

Evolution

NEET previous year questions · Biology

13 questions from the official papers: NEET 2026 (3), Re-NEET 2026 (6), NEET 2020 (4). Each is followed by its answer and a worked solution written by BrainIt. Generated on 23 October 2026.



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1. NEET 2026 · Q145

Which of the following is not an example of convergent evolution?

- (1) Flippers of penguins and dolphins
- (2) Eyes of octopuses and mammals
- (3) Fore limbs of whales and bats
- (4) Wings of butterflies and birds

Answer (3)

Sol. Convergent evolution produces analogous structures in unrelated lineages performing similar functions, as with flippers of penguins and dolphins, eyes of octopuses and mammals, and wings of butterflies and birds. The forelimbs of whales and bats, however, share the same basic skeletal plan inherited from a common ancestor; they are homologous structures illustrating divergent evolution. Therefore the whale-and-bat forelimbs are the exception.

2. NEET 2026 · Q148

Match List I with List II with respect to chronology of evolution of life forms

List I	List II
P) About 65 mya	I) Jawless fish probably evolved
Q) About 500 mya	II) The dinosaurs suddenly disappeared from the earth
R) About 350 mya	III) Seaweeds and few plants probably existed
S) About 320 mya	IV) Invertebrates were formed and became active

- (1) P-III, Q-IV, R-I, S-II (2) P-I, Q-II, R-III, S-IV
- (3) P-II, Q-IV, R-III, S-I (4) P-II, Q-IV, R-I, S-III

Answer (4)

Sol. Along the geological timeline: about 65 mya the dinosaurs suddenly disappeared from the earth (II);

about 500 mya invertebrates were formed and became active (IV); about 350 mya jawless fishes probably evolved (I); and about 320 mya seaweeds and a few plants probably existed (III). This gives P-II, Q-IV, R-I, S-III.

3. NEET 2026 · Q178

Evolution of human appears parallel to the progressive development of brain and language skills. As such, the evolution of individual species in the sequence of their appearance is:

- (1) *Ramapithecus* → *Homo habilis* → *Homo erectus* → Neanderthal → *Homo sapiens*
- (2) *Homo sapiens* → *Ramapithecus* → *Homo habilis* → Neanderthal → *Homo erectus*
- (3) *Homo habilis* → *Homo erectus* → *Ramapithecus* → Neanderthal → *Homo sapiens*
- (4) Neanderthal → *Ramapithecus* → *Homo habilis* → *Homo erectus* → *Homo sapiens*

Answer (1)

Sol. The accepted chronological order of human evolution proceeds from *Ramapithecus* through *Homo habilis* and *Homo erectus* to Neanderthal man and finally modern *Homo sapiens*. Only option (1) reflects this sequence; the others wrongly place *Homo sapiens*, *Ramapithecus* or Neanderthal out of order.

4. Re-NEET 2026 · Q141

Natural selection can lead to _____.

Statement I: stabilisation

Statement II: genetic drift

Statement III: directional change

Statement IV: disruption

Choose the correct answer from the options given below :

- (1) (I) only
- (2) (I), (III) and (IV) only
- (3) (I), (II), (III) and (IV)
- (4) (I) and (III) only

Answer (2)

Sol. Natural selection operates in three modes, distinguished by which part of the trait distribution it favours: stabilising selection favours the average and narrows variation, directional selection shifts the mean toward one extreme, and disruptive selection favours both extremes and can split the population into two peaks. GENETIC DRIFT is not one of them - it is random change in allele frequency caused by chance in small populations, and is explicitly a non-selective mechanism. NCERT Class 12, Evolution.

5. Re-NEET 2026 · Q147

A population of diploid organisms is at Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. If the frequency of allele A is 0.1, the frequency of AA is _____.

- (1) 0.01 (2) 0.02 (3) 0.10 (4) 0.99

Answer (1)

Sol. Under Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium the genotype frequencies follow $p^2 + 2pq + q^2 = 1$, where p^2 is the frequency of the homozygous dominant genotype. With $p = 0.1$, the frequency of AA is $p^2 = 0.01$. The rare-allele lesson is worth noting: a 10 per cent allele frequency produces only 1 per cent homozygotes, which is why recessive disorders remain rare even when carriers are not. NCERT Class 12, Evolution.

6. Re-NEET 2026 · Q159

Which of the following is not evidence for evolution?

- (1) Convergent evolution of traits like wings of birds and butterflies
- (2) Paleontological evidence from fossil records
- (3) Embryological support for evolution as proposed by Ernst Haeckel
- (4) Divergent evolution of anatomical structures such as forelimbs

Answer (3)

Sol. Ernst Haeckel's recapitulation proposal claimed that embryonic development repeats ancestral adult stages, but Karl Ernst von Baer's observations disproved that claim; NCERT therefore treats this proposed support as invalid evidence. Fossils are palaeontological evidence, analogous wings illustrate convergent evolution, and homologous forelimbs illustrate divergent evolution. NTA's paper spelled the name Heckel; it is corrected to Haeckel. NCERT Class 12, Evolution (evidence for evolution).

7. Re-NEET 2026 · Q160

Given below are two statements :

Statement I: Modern *Homo sapiens* arose in Australia and moved across continents.

Statement II: *Homo sapiens* arose around 75000 to 10000 years ago.

In the light of the above statements, choose the most appropriate answer from the options given below :

- (1) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct
- (2) Both Statement I and Statement II are incorrect
- (3) Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect
- (4) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct

Answer (4)

Sol. Modern *Homo sapiens* arose in Africa and migrated across continents. In the NCERT timeline used by this question, their emergence is placed during the ice age, about 75,000 to 10,000 years ago. Statement I names the wrong continent; statement II follows that textbook timeline.

8. Re-NEET 2026 · Q164

Adaptive radiation in placental mammals and Australian Marsupials leading to similarity between distant species is an example of _____.

- (1) divergent evolution (2) convergent evolution
- (3) founder effect (4) genetic drift

Answer (2)

Sol. Two adaptive radiations happened independently - one among placental mammals and one among Australian marsupials - yet each produced strikingly similar forms occupying equivalent niches, such as the placental wolf and the Tasmanian wolf, or the flying squirrel and the flying phalanger. When UNRELATED lineages come to resemble one another under similar selection pressures, that is convergent evolution. NCERT Class 12, Evolution.

9. Re-NEET 2026 · Q170

Given below are two statements : one is labelled as Assertion A and the other is labelled as Reason R.

Assertion (A): Forelimbs of human and bats are homologous.

Reason (R): Forelimbs of humans and bats have similar anatomical structure.

In the light of the above statements, choose the most appropriate answer from the options given below.

- (1) Both A and R are correct and R is the correct explanation of A
- (2) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (3) A is true but R is false
- (4) A is false but R is true

Answer (1)

Sol. Homology is defined by shared underlying anatomy inherited from a common ancestor, whatever the organ is now used for. The forelimbs of humans, bats, cheetahs and whales all contain the same bones - humerus, radius, ulna, carpals, metacarpals and phalanges - arranged in the same pattern despite performing very different functions. That common structural plan is precisely what makes them homologous, so R explains A. NCERT Class 12, Evolution.

10. NEET 2020 · Q23

From his experiments, S.L. Miller produced amino acids by mixing the following in a closed flask

- (1) CH_3 , H_2 , NH_4 and water vapor at 800°C
- (2) CH_4 , H_2 , NH_3 and water vapor at 600°C
- (3) CH_3 , H_2 , NH_3 and water vapor at 600°C
- (4) CH_4 , H_2 , NH_3 and water vapor at 800°C

Answer (4)

Sol. S.L. Miller's experiment used a mixture of CH_4 , H_2 , NH_3 , and water vapor at a high temperature (800°C) to simulate early Earth conditions and produce amino acids. Chapter: Evolution.

11. NEET 2020 · Q28

Embryological support for evolution was disapproved by

- (1) Alfred Wallace
- (2) Charles Darwin
- (3) Oparin
- (4) Karl Ernst von Baer

Answer (4)

Sol. Karl Ernst von Baer criticized the idea that embryos of different species pass through the same stages of development, which was a key argument for

embryological support of evolution. Chapter: Evolution.

12. NEET 2020 · Q84

Flippers of Penguins and Dolphins are examples of

- (1) Convergent evolution
- (2) Industrial melanism
- (3) Natural selection
- (4) Adaptive radiation

Answer (1)

Sol. Flippers of penguins and dolphins are examples of convergent evolution, where unrelated organisms develop similar traits due to similar environmental pressures. Chapter: Evolution.

13. NEET 2020 · Q85

Which of the following refer to correct example(s) of organisms which have evolved due to changes in environment brought about by anthropogenic action?

Statement I: Darwin's Finches of Galapagos islands.

Statement II: Herbicide resistant weeds.

Statement III: Drug resistant eukaryotes.

Statement IV: Man-created breeds of domesticated animals like dogs.

- (1) (I) and (III)
- (2) (II), (III) and (IV)
- (3) only (IV)
- (4) only (I)

Answer (2)

Sol. Herbicide-resistant weeds, drug-resistant eukaryotes and human-created dog breeds reflect anthropogenic selection. Darwin's finches arose through natural environmental selection, so (II), (III) and (IV) are correct. Chapter: Evolution.

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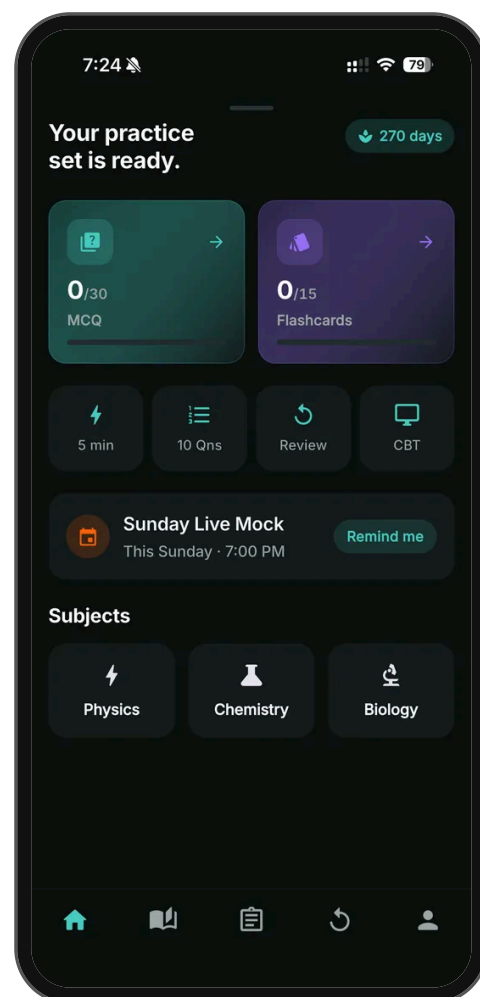
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