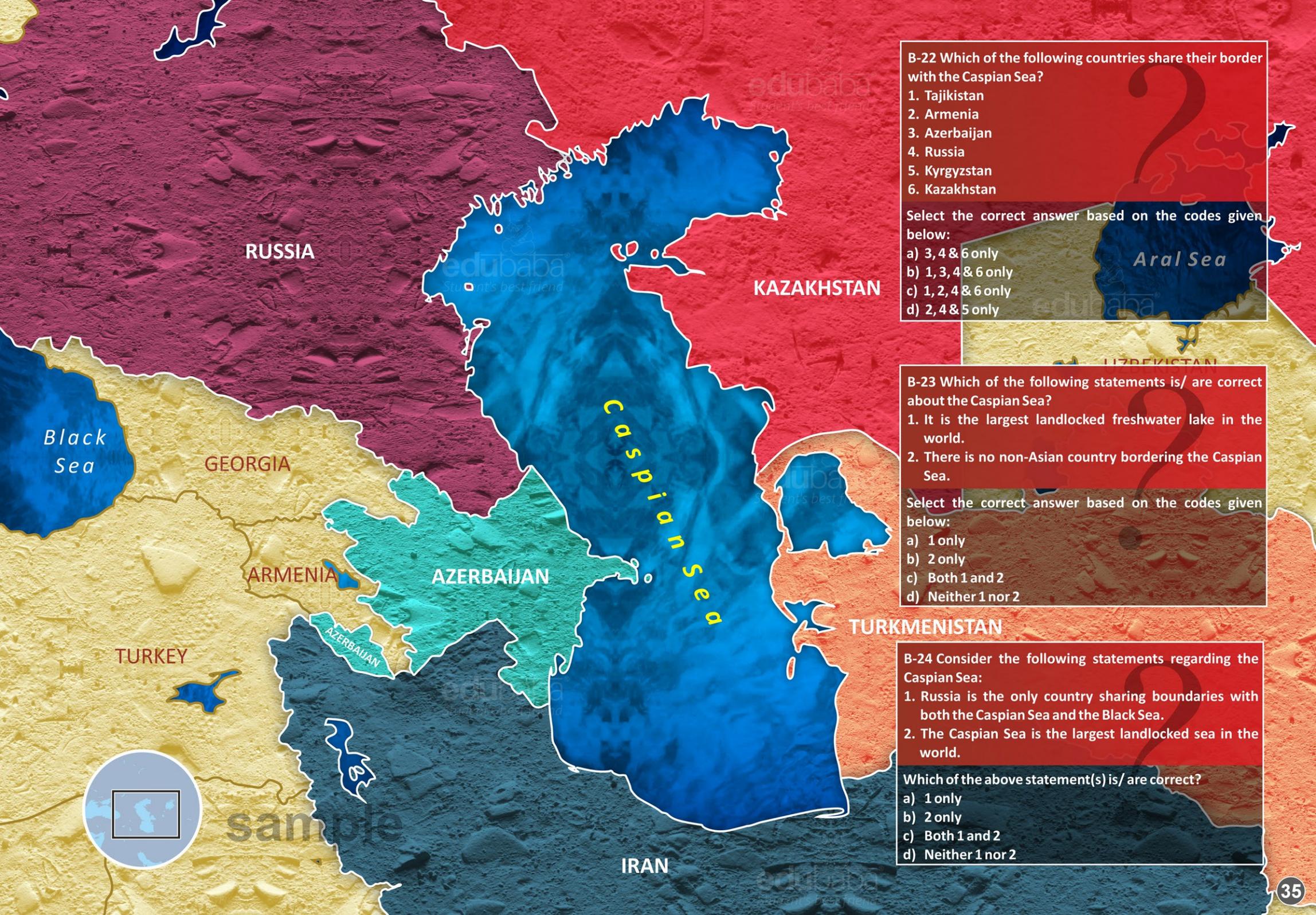
QUESTION A-15

Consider the following statements regarding the Sahel:

1. The Sahel is a semi-arid transitional zone lying between the Sahara Desert to the north and the Sudanian savanna to the south.
2. It is a region in Africa that stretches from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Red Sea in the east.
3. The Sahel region includes countries such as Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan and Eritrea.
4. The region has gained prominence in recent years due to political instability, military coups, and the spread of extremist groups.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
 b) 1, 2 and 4 only d) 2, 3 and 4 only



B-22 Which of the following countries share their border with the Caspian Sea?

1. Tajikistan
2. Armenia
3. Azerbaijan
4. Russia
5. Kyrgyzstan
6. Kazakhstan

Select the correct answer based on the codes given below:

- a) 3, 4 & 6 only
- b) 1, 3, 4 & 6 only
- c) 1, 2, 4 & 6 only
- d) 2, 4 & 5 only

B-23 Which of the following statements is/ are correct about the Caspian Sea?

1. It is the largest landlocked freshwater lake in the world.
2. There is no non-Asian country bordering the Caspian Sea.

Select the correct answer based on the codes given below:

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

B-24 Consider the following statements regarding the Caspian Sea:

1. Russia is the only country sharing boundaries with both the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea.
2. The Caspian Sea is the largest landlocked sea in the world.

Which of the above statement(s) is/ are correct?

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



SOLUTIONS & EXPLANATIONS

Detailed, clear understanding for every map-based question

SECTION A — PLACES IN NEWS (OCTOBER–NOVEMBER)

- **Permafrost**, and
- Phenomena such as the **Midnight Sun** and **Polar Night**.
- UPSC commonly traps aspirants by linking **latitude incorrectly with climate**.

Significance: *Alaska was in focus after Donald Trump met Vladimir Putin at a summit there, underscoring Alaska's importance as a strategic Arctic location close to the Bering Strait in US–Russia relations.*

A-07 The Correct Answer is: a) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 — Correct**
 - The **Great Lakes** comprise:
 - **Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario**
 - Together, they form the **largest freshwater lake system in the world by surface area** and hold roughly **one-fifth of the world's surface freshwater**.
They are a crucial freshwater resource for **both the United States and Canada**.
- **Statement 2 — Correct**
 - **Lake Michigan** is the **only Great Lake located entirely within the United States**.
 - It is bordered by **Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana**.
 - All other Great Lakes form part of the **USA–Canada international boundary**, making Lake Michigan a common **UPSC map-based trap**.
- **Statement 3 — Correct**
 - The Great Lakes drain **eastward into the Atlantic Ocean** through the **St. Lawrence River system**.
 - Drainage path:
 - Lake Superior → Lake Huron/Michigan → Lake Erie → Lake Ontario → **St. Lawrence River → Atlantic Ocean**
 - This drainage system enables **inland navigation via the St. Lawrence Seaway**, linking the interior of North America to global trade routes.
- **Statement 4 — Incorrect (Depth Trap)**
 - **Lake Superior** is the **deepest** Great Lake (≈ 406 m).
 - **Lake Erie** is the **shallowest**, which makes it:
 - More prone to **warming**,
 - **Algal blooms**, and
 - **Pollution stress**.
 - *UPSC frequently tests confusion between **size, depth, and volume**.*
- **Statement 5 — Correct (Sequence & Elevation Logic)**
 - From **west to east**, the Great Lakes follow a clear **stepwise sequence**:
 - **Lake Superior** (highest elevation)
 - **Lake Michigan & Lake Huron** (same water level)
 - **Lake Erie**

sample



SOLUTIONS & EXPLANATIONS

Detailed, clear understanding for every map-based question

SECTION A — PLACES IN NEWS (OCTOBER–NOVEMBER)

- **Lake Ontario** (lowest elevation)
- This **elevation gradient** explains:
 - The **direction of river flow**,
 - The presence of **rapids and waterfalls** (e.g., **Niagara Falls between Erie and Ontario**), and
 - The necessity of **canals and locks** for navigation.
- This is a **high-value physical geography concept** for UPSC.

Significance: *The Great Lakes are significant due to their freshwater resources, role in USA–Canada trade via the St. Lawrence Seaway, and growing concerns over pollution, invasive species, and climate-induced water-level changes.*

A-08 The Correct Answer is: a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 — Correct**
 - The Panama Canal provides a **direct maritime link between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans**.
 - It eliminates the need for ships to travel around **Cape Horn** at the southern tip of South America.
 - This makes it a **critical global shipping route**, especially for trade between **East Asia, the Americas, and Europe**.
- **Statement 2 — Correct**
 - The Panama Canal is a **lock canal**, not a sea-level canal.
 - Ships are lifted up to **Gatun Lake (≈26 m above sea level)** through a series of locks.
 - This distinguishes it from the **Suez Canal**, which operates at sea level.
 - *Confusing Panama with Suez is a classic UPSC trap.*
- **Statement 3 — Correct**
 - The canal depends heavily on **freshwater from Gatun Lake**.
 - Gatun Lake was created by damming the **Chagres River**.
 - Each ship transit releases large volumes of freshwater, making the canal **vulnerable to droughts and rainfall variability**.
 - This links geography with **climate-change-related current affairs**.
- **Statement 4 — Incorrect (Ownership Trap)**
 - Although the canal was **constructed by the United States** in the early 20th century,
 - It has been **owned and operated by Panama since 1999**, following the **Torrijos–Carter Treaties**.
 - *UPSC often tests the difference between builder vs present ownership.*

Significance: *The Panama Canal is facing a critical juncture, with its operations heavily impacted by severe, climate-induced droughts that have reduced the freshwater levels of Gatun Lake, a crucial element for its lock system.*

A-09 The Correct Answer is: b) 1 and 3 only

sample



QUESTION A-05

Consider the following statements regarding the Strait of Malacca:

1. The Strait of Malacca lies between the Malay Peninsula and the island of Sumatra, connecting the Indian Ocean with the Pacific Ocean.
2. It is one of the world's busiest maritime chokepoints, carrying a significant share of global trade and energy shipments.
3. The strait is bordered by Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand, making all three key littoral states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



QUESTION A-13

Consider the following statements regarding the Horn of Africa:

1. The Horn of Africa primarily includes Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti.
2. The region is strategically located near the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, linking the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden.
3. The Horn of Africa is characterised by high and reliable rainfall throughout the year, supporting dense forest

Which of the statements given above are correct?

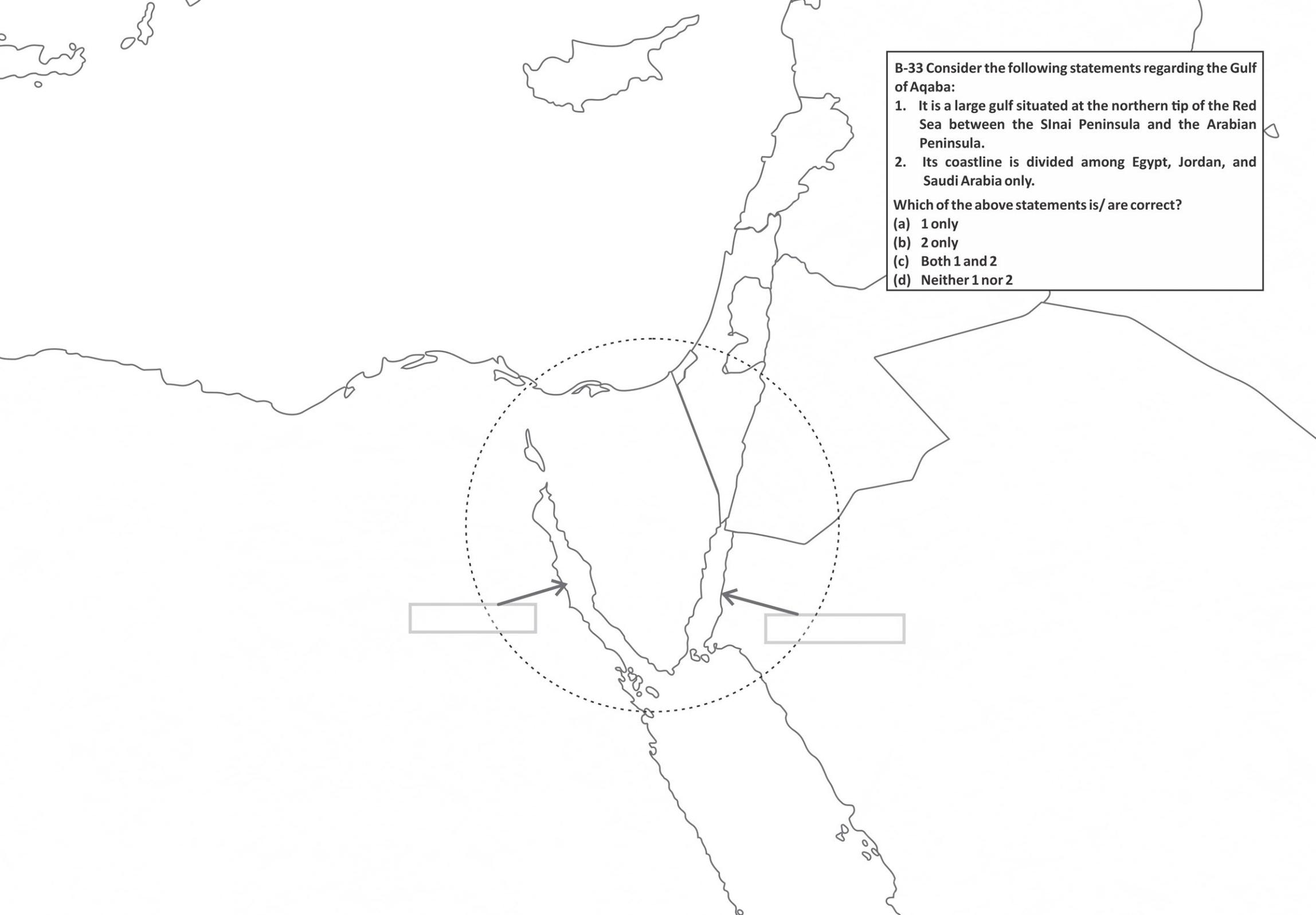
- a) 1 and 2 only c) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 and 3 only d) 1, 2 and 3

B-33 Consider the following statements regarding the Gulf of Aqaba:

1. It is a large gulf situated at the northern tip of the Red Sea between the Sinai Peninsula and the Arabian Peninsula.
2. Its coastline is divided among Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia only.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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



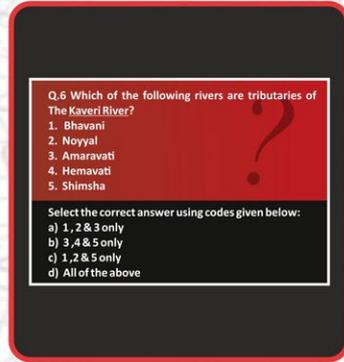
HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

STEP-1



Study the Map
Excellent Quality,
Content-Rich Maps.

STEP-2



Attempt the Questions
Map based questions
specific to current affairs
and ongoing events.

STEP-3



Check the Solution
Clear solutions with
detailed explanations for
optimal understanding.

STEP-4



Practice the Map
Check your understanding
by attempting the practice
maps provided.

STEP-5



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with videos and related
resources on Youtube and
Edubaba website.



TESTIMONIAL # 1

I found this book wonderfully effective for targeted map-work practice. Thank you Edubaba.

-TANYA SETHI
M.B.A.



TESTIMONIAL # 2

I suggested this book to my own students for Civil Services Exams. The results have been impressive. Good effort!!

-ABHISHEK TIWARI
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