

CLAT UG 2026 Set B Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :2 Hours	Maximum Marks :120	Total Questions :120
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INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. This Question Booklet (QB) contains 120 (One hundred and Twenty) Multiple Choice Questions across 40 (Forty) pages including 2 (Two) blank pages for rough work. No additional sheet(s) of paper will be supplied for rough work.
2. You have to answer ALL questions in the separate carbonised Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Response Sheet supplied along with this QB. You must READ the detailed instructions provided with the OMR Response Sheet on the reverse side of this packet BEFORE you start the test.
3. No clarification can be sought on the QB from anyone. In case of any discrepancy such as printing error or missing pages, in the QB, request the Invigilator to replace the QB and OMR Response Sheet. Do not use the previous OMR Response sheet with the fresh QB.
4. You should write the QB Number, and the OMR Response Sheet Number, and sign in the space/column provided in the Attendance Sheet.
5. The QB for the Under Graduate Programme is for 120 marks. Every **Right Answer** secures 1 mark. Every **Wrong Answer** results in the deduction of 0.25 mark. There shall be no deductions for Unanswered Questions.
6. You may retain the QB and the Candidate's copy of the OMR Response Sheet after the end of the test.
7. The use of any unfair means shall result in your disqualification. Possession of Electronic Devices such as mobile phones, headphones, digital watches, etc., is/are strictly prohibited in the test premises. Impersonation or any other unlawful practice will lead to your disqualification and possibly, appropriate action under the law.

Section - I

I. US president Donald trump has landed a triple whammy on India by torpedoing the H-1B visa programme, days after revoking sanctions waiver on Chabahar port in Iran and weeks after imposing a 50% tariff on Indian exports to the US. The White House also maintained a conspicuous silence on the Pakistan-Saudi Arabia mutual defence treaty amid reports that neither country informed Washington of the pact, suggesting a growing US indifference to India's concerns. The triple blow has shaken US-India ties to the foundation, mystifying experts who expected a reset after an exchange of friendly messages between Modi and Trump. While some observers see in the crackdown on H-1B a pressure tactic to make India bend on the trade deal, sources familiar with the dynamics of the current White House say the two issues are unrelated and Trump was convinced of the need to "reform" the guest worker

visa programme ever since MAGA hardliners persuaded him that American workers were being gamed out of jobs by foreign companies and US big tech acting in tandem. (174 words)
[Extracted from the newspaper, *The Times of India*, September 21, 2025]

1. What percentage tariff did President Trump initially impose on Indian imports in 2025?

- (A) 15%
- (B) 25%
- (C) 40%
- (D) 50%

Correct Answer: (D) 50%

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the Source Text To find the answer, we must look directly at the provided Reading Comprehension text titled SECTION I. The first sentence explicitly outlines the actions taken by the US President.

Step 2: Locating Specific Data The text states: "...weeks after imposing a **50% tariff** on Indian exports to the US." This is a factual data point embedded in the passage. The other options (15%, 25%, 40%) are not mentioned in the text regarding tariffs.

Step 3: Verification The question asks for the percentage "initially" imposed in the specific timeline of the passage (which is set in the future year 2025). The figure 50% is the only one supported by the passage.

Step 4: Final Answer Therefore, the correct percentage is **50%**.

 Quick Tip

RC Strategy: In Reading Comprehension, ignore your outside knowledge. Even if a 50% tariff sounds unrealistic in the real world today, if the passage says it happened, that is the correct answer for the exam.

2. What strategic reason did Donald Trump cite for penalizing India with additional tariffs apart from trade imbalances?

- (A) India's IT service exports
- (B) Indian Banknote Demonetization
- (C) India's immigration policies
- (D) India's defense and energy ties with Russia

Correct Answer: (D) India's defense and energy ties with Russia

Solution:

Step 1: Deconstructing the "Triple Whammy" The passage mentions three specific actions (the "triple whammy"): 1. H-1B Visa Torpedoing: Linked to "American workers being gamed out of jobs" (Labor/Economic issue). 2. Tariffs (50%): Linked to a "pressure tactic to make India bend on the trade deal" (Trade issue). 3. Chabahar Port Sanctions: This implies a geopolitical/strategic dimension.

Step 2: Identifying the "Strategic" Reason The question asks for a *strategic* reason *apart* from trade imbalances. - Option (A) refers to IT exports, which relates to the H-1B/Economic issue, not strategic defense. - Options (B) and (C) are domestic Indian policies not mentioned as causes for US tariffs in this context. - Option (D) mentions "India's defense and energy ties with Russia." In International Relations, "strategic" usually refers to military and geopolitical alliances. The US has historically used the CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act) laws to penalize countries buying defense equipment (like the S-400 missile system) from Russia.

Step 3: Conclusion Although the short text snippet provided primarily lists the punishments, the context of US-India strategic friction is almost always centered on India's neutrality or ties with Russia. Among the choices, this is the only valid "Strategic" rationale that would trigger sanctions/tariffs alongside trade disputes.

 Quick Tip

Keyword Association: "Strategic" in foreign policy questions often points to Defense, Military Alliances, or Energy Security, rather than simple import/export numbers.

3. What is the strategic significance of Chabahar Port for India?

- (A) Provides trade access to China through Pakistan
- (B) Acts as counterbalance to China's presence in nearby Gwadar Port, Pakistan
- (C) Serves as the primary naval base for India
- (D) Connects India directly to the Mediterranean Sea

Correct Answer: (B) Acts as counterbalance to China's presence in nearby Gwadar Port, Pakistan

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing Chabahar Port Chabahar is located in the Sistan-Baluchistan province of Iran, on the Gulf of Oman. India has invested heavily in developing this port.

Step 2: Evaluating Strategic Goals 1. Bypassing Pakistan: The primary utility is to create a trade route to Afghanistan and Central Asia that does *not* require passing through Pakistan, as Pakistan denies transit rights to India. (This eliminates Option A). 2. Counterbalancing Gwadar: The Chinese-operated Gwadar Port in Pakistan is just about 72 km away from Chabahar. Gwadar is a key part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). India views Chabahar as a strategic check ("counterbalance") to China's naval and commercial influence in the region. (This supports Option B). 3. Nature of Port: It is primarily a commercial port, though it has strategic implications. It is not India's "primary naval base" (Option C is false). 4. Geography: It connects to the Indian Ocean region/Central Asia, not directly to the Mediterranean (Option D is false).

Step 3: Final Answer The most significant strategic aspect listed is its role as a counterbalance to China's Gwadar Port.

💡 Quick Tip

Geography Trap: Gwadar is in Pakistan (built by China). Chabahar is in Iran (built by India). They are often called "Sister Ports" due to proximity but are strategic rivals.

4. What is the primary purpose of the H-1B Visa?

- (A) Exchange Visitor Visa
- (B) Employment Visa
- (C) Immigrant visa for permanent residence in the U.S.
- (D) Non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to hire foreign professionals in specialized field

Correct Answer: (D) Non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to hire foreign professionals in specialized field

Solution:

Step 1: Defining Visa Categories - J-1: Exchange Visitor Visa (for students, scholars, interns). (Matches Option A). - Green Card: Permanent Resident Card (Immigrant Visa). (Matches Option C). - H-1B: A specific class of non-immigrant visa.

Step 2: Characteristics of H-1B The H-1B program is designed for "Specialty Occupations". This means the job must require: 1. Theoretical and practical application of highly specialized knowledge. 2. A bachelor's degree or higher in the specific specialty (e.g., Engineering, Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Medicine).

Step 3: Analyzing Option (D) Option (D) covers all the technical requirements: - "Non-immigrant" (correct, it is temporary, usually 3-6 years). - "US companies to hire foreign professionals" (correct, it is employer-sponsored). - "Specialized field" (correct, the core requirement).

Option (B) "Employment Visa" is too generic, as there are many types (L1, O1, H2B, etc.). Option (D) is the precise legal definition.

💡 Quick Tip

Definition Check: H-1B = **H**ighly skilled **I**ndividuals in **B**usiness/Tech (Mnemonic). It requires a Sponsor (Employer) and specific education.

5. The acronym 'MAGA' mentioned in the above passage refers to:

- (A) Multilateral Agencies Global Association
- (B) Make America Great Again
- (C) Mutual Agreements for Global Advantage
- (D) Monetary Advantage For Great America

Correct Answer: (B) Make America Great Again

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Context The passage refers to "MAGA hardliners" in the context of US President Donald Trump.

Step 2: Decoding the Acronym MAGA stands for "Make America Great Again". - It was the central campaign slogan of Donald Trump in his 2016 and 2024 presidential campaigns. - It signifies a political ideology focused on American nationalism, protectionism (tariffs), and stricter immigration (H-1B restrictions), which aligns perfectly with the actions described in the passage.

Step 3: Eliminating Distractors Options (A), (C), and (D) are fabricated terms that do not exist in political discourse.

 Quick Tip

Historical Note: While popularized by Trump, the slogan "Let's Make America Great Again" was also used by Ronald Reagan in his 1980 campaign.

II. Indian Chess recorded yet another great moment on Monday; as Divya Deshmukh won the Women's World Cup in Georgian city of Batumi. In the final, the 19-year-old defeated fellow-Indian Koneru Humpy in the tiebreakers. While Humpy contesting the final wasn't much of a surprise-she is the World No. 5 and has been one of the best female players for the last couple of decades-not many would have anticipated Divya's stunning show. But, given her obvious talent and the way she has been playing for the past two years, it didn't come as a big surprise. By winning the World Cup, one of the biggest events organized by the world chess governing body FIDE, Divya also achieved another significant milestone. She became India's 88th Grandmaster and is only the fourth Indian Woman after Humpy, D. Harika and R. Vaishali to get that coveted title. Last year, Divya won the World junior championship in Ahmedabad with a dominant display. She also played a key role in India's historic gold in the Chess Olympiad at Budapest. India was the top seed there, though. At the World Cup, the Indian women exceeded expectations, with four of them making it to the quarterfinals. (198 words)

[Extracted from the newspaper, The Hindu July 29, 2025]

6. Where is the origin of chess believed to be?

- (A) China
- (B) Russia
- (C) India
- (D) Egypt

Correct Answer: (C) India

Solution:

Step 1: Historical Origin The precursor to modern chess is a game called Chaturanga. - Name Meaning: *Chatur* (Four) + *Anga* (Limbs/Divisions). It represented the four divisions of the ancient Indian army: Infantry (Pawns), Cavalry (Knights), Elephants (Bishops), and Chariotry (Rooks).

Step 2: Timeline and Spread - Place: Northern India. - Time: Gupta Empire (circa 6th Century AD). - Migration: From India, it traveled to Persia (becoming *Shatranj*), then to

the Arab world, and finally to Europe, where it evolved into the modern game we know today.

Step 3: Conclusion While Russia and China are modern powerhouses of the game, the historical *origin* is definitively India.

💡 Quick Tip

Evolution Chain: Chaturanga (India) → Shatranj (Persia) → Chess (Europe).

7. Who was the first Indian to earn the title of chess Grandmaster?

- (A) D. Gukesh
- (B) Praveen Thipsay
- (C) Dibyendu Barua
- (D) Vishwanathan Anand

Correct Answer: (D) Vishwanathan Anand

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Legend The title of "Grandmaster" (GM) is awarded by FIDE. - Viswanathan Anand became India's first Grandmaster in 1988. - He later went on to become a five-time World Chess Champion, sparking a chess revolution in India.

Step 2: Checking Other Options - Dibyendu Barua: Became India's 2nd GM in 1991. - Praveen Thipsay: Became India's 3rd GM in 1997. - D. Gukesh: A modern prodigy (born 2006) who became a GM at age 12, but he belongs to the current generation (Gen Z), not the first.

Step 3: Final Answer Viswanathan Anand is the pioneer of Indian chess.

💡 Quick Tip

Trivia: As of 2024-25, India has over 85 Grandmasters, but it all started with Anand in 1988.

8. Who was the first official World Chess Champion?

- (A) Bobby Fischer
- (B) Gary Kasparov
- (C) Vishwanathan Anand
- (D) Wilhelm Steinitz

Correct Answer: (D) Wilhelm Steinitz

Solution:

Step 1: Differentiating Unofficial vs. Official Before 1886, there were unofficial champions (like Paul Morphy), but there was no formalized title.

Step 2: The First Official Match (1886) - The first official World Championship match was played between Wilhelm Steinitz (Austrian-American) and Johannes Zukertort. - Steinitz won the match (10 wins, 5 losses, 5 draws) and was crowned the first official World Champion.

Step 3: Evaluating Other Options - Bobby Fischer: 11th Champion (1972-1975). - Garry Kasparov: 13th Champion (1985-2000). - Viswanathan Anand: 15th Champion (2007-2013).
Step 4: Final Answer Wilhelm Steinitz holds the distinction of being the first.

💡 Quick Tip

Chronology: Steinitz (1st) → Lasker (2nd) → Capablanca (3rd) ... → Ding Liren (Current, as of 2024).

9. Which of the following computers successfully defeated Garry Kasparov, the reigning world chess champion, in a tournament match?

- (A) Deep AI
- (B) Deep Thought
- (C) Deep Blue
- (D) Deep Water

Correct Answer: (C) Deep Blue

Solution:

Step 1: The Historic Event In May 1997, a six-game rematch took place between world champion Garry Kasparov and an IBM supercomputer.

Step 2: The Computer's Identity - The computer was named Deep Blue. - It won the match with 2 wins, 1 loss, and 3 draws (Score: 3.5 - 2.5). This was the first time a computer defeated a reigning world champion in a standard match format.

Step 3: Eliminating Confusion - Deep Thought: This was the predecessor to Deep Blue. Kasparov played against Deep Thought in 1989 and won easily. - Deep AI / Deep Water: These are not the correct names of the IBM machine.

Step 4: Final Answer Deep Blue is the correct answer.

💡 Quick Tip

Significance: This event is considered a landmark in the history of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

10. Which of the following cities is the venue for hosting the 11th edition of Chess World Cup 2025?

- (A) Paris, France
- (B) Baku, Azerbaijan
- (C) Goa, India
- (D) Chennai, India

Correct Answer: (C) Goa, India

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the Timeline The question refers to the year 2025. - The 10th Chess World Cup was held in Baku, Azerbaijan in 2023. - The 11th edition is the subsequent tournament.

Step 2: Identifying the Venue Given that this question appears in a context discussing Indian achievements (Divya Deshmukh's win mentioned in Passage II) and future dates (2025), it relies on the specific current affairs knowledge associated with the exam's timeline. In the context of this specific mock/paper, Goa, India is the designated answer.

Step 3: Logic Check - (B) Baku hosted the previous one, so it is unlikely to repeat immediately. - (D) Chennai recently hosted the 44th Chess Olympiad (2022). - Goa is a prominent Indian venue often bidding for such international events.

 Quick Tip

GK Update: Always check the latest FIDE announcements for World Cup venues. Recent major Indian hubs for chess are Chennai, Kolkata, and Goa.

III. I rise to apprise this august House of the foreign policy dimension of our response to the Pahalgam terrorist attack, going into the preparations for Operation Sindoor and how foreign policy was handled during Operation Sindoor. As all the honourable members would appreciate, it was important to send a clear, strong and resolute message after the Pahalgam attack. Our red lines had been crossed and we had to make it very apparent that there would be serious consequences. As a result, the first step which was taken was that a meeting of the Cabinet Committee of Security took place on the 23rd of April, and that meeting decided that:

- One, the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 will be held in abeyance with immediate effect until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism.
- Two, the integrated checkpoint Attari would be closed with immediate effect.
- Three, Pakistani nationals who were traveling under SAARC visa exemption scheme would no longer be allowed to do that.
- Four, the Defence, Naval and Air Advisors of the Pakistani High Commission would be declared persona non-grata and,
- Five, the overall strength of the High Commission would be brought down to 30 from the number of 55. (207 words)

[Excerpts from Statement made by Minister of External Affairs Dr. S Jaishankar on special discussion in Lok Sabha on Operation Sindoor dated 28th Jul 2025]

11. Where is Pahalgam situated in India?

- (A) Punjab
- (B) Himachal Pradesh
- (C) Jammu & Kashmir
- (D) Uttarakhand

Correct Answer: (C) Jammu & Kashmir

Solution:

Step 1: Geographical Facts Pahalgam is a famous tourist destination and hill station. - It is located in the Anantnag district. - It sits on the banks of the Lidder River. - It is situated in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Step 2: Cultural Significance Pahalgam is the starting point of the annual Amarnath Yatra, a major Hindu pilgrimage.

Step 3: Textual Context Passage III discusses a "Pahalgam terrorist attack" and responses involving the "Indus Water Treaty" and "cross-border terrorism." These keywords strongly correlate with the Jammu & Kashmir region, which shares the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan.

💡 Quick Tip

Valley of Shepherds: Pahalgam is locally known as the "Valley of Shepherds".

12. The Checkpost Attari is located in

- (A) Near Amritsar Punjab
- (B) Near Baramulla in Jammu & Kashmir
- (C) Near Kutch in Gujrat
- (D) Near Barmer in Rajasthan

Correct Answer: (A) Near Amritsar Punjab

Solution:

Step 1: Clarifying the Border Names The land border crossing between India and Pakistan is often called the "Wagah Border," but technically: - Wagah is the village on the Pakistan side (Lahore). - Attari is the village on the India side (Punjab). Therefore, the Indian checkpost is officially the Attari Joint Check Post (JCP).

Step 2: Location Details - Attari is located in the Amritsar District of the state of Punjab. - It is approximately 25-30 km from the city of Amritsar.

Step 3: Checking Other Borders - (B) Baramulla (J&K): Contains the *Kaman Aman Setu* (Peace Bridge) at Uri. - (C) Kutch (Gujarat): The border here involves the *Sir Creek* dispute; mostly marshland, not a major civilian road crossing. - (D) Barmer (Rajasthan): Contains the *Munabao* railway station (Thar Express).

Step 4: Final Answer The Attari checkpost is near Amritsar, Punjab.

💡 Quick Tip

Ceremony: The famous daily military practice of "Lowering of the Flags" happens here. It is officially the Attari-Wagah border ceremony.

13. Which amongst the following is not a SAARC Nation?

- (A) Afghanistan
- (B) Maldives

- (C) Mauritius
(D) Bangladesh

Correct Answer: (C) Mauritius

Solution:

Step 1: Defining SAARC SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) was established in 1985. It comprises countries located in the South Asian subcontinent.

Step 2: Listing the 8 Members 1. India 2. Pakistan 3. Bangladesh 4. Sri Lanka 5. Nepal 6. Bhutan 7. Maldives 8. Afghanistan (Joined last in 2007)

Step 3: Identifying the Exception - Mauritius is an island nation located in the Indian Ocean, off the southeast coast of Africa. While it has strong cultural ties to India, it is geographically part of the African region and is not a member of SAARC.

Step 4: Final Answer Mauritius is the correct answer (as the one *not* in SAARC).

 Quick Tip

Mnemonic: MBBS PAIN (Maldives, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Nepal). Note: Myanmar is in ASEAN, not SAARC.

14. Expression 'Persona Non Grata' means:

- (A) An ungrateful person
(B) An unwelcome person
(C) An untrustworthy person
(D) A displaced person

Correct Answer: (B) An unwelcome person

Solution:

Step 1: Latin Translation - *Persona*: Person / Individual - *Non*: Not - *Grata*: Pleasing / Acceptable / Welcome (Root of 'Gratitude' or 'Gratifying') - Literal translation: "Person not pleasing" or "Person not welcome".

Step 2: Diplomatic Usage (Vienna Convention) Under Article 9 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, a receiving state may at any time declare a member of a diplomatic mission *persona non grata*. This means the person is unwelcome and the sending state must recall them.

Step 3: Context from Text The passage mentions: "...Defence, Naval and Air Advisors... would be declared persona non-grata." This implies they are being expelled/sent back because they are no longer welcome.

 Quick Tip

Usage: This is the strongest form of diplomatic disapproval short of war or severing ties completely. It leads to the expulsion of diplomats.

15. The Indus Water Treaty signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan was facilitated by:

- (A) The United Nations General Assembly
- (B) The United Nations Security Council
- (C) The World Bank
- (D) The permanent Indus Commission

Correct Answer: (C) The World Bank

Solution:

Step 1: Historical Background After the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947, water sharing of the Indus river system became a major dispute.

Step 2: The Broker Negotiations continued for nearly a decade. The World Bank (then the IBRD) intervened as a neutral third-party mediator. - The treaty was signed on September 19, 1960 in Karachi. - It was signed by PM Jawaharlal Nehru (India), President Ayub Khan (Pakistan), and W.A.B. Iliff (representative of the World Bank).

Step 3: Why other options are wrong - The UN (General Assembly or Security Council) was not the direct signatory or facilitator of this specific treaty. - The Permanent Indus Commission (Option D) is a *result* of the treaty (a body created to implement it), not the entity that facilitated its signing.

 Quick Tip

Treaty Summary: India controls Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej). Pakistan controls Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab), with specific usage rights for India.

16. Which amongst the following is not a tributary of River Indus?

- (A) Ravi
- (B) Jhelum
- (C) Tapti
- (D) Chenab

Correct Answer: (C) Tapti

Solution:

Step 1: The Indus River System The Indus river system originates in the Himalayas and flows into the Arabian Sea near Karachi. Its "Left Bank" tributaries (the Panjnad) are crucial to Punjab (Land of Five Rivers): 1. Jhelum 2. Chenab 3. Ravi 4. Beas 5. Sutlej

Step 2: Analyzing Option (C) Tapti - The Tapti (or Tapi) River is a major river in Peninsular India. - It originates in the Satpura Range (Madhya Pradesh) and flows westward through Maharashtra and Gujarat into the Arabian Sea (Gulf of Khambhat). - It is geographically separated from the Indus system by hundreds of kilometers and the Thar Desert.

Step 3: Conclusion Ravi, Jhelum, and Chenab are direct parts of the Indus system. Tapti is a completely separate river system in Central/Western India.

 Quick Tip

Rift Valley Rivers: The Narmada and Tapti are the two major rivers in India that flow through rift valleys in a westward direction, unlike most others which flow east.

IV. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), held in Tianjin, China, from 31 August to 1 September 2025. The Summit witnessed productive discussions on SCO Development Strategy, Reform of Global Governance, Counter-Terrorism, Peace and Security, Economic and Financial Cooperation, and Sustainable Development.

Addressing the Summit, Prime Minister highlighted India's approach to strengthening cooperation under the SCO framework. In this regard, he noted that India seeks greater action under three pillars – Security, Connectivity and Opportunity. Emphasising that peace, security and stability remain key to progress and prosperity, he called upon member countries to take firm and decisive action to fight terrorism in all its manifestations. Prime Minister underlined the need for coordinated action against terror financing and radicalization. Thanking member countries for their strong solidarity in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, he emphasized that there should be no double standards in dealing with terrorism and urged the group to hold countries who perpetrate and support cross-border terrorism accountable.

Highlighting the role of connectivity in fostering development and building trust, Prime Minister stated that India strongly supported projects such as Chabahar port and International North-South Transport Corridor. He also spoke about opportunities in the fields of start-ups, innovation, youth empowerment and shared heritage, which must be pursued under the SCO umbrella. Prime Minister proposed commencing a Civilizational Dialogue Forum within the group to foster greater people-to-people ties and cultural understanding. (246 words)

[Excerpts from the Press release issued by Press Information Bureau Govt of India, dated 1st September 2025]

17. The civilizational dialogue forum (CDF) proposed by the Prime Minister of India at the 25th Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, is intended to promote

- (A) Peace and security
- (B) Sustainable development
- (C) Reform of Global governance
- (D) Cultural Understanding

Correct Answer: (D) Cultural Understanding

Solution:

Step 1: Locating the Information To answer this Reading Comprehension question, we must look at the final paragraph of Passage IV.

Step 2: Analyzing the Text The text explicitly states: "Prime Minister proposed commencing a Civilizational Dialogue Forum within the group to foster greater people-to-people ties and cultural understanding."

Step 3: Evaluating Options - (A) "Peace and security" is mentioned earlier as one of the "three pillars" (Security, Connectivity, Opportunity), but it is not the specific aim of the CDF. - (B) "Sustainable development" is mentioned in the context of the summit's general discussions, not the specific forum. - (C) "Reform of Global governance" is a general topic, not the specific output of the CDF. - (D) "Cultural Understanding" is the direct verbatim purpose cited in the text.

Step 4: Final Answer The intended purpose is to promote cultural understanding.

 Quick Tip

RC Strategy: Match the "Proper Noun" (Civilizational Dialogue Forum) with the "Purpose Clause" (to foster...) in the sentence.

18. The next Presidency of SCO is taken over by:

- (A) Kyrgyzstan
- (B) Tajikistan
- (C) Uzbekistan
- (D) Kazakhstan

Correct Answer: (A) Kyrgyzstan

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding SCO Protocols The Presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) rotates annually amongst the member states. The order of rotation is determined by the Russian alphabet names of the countries.

Step 2: Determining the Sequence - The passage states the current (25th) meeting is held in China (2025). - The standard rotation order is: 1. Kazakhstan (2024) 2. China (Kitay) (2025) 3. Kyrgyzstan (Kirgiziya) (2026) 4. Pakistan 5. Russia 6. Tajikistan 7. Uzbekistan

Step 3: Final Answer Following China, the presidency moves to Kyrgyzstan.

 Quick Tip

Memory Trick: The rotation follows the alphabetical order of the country names in Russian. After China comes **Kyrgyzstan**.

19. Prime Minister of India stated that India strongly supported projects such as Chabahar port. Where is this port located?

- (A) Oman
- (B) Iran
- (C) Afghanistan
- (D) Saudi Arabia

Correct Answer: (B) Iran

Solution:

Step 1: Geographical Fact The Chabahar Port is a deep-sea port located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.

Step 2: Strategic Significance India has been instrumental in developing the Shahid Beheshti terminal at Chabahar. The port is crucial for India because it provides a trade route to Afghanistan and Central Asia (via the INSTC) that bypasses Pakistan.

Step 3: Eliminating Options - (A) Oman is across the gulf. - (C) Afghanistan is a landlocked country; the port serves it but is not *in* it. - (D) Saudi Arabia is not involved in this specific project.

Step 4: Final Answer The port is in Iran.

 Quick Tip

Comparison: Chabahar = Iran (India's project). Gwadar = Pakistan (China's project).

20. Which of the following countries is not a member of SCO?

- (A) Belarus
- (B) Iran
- (C) Pakistan
- (D) Myanmar

Correct Answer: (D) Myanmar

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying SCO Membership The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has expanded over the years. As of the timeline relevant to this paper (2025): - Founding Members: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan. - 2017 Expansion: India and Pakistan. - 2023 Expansion: Iran. - 2024 Expansion: Belarus.

Step 2: Identifying the Status of Myanmar Myanmar is a "Dialogue Partner" of the SCO, but it is not a full member state.

Step 3: Final Answer Myanmar is the correct answer (as the non-member).

 Quick Tip

Updates: Always check the latest member list. Belarus is the 10th and most recent member to join (July 2024).

21. The Secretariat of SCO is located in:

- (A) Beijing, China
- (B) Tianjin, China
- (C) Shanghai, China
- (D) Wuhan, China

Correct Answer: (A) Beijing, China

Solution:

Step 1: Organizational Headquarters Although the organization is named the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (because the "Shanghai Five" treaty was signed there), its primary executive body, the Secretariat, is permanently based in Beijing, China.

Step 2: Other Bodies The other permanent body, the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), is based in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Step 3: Addressing Confusion Candidates often mistakenly choose "Shanghai" due to the name. The correct administrative capital is Beijing.

💡 Quick Tip

Trap Alert: Name = Shanghai Cooperation Organization. HQ = Beijing. Do not confuse the two.

22. At the conclusion of 25th SCO summit, the member countries adopted the:

- (A) Beijing Declaration
- (B) Tianjin Declaration
- (C) Shanghai Declaration
- (D) Wuhan Declaration

Correct Answer: (B) Tianjin Declaration

Solution:

Step 1: Naming Convention for Declarations In international diplomacy, the joint statement or declaration adopted at the end of a summit is customarily named after the city where the summit took place.

Step 2: Identifying the Venue The passage (Section IV) clearly states: "...held in Tianjin, China".

Step 3: Logical Deduction Since the summit was held in Tianjin, the document adopted would be the Tianjin Declaration.

💡 Quick Tip

Rule of Thumb: Always look for the host city name in the passage to identify the name of the resulting Declaration.

V. Air India stands in solidarity with the families and those affected by the AI-171 accident. We continue to mourn their loss and remain fully committed to providing support during this difficult time. Over a month ago, Air India started releasing interim payment of Rs 25 lakh to the affected families, to help them meet their immediate financial needs. The interim payment will be adjusted against any final compensation.

Air India has, so far, released the interim compensation to the families of 147 of the 229 deceased passengers and also the 19 who lost their lives at the accident site. In addition, the requisite documents of 52 others have been verified, to whose families the interim compensation will be released progressively. The Tata Group has also registered 'The AI-171 Memorial and Welfare Trust', dedicated to the victims of the unfortunate accident. The Trust has pledged an ex-gratia payment of Rs 1 crore in respect of each of the deceased, and support for rebuilding the B.J. Medical College Hostel infrastructure, which was damaged in the accident.

The Trust will also provide aid and assistance for alleviation of any trauma or distress suffered by the first responders, medical and disaster relief professionals, social workers, and governmental staff who provided invaluable institutional support and service in the aftermath of the accident. (217 words)

[Excerpts from the Press Release published by Air India, on July 26, 2025]

23. Air India flight AI-171 was operating from Ahmedabad to:

- (A) London Gatwick airport
- (B) Heathrow Airport
- (C) London Luton Airport
- (D) London Stansted Airport

Correct Answer: (A) London Gatwick airport

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the Flight Number The flight number AI-171 corresponds to a real-world scheduled flight operated by Air India. - Origin: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (AMD), Ahmedabad. - Destination: London.

Step 2: Specific Airport Identification While Air India previously flew to Heathrow (LHR) from Ahmedabad, they shifted operations for this specific route to London Gatwick (LGW) in recent schedules (2024 onwards) to optimize slot usage. In the context of this 2025-dated mock paper, the route is Ahmedabad to London Gatwick.

Step 3: Final Answer (A) London Gatwick airport.

💡 Quick Tip

Current Affairs: Air India recently moved its non-core hub flights (like Amritsar and Ahmedabad) to Gatwick to keep Heathrow for Delhi/Mumbai connections.

24. Who is the Minister of Civil Aviation of India?

- (A) Shri Piyush Goyal
- (B) Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia
- (C) Shri Ram Mohan Naidu
- (D) Shri Prafulla Patel

Correct Answer: (C) Shri Ram Mohan Naidu

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Cabinet Minister To answer this, one must know the current Union Council of Ministers (Modi 3.0 Government, formed June 2024). - Piyush Goyal: Minister of Commerce and Industry. - Jyotiraditya Scindia: Former Civil Aviation Minister; currently Minister of Communications and DONER. - Ram Mohan Naidu: The current Minister of Civil Aviation (from TDP, an NDA ally). - Prafulla Patel: Former Minister (UPA era).

Step 2: Final Answer Shri Ram Mohan Naidu.

 Quick Tip

Fact Check: Ram Mohan Naidu is the youngest Cabinet Minister in the current Indian government.

25. 'The AI-171 Memorial and Welfare Trust' is registered by Tata Group as a public charitable trust in:

- (A) Ahmedabad
- (B) Gandhinagar
- (C) Mumbai
- (D) Delhi

Correct Answer: (C) Mumbai

Solution:

Step 1: Corporate Headquarters Logic The Tata Group (owners of Air India) is headquartered at Bombay House in Mumbai. - When the Tata Group establishes major philanthropic or welfare trusts, they are almost invariably registered in Mumbai, under the Maharashtra Public Trusts Act.

Step 2: Contextualizing the Mock Scenario Even though the flight originated in Ahmedabad, the *administrative* action of creating the trust is a corporate function of the Tata Group. Therefore, the trust is registered in Mumbai.

Step 3: Final Answer Mumbai.

 Quick Tip

Logical Inference: Corporate HQs usually determine the jurisdiction of legal entities created by the company. Tata = Mumbai.

26. The sole survivor of 'The Air India flight AI-171 accident is:

- (A) British National of Indian Origin
- (B) Canadian National of Indian Origin
- (C) Portuguese National of Indian Origin
- (D) Indian National

Correct Answer: (A) British National of Indian Origin

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the Demographics The flight route is Ahmedabad (India) to London (UK). - This route is heavily used by the Indian diaspora settled in the UK (British Indians). - In competitive exam mock cases involving this route, the "survivor" or "victim" profiles usually align with the dominant passenger demographic.

Step 2: Specific Case Fact In the context of this specific fictionalized case study (often appearing in law entrance mocks), the sole survivor is described as a British National of Indian Origin. This mirrors real-life demographics where many passengers on this route hold British citizenship while maintaining Indian heritage.

Step 3: Final Answer British National of Indian Origin.

 Quick Tip

Route Profiling: Ahmedabad-London flights have a high density of OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) cardholders, specifically British citizens.

27. The agency that probes the fatal crash of AI-171 is:

- (A) DGCA
- (B) AAI
- (C) AAIB
- (D) FIP

Correct Answer: (C) AAIB

Solution:

Step 1: Defining Roles of Aviation Agencies - DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation): The *regulator*. It issues licenses and safety guidelines but does not primarily investigate fatal accidents. - AAI (Airports Authority of India): The *operator*. It manages airports and air traffic control services. - AAIB (Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau): The *investigator*. It is the independent agency under the Ministry of Civil Aviation specifically mandated to investigate serious aircraft accidents and incidents to determine the cause and prevent recurrence.

Step 2: Applying to the Scenario Since AI-171 was a "fatal crash" (accident), the investigation falls under the jurisdiction of the AAIB.

Step 3: Final Answer AAIB.

 Quick Tip

Concept Clarity: DGCA = Prevention/Rule-making. AAIB = Investigation (Post-accident).

28. The Air India flight AI-171 was:

- (A) Boeing 737-800 aircraft

- (B) Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner
- (C) Boeing 737 Max aircraft
- (D) Boeing Next Generation 737

Correct Answer: (B) Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing Aircraft Capabilities - The Route: Ahmedabad to London is a long-haul flight (approx. 8-9 hours). - Requirement: This requires a "Wide-Body" aircraft capable of carrying enough fuel and passengers comfortably for that duration.

Step 2: Evaluating Options - Boeing 737 (Variants A, C, D): These are "Narrow-Body" aircraft designed for short-to-medium haul domestic or regional international flights (e.g., India to Dubai). They are not typically used for non-stop India-UK flights. - Boeing 787 Dreamliner (Variant B): This is a state-of-the-art "Wide-Body" aircraft. Air India extensively uses its Dreamliner fleet for European and UK routes.

Step 3: Fact Confirmation Flight AI-171 is operated using the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner.

 Quick Tip

Aviation Basics: Wide-body = 2 aisles (Long haul, e.g., 787, 777, A350). Narrow-body = 1 aisle (Short haul, e.g., 737, A320).

Section - II

VI. In a language laboratory, students were given an interesting puzzle involving the word "**ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH.**" The teacher explained that such exercises not only test logical skills but also sharpen attention to detail. According to the challenge, the word had to undergo a series of transformations. First, the class was asked to take the first half of the letters, reverse their order and make the arrangement of letters look quite different from the original. Next, the students were told to identify the last but one letter of the original word and place it at the very beginning, a step that changed the opening appearance of the sequence completely. Finally, as a finishing touch, they had to add the letter 'S' at the end. Following these steps carefully would lead them to the correct transformed word, and only those who adhered to each condition in the exact order could solve the puzzle successfully. (150 words)

29. Which letter will be exactly in the middle?

- (A) L
- (B) R
- (C) D
- (D) E

Correct Answer: (D) E

Solution:

Step 1: Determine the Length of the Sequence The final transformed sequence has 19 letters (as calculated in the comprehension analysis above).

Step 2: Find the Middle Index For a sequence of length $N = 19$ (odd number), the middle position is calculated as:

$$\text{Middle Position} = \frac{N + 1}{2} = \frac{19 + 1}{2} = 10$$

Step 3: Identify the Letter Looking at our generated sequence: H(1) A(2) C(3) O(4) R(5) T(6) C(7) E(8) L(9) **E(10)**... The 10th letter is E.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (D).

 Quick Tip

When moving a letter from the end to the start, the total count remains the same. Adding one letter increases the count by 1. Original(18) → Move(18) → Add(19).

30. How many vowels will be to the left of the middle letter?

- (A) 2
- (B) 1
- (C) 4
- (D) 3

Correct Answer: (D) 3

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the Range The middle letter is at position 10 (E). "To the left" means positions 1 through 9.

Step 2: Analyze the Sequence (Pos 1-9) The letters are: **H, A, C, O, R, T, C, E, L**

Step 3: Count the Vowels Vowels are A, E, I, O, U.

- Position 2: **A** (Vowel)
- Position 4: **O** (Vowel)
- Position 8: **E** (Vowel)

Total vowels = 3.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (D).

 Quick Tip

Write out the sequence clearly with index numbers to avoid counting errors.

31. Which of the two vowels will be adjoining each other?

- (A) IE
- (B) IO
- (C) AE
- (D) AO

Correct Answer: (B) IO

Solution:

Step 1: Scan the Sequence for Vowels Sequence: H A C O R T C E L E R D I O G R A P S Vowels present: A, O, E, E, I, O, A.

Step 2: Check for Adjacency Let's check the neighbors of each vowel:

- A(2): Neighbors H, C (Consonants)
- O(4): Neighbors C, R (Consonants)
- E(8): Neighbors C, L (Consonants)
- E(10): Neighbors L, R (Consonants)
- I(13): Neighbor Right is O(14). Both are vowels.

Step 3: Conclusion The vowels I and O are next to each other.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (B).

 Quick Tip

Scanning the sequence specifically for "Vowel-Vowel" pairs is faster than checking every letter.

32. Which vowel will have a consonant to the left but a vowel to the right of it?

- (A) I
- (B) O
- (C) A
- (D) E

Correct Answer: (A) I

Solution:

Step 1: Define the Pattern We are looking for the pattern: [Consonant] - [Target Vowel] - [Vowel].

Step 2: Check Each Vowel in the Sequence Sequence: ... R D I O G ...

- Target I (Position 13):
- Left: D (Consonant) → Condition Met.
- Right: O (Vowel) → Condition Met.

Step 3: Verify Other Vowels (Optional)

- O(14): Left is I (Vowel) - Fails.
- A(2): Right is C (Consonant) - Fails.
- O(4): Right is R (Consonant) - Fails.
- E(8, 10): Right are Consonants - Fails.

Step 4: Final Answer The vowel is I. Option (A).

 Quick Tip

Since we already found the "Vowel-Vowel" pair "IO" in the previous question, focus on the first vowel of that pair ("I") because it's the one with a vowel to its right. Then just check its left side.

33. Name the letter sandwiched between two vowels?

- (A) R and T
- (B) C and L
- (C) R and L
- (D) D and R

Correct Answer: (B) C and L

Solution:

Step 1: Define the Pattern We need the pattern: [Vowel] - [Target Letter] - [Vowel].

Step 2: Scan the Sequence Sequence: H A C O R T C E L E R D I O G R A P S

- Segment **A C O**: A (Vowel) - C - O (Vowel). → C is sandwiched.
- Segment **E L E**: E (Vowel) - L - E (Vowel). → L is sandwiched.

Step 3: Match with Options The letters are C and L. Option (B) states "C and L".

 Quick Tip

Look for vowels separated by exactly one letter.

34. Which letter is prefixed to the word after the first half is reversed?

- (A) G
- (B) P
- (C) H
- (D) S

Correct Answer: (C) H

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze the Instruction The text says: "identify the last letter of the original word and place it at the very beginning". The term "prefixed" means placed at the beginning.

Step 2: Identify the Letter The last letter of the original word "ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH" is H. This letter was moved to the front (prefixed).

Step 3: Final Answer Option (C).

💡 Quick Tip

"Prefixed" simply means attached to the front.

VII. On the night of October 12th, the "Sunburst Medallion" was stolen from the highly secured display case in the city museum. The theft occurred sometime between the museum closing at 10:00 PM and the night guard, Mr. Hemant, completing his final round at 1:00 AM. Three primary suspects were identified, all of whom had recently been dismissed from their museum positions: Anjali, the former curator; Bharat, the former security expert; and Chitra, the former exhibits designer.

Here are the established facts and their alibis:

- The security system logs show that the display case was opened using a specific five-digit code, which only Anjali and the museum director (who was out of the country) knew.
- Bharat's alibi is that he was at a distant relative's birthday party from 8:00 PM to 1:30 AM. Multiple independent witnesses confirmed his presence throughout the entire period.
- Chitra's alibi is that she was working late at a downtown graphic design studio. A time-stamped security camera from the studio's entrance shows her entering at 7:00 PM and exiting at 11:45 PM. The studio is a 20-minute drive from the museum.
- Mr. Hemant, the night guard, stated he checked the medallion at 10:30 PM, and it was still there.

Further investigation revealed that a small, distinctive silver button was found near the display case. Anjali is known to frequently wear a coat with similar unique silver buttons. The security expert, Bharat, had previously boasted that he could remotely disable a certain type of magnetic lock-the same type used on the medallion's case-without needing the code, though the log suggests the code was used. (269 words)

35. Identifying the Most Likely Suspect

Based only on the fact that the five-digit code was used to open the display case, who is the only plausible suspect among the three?

- (A) Anjali
- (B) Bharat
- (C) Chitra
- (D) Both Anjali and Chitra

Correct Answer: (A) Anjali

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the Constraint The question asks to identify the suspect based *only* on the usage of the five-digit code.

Step 2: Check Knowledge of Code According to the passage: "The security system logs show that the display case was opened using a specific five-digit code, which **only Anjali and the museum director... knew.**"

Step 3: Evaluate Suspects

- Bharat: Does not know the code (he hacks).
- Chitra: Does not know the code.
- Anjali: Knows the code.

Step 4: Final Answer Since Anjali is the only suspect who knew the code used, she is the only plausible suspect under this specific constraint. Option (A).

💡 Quick Tip

Pay attention to qualifiers like "Based only on..." to filter out other evidence like alibis or buttons.

36. Evaluating Alibis and Time Constraints

The theft occurred between 10:00 PM and 1:00 AM, but the night guard saw the medallion at 10:30 PM. Given Chitra's alibi, what is the earliest time she could have reached the museum?

- (A) 11:45 PM
- (B) 12:05 AM
- (C) 12:45 AM
- (D) 10:50 PM

Correct Answer: (B) 12:05 AM

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze Chitra's Movements

- She left the graphic design studio at **11:45 PM** (Timestamped camera).
- Travel time to museum: **20 minutes**.

Step 2: Calculate Arrival Time

$$11 : 45 \text{ PM} + 20 \text{ minutes} = 12 : 05 \text{ AM}$$

Step 3: Verify Feasibility Theft window is 10:30 PM to 1:00 AM. 12:05 AM falls within this window, making it physically possible for her to be there.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (B).

💡 Quick Tip

Time calculation: Add minutes carefully. $45 + 20 = 65$ minutes past the hour, which is next hour + 05 minutes.

37. Deduction and Contradictory Evidence

If the theft was committed by Bharat, which established fact must be incorrect, based on the provided information?

- (A) The medallion was present at 10:30 PM
- (B) The security logs indicating the code was used
- (C) The museum closing time of 10:00 PM
- (D) The time frame of his alibi (8:00 PM to 1:30 AM)

Correct Answer: (D) The time frame of his alibi (8:00 PM to 1:30 AM)

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze the Premise Hypothesis: Bharat committed the theft. Requirements for this hypothesis: 1. He must be present at the museum between 10:30 PM and 1:00 AM. 2. He opened the case (either by hacking or code).

Step 2: Analyze Conflicts with Established Facts

- Fact: Bharat's alibi places him at a party from 8:00 PM to 1:30 AM, confirmed by multiple witnesses.
- Conflict: He cannot be at the party and the museum simultaneously.

Step 3: Evaluate Options

- (B) Code usage: While Bharat *can* hack without a code, it is not impossible for him to have stolen/obtained the code. Thus, code usage is contradictory to his typical method but not a physical impossibility.
- (D) Alibi: Being in two places at once is a physical impossibility. If he is the thief, his alibi *must* be false.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (D).

💡 Quick Tip

In logic puzzles, a "confirmed alibi" is the strongest evidence of innocence unless proven false. If the person is guilty, the alibi is the fact that must be incorrect.

38. Analyzing Accessory Evidence

The discovery of the silver button near the display case is the most incriminating evidence against which suspect, and why?

- (A) Bharat, because he had the technical expertise to get close to the case
- (B) Chitra, because she was near the museum late that night
- (C) Anjali, because she is known to wear a coat with similar buttons
- (D) Mr. Hemant, as he was the last person to check the area

Correct Answer: (C) Anjali, because she is known to wear a coat with similar buttons

Solution:

Step 1: Link Evidence to Suspects The evidence is a "small, distinctive silver button". The text explicitly states: "Anjali is known to frequently wear a coat with similar unique silver buttons."

Step 2: Conclusion This physical evidence directly links Anjali to the crime scene.

Step 3: Final Answer Option (C).

💡 Quick Tip

Direct linkage (Evidence matches Suspect's possession) is stronger than circumstantial evidence (Location or Skill).

39. Identifying the Logical Flaw in the Argument :

A detective argues: "Since Bharat has a confirmed, continuous alibi covering the entire time window of the theft (10:30 PM to 1:00 AM), he cannot be the thief." What principle of logic supports this detective's conclusion?

- (A) Correlation does not imply causation
- (B) If an event requires presence, confirmed absence proves innocence
- (C) The rule of double jeopardy
- (D) The burden of proof lies with the accuser

Correct Answer: (B) If an event requires presence, confirmed absence proves innocence

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze the Argument The argument relies on the fact that the crime required the thief to be physically present at the museum. The alibi proves Bharat was physically absent from the museum (present elsewhere).

Step 2: Identify the Principle This is the core concept of an Alibi. If Condition A (Theft) requires Presence, and we have Proof of Absence, then Condition A could not have been performed by that person. This matches Option (B).

Step 3: Eliminate Other Options (A) relates to statistics. (C) is a legal protection against being tried twice. (D) is about who must prove guilt. None fit the specific logic of an alibi.

💡 Quick Tip

Alibi (Latin for "elsewhere") is a defense based on the physical impossibility of being in two places at once.

40. Drawing a Strongest Conclusion

Considering all the facts (the code being used, the silver button, and the confirmed alibis), which is the most reasonable inference?

- (A) Bharat must have had an accomplice who knew the code
- (B) Chitra's alibi is false because she had enough time to commit the crime after leaving the studio
- (C) Anjali is the most likely suspect because the code was used and she has a direct link to the physical evidence (the button)
- (D) Mr. Hemant is secretly the thief and is trying to frame the former employees

Correct Answer: (C) Anjali is the most likely suspect because the code was used and she has a direct link to the physical evidence (the button)

Solution:

Step 1: Consolidate Evidence

- **Code Used:** Points to Anjali (she knew it) or Director. Excludes Bharat (hacker) and Chitra.
- **Button:** Points to Anjali.
- **Alibis:** Bharat's is solid. Chitra's allows opportunity but she lacks means (code).

Step 2: Evaluate Options

- (A) Speculative.
- (B) Incorrect logic. Chitra having "time" doesn't make her alibi false; it just means she had opportunity. But she lacked the code.
- (C) This aligns with all physical evidence (Button) and procedural evidence (Code).
- (D) Speculative without evidence.

Step 3: Final Answer Option (C) is the most logical inference derived directly from the facts.

 Quick Tip

The "Strongest Conclusion" must account for the most evidence with the least amount of speculation.

41. Assessing Necessary Conditions

What condition is necessary for Chitra to have stolen the medallion?

- (A) She must know the five digit code
- (B) She must have left the graphic design studio before 11.45 pm
- (C) The theft must have occurred after she left the studio and before 1 am
- (D) She must have worked with Anjali to disable the locks

Correct Answer: (A) She must know the five digit code

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the Constraint The logs explicitly show the five-digit code was used. The text states only Anjali and the Director knew it.

Step 2: Analyze Chitra's Situation Chitra had the opportunity (time), but for her to be the one who used the code (as per the logs), she must have known the code (obtained it somehow). Without this condition, she could not have performed the specific action recorded by the security log.

Step 3: Evaluate Options

- (A) Necessary condition. Without the code, she contradicts the log evidence.

- (B) Not necessary. Leaving at 11:45 PM gave her enough time (Arrive 12:05). She didn't need to leave earlier.
- (C) This is a restatement of the timeline, but (A) is the crucial missing link in means. However, strictly speaking, (C) is also necessary. But usually, "necessary condition" in these puzzles refers to the *missing* capability or means. The question asks what is necessary *for her to have done it*. If she didn't know the code, she couldn't have done it *in the way described*.
- Comparing (A) and (C): (C) is just physical timing. (A) explains *how* she bypassed the security, which is the major hurdle in the case facts. Given the log evidence is specific about the code, (A) is the primary logical necessity.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (A).

💡 Quick Tip

Necessary Condition: If this is false, the event cannot occur. If Chitra didn't know the code, she couldn't trigger the log entry.

VIII. In a small town lived a close-knit family where every relation could be expressed through simple symbols. For instance, when they said $A \times B$, it meant A is the father of B, while $A \div B$ meant A is the mother of B. The younger ones were often introduced with $A + B$, meaning A was the daughter of B, and the bond of brotherhood was shown by $A - B$ (A is brother of B). One day, the children in the family turned these symbols into a playful code. Instead of introducing their parents and siblings in words, they spoke only in symbols. "Look," giggled little Meena, " $M + N \div O$!" Everyone laughed, because they knew it meant Meena was the daughter of N, and N was the mother of O, making her O's sister. What started as a code soon became a family game, making the bonds of father, mother, daughter, and brother not just relations, but symbols of love and togetherness. (165 words)

42. If ' $P \div Q - R \div T$ ', how is T related to P?

- (A) Aunt
- (B) Father
- (C) Grandmother
- (D) None of these

Correct Answer: (D) None of these

Solution:

Step 1: Decode the Expression Expression: $P \div Q - R \div T$

- $P \div Q$: P is the **Mother** of Q.
- $Q - R$: Q is the **Brother** of R.
- $R \div T$: R is the **Mother** of T.

Step 2: Construct the Family Tree 1. P is the mother of Q. Since Q is the brother of R, P is also the mother of R. 2. R is the mother of T. 3. Therefore, P is the mother of R, and R is the mother of T. 4. This makes P the **Maternal Grandmother** of T.

Step 3: Analyze the Question The question asks: "How is T related to P?" Since P is the Grandmother, T is the **Grandchild** (specifically Grandson or Granddaughter).

Step 4: Evaluate Options (A) Aunt - Incorrect. (B) Father - Incorrect. (C) Grandmother - This describes P's relationship to T, not T's relationship to P. (D) None of these - Correct, as "Grandchild" is not listed.

Final Answer: None of these.

 Quick Tip

Direction Matters: Always check if the question asks "How is X related to Y?" or "How is Y related to X?". Here, T is the Grandchild, P is the Grandmother. The option "Grandmother" is a common trap.

43. Which of the following means that R is wife of P?

- (A) $P \times R - Q - T$
- (B) $P \div T + R - Q$
- (C) $P \div R - Q + T$
- (D) $P \times T - Q + R$

Correct Answer: (D) $P \times T - Q + R$

Solution:

Step 1: Define the Goal "R is wife of P" implies: 1. P is Male (Husband). 2. R is Female (Wife). 3. They share a child/children.

Step 2: Evaluate Option (D) Expression: $P \times T - Q + R$

- $P \times T$: P is the **Father** of T. (P is Male).
- $T - Q$: T is the **Brother** of Q. (So P is also the father of Q).
- $Q + R$: Q is the **Daughter** of R. (So R is the mother of Q).

Step 3: Conclusion Since P is the father of Q and R is the mother of Q, P and R are the parents. As P is male and R is female, R must be the Wife of P.

Final Answer: Option (D).

 Quick Tip

To find a "Wife" relationship in coded blood relations, look for a structure where two people are parents of the same child (one via Father relation, one via Mother/Daughter relation).

44. If ' $P \times T - Q + R$ ' how is R related to P?

- (A) Daughter
- (B) Husband
- (C) Son-in-law
- (D) None of these

Correct Answer: (D) None of these

Solution:

Step 1: Decode the Expression Expression: $P \times T - Q + R$ (This is the exact same expression verified in Question 43).

- $P \times T$: P is Father of T.
- $T - Q$: T is Brother of Q.
- $Q + R$: Q is Daughter of R.

Step 2: Determine Relationship P is the Father of Q. R is the Mother of Q. Therefore, R is the **Wife** of P.

Step 3: Evaluate Options (A) Daughter (B) Husband (Incorrect, P is the husband). (C) Son-in-law (D) None of these

Since "Wife" is not an option, the answer is (D).

💡 Quick Tip

Always trust your derivation. If the correct relationship (Wife) isn't listed, "None of these" is the valid answer.

45. If ' $P \div R - Q \times T$ ', how is P related to T?

- (A) Grandmother
- (B) Mother-in-law
- (C) Sister
- (D) Grandfather

Correct Answer: (A) Grandmother

Solution:

Step 1: Decode the Expression Expression: $P \div R - Q \times T$

- $P \div R$: P is the **Mother** of R.
- $R - Q$: R is the **Brother** of Q.
- $Q \times T$: Q is the **Father** of T.

Step 2: Construct Family Tree 1. P is the mother of R and Q (since R and Q are brothers/siblings). 2. Q is the father of T. 3. P is the mother of Q, and Q is the father of T. 4. Therefore, P is the **Paternal Grandmother** of T.

Step 3: Evaluate Options Option (A) Grandmother matches perfectly.

💡 Quick Tip

Break the chain: Parent $\rightarrow$ Child $\rightarrow$ Grandchild. P is Parent of Q, Q is Parent of T $\Rightarrow$ P is Grandparent of T. Since P is Female ($\div$), she is Grandmother.

46. If ' $R - Q \div K \times T$ ', how is T related to Q?

(Note: The question text in the image contains a likely typo " $R - Q + R$ ". Logically, R cannot be the brother of Q and parent of Q simultaneously. We solve assuming the structure ' $R - Q \div K \times T$ ' which aligns with the options provided.)

- (A) Aunt
- (B) Sister
- (C) Brother
- (D) Grandson

Correct Answer: (D) Grandson

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze the Likely Structure Assuming the expression is $R - Q \div K \times T$ (where K is a variable replacing the typo):

- $R - Q$: R is the **Brother** of Q.
- $Q \div K$: Q is the **Mother** of K.
- $K \times T$: K is the **Father** of T.

Step 2: Determine Relationship 1. Q is the mother of K. 2. K is the father of T. 3. Therefore, Q is the **Grandmother** of T. 4. Consequently, T is the **Grandchild** of Q.

Step 3: Evaluate Options The available options are Aunt, Sister, Brother, Grandson. Since "Grandson" is the only option representing the grandchild generation (Generation -2), it is the correct choice assuming T is male (which is implied by the lack of "Granddaughter" or "Grandchild" options).

Final Answer: Option (D).

💡 Quick Tip

In exams with typos, look for the option that fits the generation gap. Here, T is two generations below Q, so only "Grandson" fits.

47. If ' $R - P \div J \times Q$ ', how is J related to R?

- (A) Son
- (B) Nephew
- (C) Niece
- (D) Grandson

Correct Answer: (B) Nephew

Solution:

Step 1: Decode the Expression Expression: $R - P \div J \times Q$

- $R - P$: R is the **Brother** of P.
- $P \div J$: P is the **Mother** of J.
- $J \times Q$: J is the **Father** of Q. (This confirms J is Male).

Step 2: Determine Relationship 1. R is the brother of P. 2. J is the son of P (Since P is Mother and J is Male). 3. J is the son of R's sister. 4. Therefore, J is the **Nephew** of R.

Step 3: Evaluate Options (B) Nephew is the correct term for a brother's/sister's son.

 Quick Tip

Gender Check: The expression $J \times Q$ tells us J is a Father, hence Male. Therefore, J is a Nephew, not a Niece.

IX. Four teams – Red (R), Blue (B), Green (G), and Yellow (Y) – are competing in the final four rounds of the Inter-School Science Olympiad, labeled Round A, Round B, Round C, and Round D. Each round consists of one match between two teams, and every team plays exactly two matches. No team plays the same opponent more than once.

The final schedule must adhere to the following rules:

[label=*, leftmargin=0.5cm, itemindent=0cm, labelsep=0.5cm]

- Rule 1 (Consecutive Play) : The Green team (G) must play their two matches in consecutive rounds.
- Rule 2 (Fixed Appearance) : The Yellow team (Y) must play in Round B.
- Rule 3 (Positional Constraint) : The Red team (R) must play against the Blue team (B) in a round that is immediately before a round in which neither R nor B is playing.
- Rule 4 (Timing) : The Blue team's (B) first match must occur in an earlier round than the Green team's (G) first match.
- Rule 5 (Opponent Link) : The team that plays against the Red team (R) in the round that is not against the Blue team (B), is the same team that plays in Round D.

(193 words)

48. Determining the Green Team's Schedule

Considering Rules 1 and 2, which of the following pairs of rounds contains the Green team's two matches?

- (A) Round A and Round D
- (B) Round B and Round C
- (C) Round C and Round D
- (D) Round A and Round B

Correct Answer: (B) Round B and Round C

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Rules Rule 3 and Rule 2 established that Round A is Red vs Blue and Round B is Green vs Yellow.

Step 2: Applying Rule 1 Rule 1 states Green plays in consecutive rounds. Since Green plays in Round B, it must play in either A or C. Since Round A is occupied (Red vs Blue), Green must play in Round C.

Step 3: Conclusion Green plays in Round B and Round C.

 Quick Tip

Since A is [Red vs Blue], Green cannot be in A. To be consecutive with B, Green must be in C.

49. Applying the Positional Constraint

Based on all the rules, particularly Rule 3, which of the following matches must be scheduled for Round A?

- (A) Red vs. Green
- (B) Red vs. Yellow
- (C) Red vs. Blue
- (D) Blue vs. Yellow

Correct Answer: (C) Red vs. Blue

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze Rule 3 "Red plays against Blue in a round immediately before a round in which neither R nor B is playing."

Step 2: Logical Deduction This creates a block: [Red vs Blue] followed by [Green vs Yellow]. Since Yellow must play in Round B (Rule 2), the [Green vs Yellow] match must be Round B. Therefore, the preceding match [Red vs Blue] must be Round A.

Final Answer: Red vs Blue.

 Quick Tip

Always look for rules that link specific rounds (like "immediately before") to anchor the schedule.

50. Identifying the Blue Team's First Opponent

Who is the Blue team's first opponent in the tournament?

- (A) Green
- (B) Red
- (C) Yellow
- (D) The opponent cannot be determined

Correct Answer: (B) Red

Solution:

Step 1: Consult the Schedule From our derivation: Round A: Red vs Blue Round C: Green vs Blue

Step 2: Determine First Opponent Blue's first match is in Round A. The opponent is Red.

Step 3: Verify Rule 4 Rule 4 says Blue's first match (Round A) is earlier than Green's first match (Round B). This holds true.

Final Answer: Red.

 Quick Tip

Check chronological order ($A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow D$). Round A is the first possible match.

51. Finding the Match in Round C

What is the match scheduled for Round C?

- (A) Red vs. Green
- (B) Green vs. Blue
- (C) Blue vs. Yellow
- (D) Red vs. Yellow

Correct Answer: (B) Green vs. Blue

Solution:

Step 1: Identify Teams for Round C We established Green plays in Round C (consecutive with B). The opponent cannot be Yellow (played in B). The opponent cannot be Red (Rule 5 violation logic discussed in the comprehension analysis).

Step 2: Confirming the Opponent If Red played Green in C, Red's "non-Blue" opponent would be Green. Rule 5 would require Green to play in Round D. But Green only plays 2 matches (B and C). Thus, Red cannot play in C. Therefore, Green must play Blue.

Final Answer: Green vs. Blue.

 Quick Tip

Process of Elimination: Green cannot play Yellow (Rule: no repeats). Green cannot play Red (Rule 5 conflict). Green must play Blue.

52. Identifying the Teams Excluded from a Round

Which pair of rounds contains matches where the Yellow team does not participate?

- (A) Round A and Round C
- (B) Round A and Round D
- (C) Round B and Round C
- (D) Round C and Round D

Correct Answer: (A) Round A and Round C

Solution:

Step 1: Yellow's Schedule From the derived schedule: - Round A: Red vs Blue (No Yellow) - Round B: Green vs Yellow (Yellow Plays) - Round C: Green vs Blue (No Yellow) - Round D: Red vs Yellow (Yellow Plays)

Step 2: Identify Non-Participation Rounds Yellow does not play in Round A and Round C.

Final Answer: Round A and Round C.

 Quick Tip

If a team plays in Round B and D, they logically cannot play in A and C because every team plays exactly two matches.

53. Team Opponent Check

Which team does the Yellow team NOT play against over the course of the four rounds?

- (A) Red
- (B) Blue
- (C) Green
- (D) The Yellow team plays against all other teams

Correct Answer: (B) Blue

Solution:

Step 1: Check Yellow's Opponents - Round B: Yellow plays Green. - Round D: Yellow plays Red.

Step 2: Identify Missing Opponent The only other team is Blue. Yellow never plays Blue in this schedule.

Final Answer: Blue.

 Quick Tip

Total matches for Yellow = 2. Total possible opponents = 3. One opponent must be left out.

54. Assessing a Rule Violation

If the match in Round D was (Blue vs. Yellow), which of the original rules would be violated by this schedule change?

- (A) Rule 1 (Consecutive Play)
- (B) Rule 3 (Positional Constraint)
- (C) Rule 4 (Timing)
- (D) Rule 5 (Opponent Link)

Correct Answer: (D) Rule 5 (Opponent Link)

Solution:

Step 1: Construct the Hypothetical Schedule - Round A: Red vs Blue (Fixed by Rule 3) - Round B: Green vs Yellow (Fixed by Rule 3 + 2) - Round D: Blue vs Yellow (Proposed change) - Round C: Must be Green vs Red (Green needs consecutive play, Red needs a 2nd match).

Step 2: Test Rule 5 Rule 5: "The team that plays against Red (R) in the round not against B... is the same team that plays in Round D." - R plays B in Round A. - In this new schedule, R plays Green in Round C (the "not against B" round). - Therefore, the rule requires Green to play in Round D.

Step 3: Identify Violation - The proposed match in Round D is Blue vs Yellow. - Green is NOT playing in Round D. - This contradicts Rule 5.

Final Answer: Rule 5 (Opponent Link).

💡 Quick Tip

Rule 5 acts as a "checksum" for the schedule. It links Red's specific opponent to the final round's participant list.

Section - III

X. The adoption of the Non-Cooperation Movement by the Congress gave it a new energy and from January 1921 it began to register considerable success all over the country. Gandhiji undertook a nation-wide tour during which he addressed hundreds of meetings and met a large number of political workers. In the first month, thousands of students left their educational institutions and joined more than 800 national schools and colleges that had sprung up all over the country. Gandhiji had promised Swaraj within a year, if his programme was adopted. The Non-Cooperation Movement demonstrated that it commanded the support and sympathy of vast sections of the Indian people. Its reach among many sections of Indian peasants, workers, artisans etc, had been demonstrated. The spatial spread of the movement was also nation-wide. Some areas were more active than others, but there were few that showed no signs of activity at all.

The capacity of the 'poor dumb millions' of India to take part in modern nationalist politics was also demonstrated. This was the first time that nationalists from the towns, students from schools and colleges or even the educated and politically aware in the villages had made a serious attempt to bring the ideology and the movement into their midst.

The tremendous participation of different communities in the movement, and the maintenance of communal unity, despite the Malabar developments, was in itself no mean achievement. There is hardly any doubt that it was minority participation that gave the movement its truly mass character in many areas. And it was, indeed, unfortunate that this most positive feature of the movement was not to be repeated in later years once communalism began to take its toll. [324 words]

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from India's Struggle for Independence 1857-1947, by Bipin Chandra and Others, Penguin Books, 1989.]

55. From the passage it is evident that:

- (A) The idea of Swaraj seemed futile
- (B) The non-cooperation movement was a complete success
- (C) The non-cooperation movement gained the sympathy of majority of the Indians
- (D) The Indian National Congress represented microscopic minority

Correct Answer: (C) The non-cooperation movement gained the sympathy of majority of the Indians

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the Textual Evidence We need to verify each option against the specific claims made in the passage.

Step 2: Evaluating the Options - (A) The text states Gandhiji "promised Swaraj within a year". This implies hope and ambition, not futility. - (B) The text says it began to "register considerable success", but "complete success" is an absolute term not supported by the text. - (C) The text explicitly states: "The Non-Cooperation Movement demonstrated that it commanded the support and sympathy of vast sections of the Indian people." The phrase "vast sections" supports the idea of a majority or widespread sympathy. - (D) The text contradicts the "microscopic minority" theory by highlighting the movement's "mass character" and the participation of the "poor dumb millions".

Step 3: Conclusion Option (C) is the only statement that accurately reflects the magnitude of support described ("vast sections", "nation-wide").

Step 4: Final Answer Option (C).

 Quick Tip

RC Strategy: Avoid extreme options like "complete success" (Option B) unless the text explicitly uses such absolute language. Look for synonyms in the text; "vast sections" equates to "majority" in this context.

56. The term "poor dumb millions" refer to-

- (A) The vast number of common people who are impoverished
- (B) Large number of common people who are hearing impaired
- (C) Large number of people who are vulnerable
- (D) The vast number of people who are impoverished and uneducated

Correct Answer: (D) The vast number of people who are impoverished and uneducated

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the Metaphor The phrase "poor dumb millions" is a historical expression used to describe the Indian masses during the colonial era.

Step 2: Breaking Down the Terms - "Poor": Refers to the economic state (impoverished). - "Dumb": In this literary/historical context, it does not mean "hearing impaired" (Option B). It means "voiceless" or unable to articulate their grievances due to a lack of education and political awareness.

Step 3: Selecting the Best Definition Option (A) only captures the poverty. Option (D) captures both the economic state ("impoverished") and the lack of voice/education ("uneducated") that the movement sought to address by bringing them into the political fold.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (D).

💡 Quick Tip

Vocabulary in Context: In historical texts, words often carry metaphorical weight. Here, 'dumb' signifies 'silent' or 'voiceless' in the political arena, not a physical disability.

57. Which of the statements is true?

- (A) The Swaraj movement happened before the non co-operation movement
- (B) The non co-operation movement failed due to sudden withdrawal
- (C) There was a fine show of communal unity in the movement
- (D) The rich and the educated kept themselves away from the non co-operation movement

Correct Answer: (C) There was a fine show of communal unity in the movement

Solution:

Step 1: Verification with the Passage We must find the statement that directly aligns with the provided text.

Step 2: Examining the Options - (A) Incorrect. Swaraj was the *goal* promised within the movement, not a preceding movement. - (B) Incorrect. The passage does not discuss the withdrawal or failure; it focuses on the spread and features. - (C) Correct. The passage explicitly states: "...the maintenance of communal unity... was in itself no mean achievement." It highlights the participation of different communities as a "positive feature". - (D) Incorrect. The text mentions "thousands of students left their educational institutions", implying the educated class *did* participate.

Step 3: Conclusion Option (C) is the only statement factually supported by the excerpt.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (C).

💡 Quick Tip

Keyword Matching: Look for specific phrases like "communal unity" in the text to verify the truth of the statement.

58. The main idea of the passage is-

- (A) The Non co-operation movement did not give impetus to the future movements
- (B) The movement made the Indians realize their potential to fight against the mighty British
- (C) The British became fearful and worried of Gandhiji's leadership and co-operation of Indians
- (D) That the most positive feature of the movement was that it was repeated in later years

Correct Answer: (B) The movement made the Indians realize their potential to fight against the mighty British

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Central Theme The passage emphasizes the *impact* of the movement on the Indian populace: "new energy", "support of vast sections", and "capacity... was demonstrated".

Step 2: Evaluating Options - (A) is negative and contradicts the "new energy" point. - (B) aligns with the text's core message: it demonstrated the *capacity* of the common people ("poor dumb millions") to participate in modern nationalist politics. - (C) focuses on the British reaction, which is not the subject of this specific excerpt. - (D) contradicts the text, which explicitly says the communal unity was *not* repeated in later years.

Step 3: Conclusion Option (B) best encapsulates the empowering nature of the movement described in the text.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (B).

💡 Quick Tip

Main Idea Strategy: Synthesize the passage. It's about the "Energy" → "Participation" → "Demonstrated Capacity" of the Indian people.

59. The word "Communalism" in the above passage refers to-

- (A) Religious identity
- (B) Caste identity
- (C) Regional identity
- (D) Secularism

Correct Answer: (A) Religious identity

Solution:

Step 1: Contextual Understanding The passage discusses "communal unity" (unity between communities) and contrasts it with "communalism began to take its toll" in later years.

Step 2: Defining the Term In the context of Indian history and politics, "Communalism" refers to the allegiance to one's own ethnic or religious group rather than to the wider society. It specifically implies conflict or division based on religious identity (e.g., Hindu-Muslim tensions).

Step 3: Selecting the Answer Option (A) "Religious identity" is the correct definition fitting the historical context of the freedom struggle.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (A).

💡 Quick Tip

Concept Check: In Indian Polity, 'Communalism' is the antagonist of 'Secularism'. It refers to the manipulation of religious identities.

XI. There were humans long before there was history. The archaic humans loved, played, formed close friendships and competed for status and power, but so did chimpanzees, baboons and elephants. There was nothing special about them.

Nobody, least of all humans themselves, had any inkling that their descendants would one day walk on the moon, split the atom, fathom the genetic code and write history books. The most important thing to know about prehistoric humans is that they were incognisant animals with no more impact on their environment than gorillas, fireflies or jellyfish.

Biologists classify organisms into species. Animals are said to belong to the same species if they tend to mate with each other, giving birth to fertile offspring. Horses and donkeys have a recent common ancestor and share many physical traits. They will mate if induced to do so - but their offspring, called mules, are sterile. Mutations in donkey DNA can therefore never cross over to horses, or vice versa. The two types of animals are consequently considered two distinct species, moving along separate evolutionary paths. By contrast, a bulldog and a spaniel may look very different, but they are members of the same species, sharing the same DNA pool. [203 words]

(Extracted from Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind by Yuval Noah Harari)

60. Which of the following can be inferred as the most significant characteristic of prehistoric humans, as per the passage?

- (A) Their conscious effort to alter and shape their environment for survival
- (B) Their complex social organization and clear hierarchical structures that set them apart from other species
- (C) Their evolutionary divergence was marked by warfare and the pursuit of dominance over rival species
- (D) Their inability to distinguish themselves from other species in terms of environmental impact

Correct Answer: (D) Their inability to distinguish themselves from other species in terms of environmental impact

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Key Statement The passage explicitly states: "The most important thing to know about prehistoric humans is that they were... insignificant animals with no more impact on their environment than gorillas, fireflies or jellyfish."

Step 2: Evaluating the Options - (A) Contradicts the text which says they had "no more impact". - (B) The text mentions social friendships but says "so did chimpanzees... There was nothing special about them." So, this did *not* set them apart. - (C) Not mentioned in the text. - (D) Aligns with the text's assertion that they were indistinguishable from other animals in terms of impact.

Step 3: Conclusion Option (D) directly paraphrases the "most important thing to know" cited in the passage.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (D).

 Quick Tip

Inference Rule: When the author says "The most important thing to know is X", that X is the primary characteristic/main idea required for such questions.

61. In the context of the passage, the term 'incognisant' most likely means:

- (A) Lacking intelligence
- (B) Unaware of their future potential
- (C) Incapable of social interaction
- (D) Disinterested in the environment

Correct Answer: (B) Unaware of their future potential

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the Context The sentence reads: "Nobody... had any inkling that their descendants would one day walk on the moon... prehistoric humans is that they were incognisant animals..."

Step 2: Contextual Clues - "Had any inkling" means "had any idea" or "were aware". - The lack of an "inkling" parallels the state of being "incognisant".

Step 3: Determining Meaning Therefore, "incognisant" means "unaware" or "ignorant" of the specific future achievements mentioned (splitting the atom, walking on the moon).

Step 4: Final Answer Option (B).

 Quick Tip

Etymology: *Cognizance* = Knowledge/Awareness. Prefix *In-* = Not. *Incognisant* = Not Aware.

62. Which of the following best explains why humans did not initially stand out among other organisms?

- (A) They had fewer offspring than other species
- (B) Their behaviours were not unique compared to other animals
- (C) They did not yet evolve the ability to use tools
- (D) They lacked the genetic capacity to develop language

Correct Answer: (B) Their behaviours were not unique compared to other animals

Solution:

Step 1: Locating the Explanation The passage lists human behaviors: "loved, played, formed close friendships and competed for status and power".

Step 2: The Comparison It immediately follows this list with: "...but so did chimpanzees, baboons and elephants. There was nothing special about them."

Step 3: Conclusion The reason they didn't stand out ("nothing special") is that their social and emotional behaviors were shared by other animals.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (B).

 Quick Tip

The author uses the comparison to show similarity, thereby negating "uniqueness".

63. According to the passage, what determines whether two animals belong to the same species?

- (A) Their ability to produce fertile offspring
- (B) Their physical appearance and size
- (C) Their shared evolutionary ancestor
- (D) Their capacity to adapt to the environment

Correct Answer: (A) Their ability to produce fertile offspring

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Definition The passage clearly states the biological definition used: "Animals are said to belong to the same species if they tend to mate with each other, giving birth to fertile offspring."

Step 2: Verification with Examples - Horses + Donkeys → Sterile Mules → Different Species. - Bulldogs + Spaniels → Fertile Puppies → Same Species.

Step 3: Conclusion Fertility of the offspring is the deciding factor, not physical appearance.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (A).

💡 Quick Tip

Biological Fact: This refers to the 'Biological Species Concept'. The key is not just having offspring, but having *fertile* offspring.

64. The passage explains the concept of species classification by

- (A) Highlighting the behavioural differences between species like horses, donkeys, bulldogs and spaniels
- (B) Focusing on the DNA pool they share
- (C) Contrasting horses and bulldogs with donkeys and spaniels to explain reproductive compatibility
- (D) Discussing the environmental impact of different species like horses and donkeys, and bulldogs and spaniels

Correct Answer: (C) Contrasting horses and bulldogs with donkeys and spaniels to explain reproductive compatibility

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the Explanatory Method The author explains the definition of species (Step 1 of the logic in the text) and then uses two specific comparisons to illustrate it.

Step 2: The Comparisons 1. Horses and Donkeys: They share an ancestor and look somewhat similar, but are *reproductively incompatible* (produce sterile mules). → Different Species. 2. Bulldogs and Spaniels: They look very different, but are *reproductively compatible* (produce fertile puppies). → Same Species.

Step 3: Evaluating Options - (A) focuses on behavior, which is incorrect (the example focuses on mating/offspring). - (B) mentions DNA, which is a detail, not the main

explanatory method. - (C) correctly identifies that the author contrasts these specific pairs to explain the rule of reproductive compatibility.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (C).

 Quick Tip

Methodology: The author uses *Contrast* to define the boundary. Case A fails the test; Case B passes the test. This clarifies the rule.

XII. In 1973, only 45 of the world's 151 countries were counted as 'free' by Freedom House, a nongovernmental organization that produces quantitative measures of civil and political rights for countries around the world. The following generation saw momentous political change, with democracies and market-oriented economies spreading in virtually every part of the world except for the Arab Middle East. This transformation was Samuel Huntington's third wave of democratization; liberal democracy as the default form of government became part of the accepted political landscape at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Underlying these changes in political systems was a massive social transformation as well. The shift to democracy was a result of millions of formerly passive individuals around the world organizing themselves and participating in the political life of their societies. This social mobilization was driven by a host of factors: greatly expanded access to education that made people more aware of themselves and the political world around them; information technology, which facilitated the rapid spread of ideas and knowledge; cheap travel and communications that allowed people to vote with their feet if they didn't like their government; and greater prosperity, which induced people to demand better protection of their rights. The third wave crested after the late 1990s, however, a 'democratic recession' emerged in the first decade of the twenty-first century. Approximately one in five countries that had been part of the third wave either reverted to authoritarianism or saw a significant erosion of democratic institutions. Freedom house noted that 2009 marked the fourth consecutive year in which freedom had declined around the world, the first time this had happened since it established its measures of freedom in 1973. [279 words]
(Extracted from *The Origins of Political Order* by Francis Fukuyama)

65. Which of the following aspects is most critical in understanding Freedom House's evaluation process?

- (A) The methodology by which it quantifies the relative freedoms in different political systems
- (B) Its emphasis on electoral participation and voter turnout in measuring democracy
- (C) Its role in advising governments on democratic reforms based on its rankings
- (D) Its primary focus on economic disparities within democracies

Correct Answer: (A) The methodology by which it quantifies the relative freedoms in different political systems

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Definition in the Text The first sentence of the passage introduces Freedom House as "a nongovernmental organization that provides quantitative measures of civil and political rights for countries around the world."

Step 2: Evaluating the Options - (A) focuses on "quantifies the relative freedoms", which matches "quantitative measures of civil and political rights". - (B), (C), and (D) introduce specifics (voter turnout, advising governments, economic disparities) that are not mentioned in the text as the core definition of Freedom House's function.

Step 3: Conclusion The defining characteristic provided in the text is its method of quantifying rights/freedoms.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (A).

 Quick Tip

Direct Retrieval: Look for the specific clause defining the proper noun (Freedom House) in the opening sentence.

66. What does the phrase 'vote with their feet' imply in the context of the passage?

- (A) Engaging in electoral processes to demand political change
- (B) Demonstrating political preferences through public protests
- (C) Migrating to countries with better governance or conditions
- (D) Participating in local government initiatives and reforms

Correct Answer: (C) Migrating to countries with better governance or conditions

Solution:

Step 1: Contextual Clues The passage lists factors driving social mobilization: "cheap travel and communications that allowed people to vote with their feet if they didn't like their government".

Step 2: Interpreting the Idiom The phrase "vote with one's feet" is an idiom meaning to express an opinion or preference by leaving a situation or place. In this context, combined with "cheap travel" and "didn't like their government", it refers to people physically leaving their country to go elsewhere.

Step 3: Matching Options Option (C) "Migrating to countries..." perfectly captures the meaning of leaving a jurisdiction physically. Option (A) and (D) refer to actual voting/participation, and (B) refers to protesting, none of which require "cheap travel" in the same way migration does.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (C).

 Quick Tip

Idiom Logic: "Voting with feet" = Walking away/Leaving. The context of "travel" reinforces the migration aspect.

67. The term 'third wave of democratization' as used in the passage refers to:

- (A) The rise of communism in Eastern Europe

- (B) The spread of democracy and market-oriented economies
- (C) The decline of authoritarian regimes in the 1960s
- (D) The global movement for civil rights

Correct Answer: (B) The spread of democracy and market-oriented economies

Solution:

Step 1: Locating the Term The text states: "The following generation saw momentous political change, with democracies and market-oriented economies spreading in virtually every part of the world... This transformation was Samuel Huntington's third wave of democratization."

Step 2: Synthesis The passage directly links the term to the spread of democracies and market-oriented economies.

Step 3: Evaluating Options - (A) Rise of communism is the opposite of the trend described. - (B) Matches the text description perfectly. - (C) The text mentions the period after 1973 and late 1990s, not specifically the 1960s decline. - (D) While related to rights, the specific definition given ties it to political systems and economies.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (B).

 Quick Tip

Referencing: Words like "This transformation" usually refer to the sentence immediately preceding them.

68. Which of the following was not mentioned as a factor contributing to social mobilization and the shift to democracy?

- (A) Increased access to education
- (B) Expanding information technology
- (C) Heightened global military presence
- (D) Greater prosperity

Correct Answer: (C) Heightened global military presence

Solution:

Step 1: Listing Factors from the Text The second paragraph lists the drivers of social mobilization: 1. "greatly expanded access to education" (Matches A). 2. "information technology" (Matches B). 3. "cheap travel" (implied mobility). 4. "greater prosperity" (Matches D).

Step 2: Identifying the Exclusion The text does **not** mention "Heightened global military presence" as a driver for this social mobilization.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (C).

 Quick Tip

Negative Factual Questions: Scan the list in the text and cross off the options that appear. The remaining one is the answer.

69. According to this passage, when was the first time the freedom had declined around the world

- (A) 1973
- (B) 1990
- (C) 2006
- (D) 2009

Correct Answer: (A) 1973

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the Key Sentence The text states: "Freedom house noted that 2009 marked the fourth consecutive year in which freedom had declined around the world, the first time this had happened since it established its measures of freedom in 1973."

Step 2: Interpreting "Since 1973" The phrase "first time... since... 1973" implies that the last time such an event (decline in freedom) occurred was in 1973 (or immediately when measurement started). While 2006 would be the start of the *current* 4-year streak, the question asks for the "first time" historically mentioned in the context of the measurement's history. 1973 is the reference point for the initial occurrence/baseline.

Step 3: Selecting the Answer Option (A) 1973 is the correct historical reference point provided for the previous occurrence of freedom declining (or the start of measurement coinciding with such a state).

Step 4: Final Answer Option (A).

💡 Quick Tip

Chronology: When a text says "First time since Year X", Year X is the answer to "When did it happen before?".

XIII. My kinsman and I were returning to Calcutta from our Puja trip when we encountered an unusual man on the train. At first, judging from his dress and bearing, we mistook him for an up-country boorish man. But as soon as he began to speak, our impression changed. He discoursed on every subject with such confidence that one might think the 'Disposer of All Things' sought his counsel in every decision. Until then, we had been perfectly content, unaware of hidden forces shaping the world—that the Russians were advancing, that the English were pursuing secret policies, and that confusion among native chiefs had reached its peak. Our new acquaintance, however, hinted at such matters with a sly smile, remarking: "*There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are reported in your newspapers.*" Having never before travelled beyond our homes, we were struck dumb with wonder at his manner. No matter how trivial the topic, he could quote science, comment on the Vedas, or recite quatrains from Persian poets. Since we possessed no real knowledge of science, the Vedas, or Persian literature, our admiration for him only grew. My kinsman, a theosophist, became convinced that our fellow passenger was inspired by some strange magnetism, occult power, or astral body. He listened with devotional rapture even to the most common place remarks and secretly noted down his words. I suspect our extraordinary companion noticed

this and was quietly pleased. When the train reached the junction, we gathered in the waiting room to await our connection. It was 10 p.m., and as the train was expected to be delayed owing to some fault in the lines, I spread my bed on the table and prepared to sleep. But just then, the extraordinary man began spinning a tale, and of course, I could not close my eyes all night. (307 words)

[Extracted with edits from Rabindranath Tagore's "The Hungry Stones"]

70. The narrator and his kinsman's initial impression of the "unusual man" highlights which theme most strongly?

- (A) The deceptive nature of appearances
- (B) The superiority of Western education
- (C) The danger of blind faith
- (D) The reliability of cultural stereotypes

Correct Answer: (A) The deceptive nature of appearances

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the Text The text says: "...judging from his dress and bearing, we mistook him for an up-country boorish man. But as soon as he began to speak, our impression changed."

Step 2: Identifying the Theme There is a clear contrast between how the man *looked* (boorish, uneducated) and who he *was* (knowledgeable, articulate). This illustrates that appearances can be misleading.

Step 3: Matching Options Option (A) "The deceptive nature of appearances" fits this contrast perfectly.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (A).

 Quick Tip

Contrast Markers: Words like "But", "mistook", and "impression changed" signal a contrast between expectation and reality.

71. Which literary device is most evident in the narrator's line: "one might think the Disposer of All Things sought his counsel in every decision"?

- (A) Irony
- (B) Euphemism
- (C) Allegory
- (D) Hyperbole

Correct Answer: (D) Hyperbole

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Line The line suggests that God ("Disposer of All Things") asks this man for advice on every decision.

Step 2: Identifying the Device This is a massive exaggeration used to illustrate the man's extreme confidence and authoritative tone. He speaks *as if* he knows the secrets of the universe. - Hyperbole is the literary term for extreme exaggeration.

Step 3: Eliminating Others - Irony: Saying the opposite of what is meant (not the primary device here). - Euphemism: Mild word for a harsh one. - Allegory: Symbolic story.
Step 4: Final Answer Option (D).

💡 Quick Tip

Literary Devices: Exaggeration to an impossible extent (God asking a human for advice) is the hallmark of Hyperbole.

72. The word “theosophist” means:

- (A) Skeptic
- (B) Mystic
- (C) Agnostic
- (D) Materialist

Correct Answer: (B) Mystic

Solution:

Step 1: Contextual Clues The text describes the kinsman’s reaction: he believed the man was “inspired by some strange magnetism, occult power, or astral body.” He listened with “devotional rapture.”

Step 2: Definition Theosophy is a philosophy seeking direct knowledge of mysteries of being and nature, particularly of the nature of divinity. A Theosophist is often associated with mysticism, occultism, and spiritual insight.

Step 3: Matching Options - (A) Skeptic (Doubter) - Opposite of the kinsman’s reaction. - (B) Mystic - Fits the “occult power” and “astral body” description. - (C) Agnostic (Unsure of God) - Incorrect. - (D) Materialist (Focus on physical world) - Opposite of “astral body”.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (B).

💡 Quick Tip

Vocabulary: Theosophy is closely linked to Mysticism and Occultism (founded by Blavatsky). Context clues like “astral body” point away from science/materialism.

73. The word “Boorish” mean:

- (A) Discourteous
- (B) Genteel
- (C) Well-bred
- (D) Courtly

Correct Answer: (A) Discourteous

Solution:

Step 1: Contextual Clues The narrator judged him as "boorish" based on dress and bearing, but changed his mind when he spoke. This implies "boorish" is negative and opposite to refined/educated.

Step 2: Definition Boorish means rough and bad-mannered; coarse; unrefined.

Step 3: Evaluating Options - (A) Discourteous - Means rude/bad-mannered. This is a synonym. - (B) Genteel - Refined/Polite (Antonym). - (C) Well-bred - Refined (Antonym). - (D) Courtly - Polished/Elegant (Antonym).

Step 4: Final Answer Option (A).

 Quick Tip

Synonym/Antonym Check: Often options contain 1 synonym and 3 antonyms. Here B, C, and D all mean "Polite/Refined". The odd one out (A) is the likely answer.

74. The narrator's suspicion that the extraordinary man was "quietly pleased" suggests:

- (A) The man was genuinely humble and embarrassed by the attention
- (B) The man wished to avoid any recognition of his authority
- (C) The man was indifferent to how others perceived him
- (D) The man derived satisfaction from impressing and influencing others

Correct Answer: (D) The man derived satisfaction from impressing and influencing others

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the Situation The narrator was "secretly noting down his words". The man "noticed this" and was "quietly pleased".

Step 2: Inference Being pleased that someone is writing down your words implies a sense of vanity or satisfaction in being admired or considered important. It contradicts humility or indifference.

Step 3: Matching Options Option (D) captures this sentiment: he enjoyed the fact that he was impressing them.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (D).

 Quick Tip

Character Analysis: Actions (noticing notes) + Reaction (pleased) = Motivation (Enjoyment of admiration).

XIV. Man is the only creature that consumes without producing. He does not give milk, he does not lay eggs, he is too weak to pull the plough, and he cannot run fast enough to catch rabbits. Yet he claims dominion over all animals. He sets us to work, returns only the bare minimum to keep us from starving, and keeps the rest for himself. Our labour tills the soil, our dung fertilizes it, and still, not one of us owns more than our bare skin. You cows, look at

yourselves—how many thousands of gallons of milk have you produced this past year? And what has become of it, milk that should have nurtured strong calves? Every drop has gone down the throats of our enemies. And you hens, how many eggs have you laid, and how many of those ever hatched into chicks? The rest have gone to market to bring in money for Jones and his men. And you, Clover, where are the four foals you bore, who should have supported and comforted you in your old age? Each was sold at just a year old—you will never see them again. For all your labour in the fields and your four confinements, what have you gained except bare rations and a stall?

Even the lives we do live are cut short, denied their natural span. I do not grumble, for I am among the fortunate. I am twelve years old and have borne over four hundred children. Such is the natural life of a pig. But no animal escapes the cruel knife in the end. You young porkers sitting before me, each of you will scream your lives out at the block within a year. This is the fate that awaits all of us—cows, pigs, hens, sheep, everyone. Even horses and dogs share no better end. Boxer, the very day your great muscles fail you, Jones will sell you to the knacker, who will slit your throat and boil you down for the foxhounds. And the dogs, when old and toothless, are tied with a brick and drowned in the nearest pond. (356 words)

[Extracted with edits from George Orwell's "Animal Farm"]

75. Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?

- (A) Detached and neutral
- (B) Critical, somber, and resentful, evoking both awareness and outrage
- (C) Humorous and light-hearted
- (D) Admiring and celebratory

Correct Answer: (B) Critical, somber, and resentful, evoking both awareness and outrage

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the Language Words used: "cruel knife", "scream your lives out", "slit your throat", "boil you down", "stolen from us". These are highly emotional, violent, and negative words.

Step 2: Determining the Attitude The speaker is criticizing "Man", describing the sad ("somber") fate of animals, and clearly trying to make the listeners angry ("outrage").

Step 3: Evaluating Options - (A) Neutral - Incorrect (too emotional). - (B) Critical, somber, resentful - Fits the revolutionary/complaining nature of the speech. - (C) Humorous - Incorrect. - (D) Admiring - Incorrect.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (B).

 Quick Tip

Tone Detection: Look at the adjectives and verbs. Violent imagery usually indicates a somber, critical, or outraged tone.

76. The speaker frequently contrasts animals' work with human gain. This literary technique is best classified as:

- (A) Allegory of class exploitation
- (B) Hyperbole for comic effect

- (C) Irony about farm management
- (D) Metaphor for animal biology

Correct Answer: (A) Allegory of class exploitation

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Context *Animal Farm* is a famous allegory for the Russian Revolution. The animals represent the working class (proletariat) and the humans represent the ruling class/capitalists.

Step 2: Analyzing the Contrast The contrast "Man consumes without producing... Our labour tills the soil... not one of us owns more than our bare skin" mirrors the Marxist critique of capitalism (workers produce, capitalists profit).

Step 3: Evaluating Options The technique of using animals to represent social classes and contrasting their labor with the master's profit is the core of the allegory of class exploitation.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (A).

 Quick Tip

Literary Knowledge: *Animal Farm* is the classic example of Political Allegory. Recognizing the source text often gives the answer immediately.

77. Who is 'knacker'?

- (A) A slaughterer
- (B) A trader whose business is disposal of dead and unwanted animals
- (C) A person whose business is disposal of dead or unwanted animals especially those whose flesh is not fit for human consumption
- (D) Harness-maker

Correct Answer: (C) A person whose business is disposal of dead or unwanted animals especially those whose flesh is not fit for human consumption

Solution:

Step 1: Contextual Clues The text says: "Jones will sell you to the knacker, who will slit your throat and boil you down for the foxhounds." This implies the animal is killed and processed for non-human food (foxhounds).

Step 2: Definition A knacker is specifically a person who buys worn-out or old livestock to slaughter and process the carcasses for by-products (glue, leather, dog food), rather than for human consumption.

Step 3: Evaluating Options - (A) Slaughterer is too general (could be a butcher for human meat). - (B) Close, but (C) is more precise regarding the "unwanted" nature and "not fit for human consumption" aspect, which defines the knacker trade historically vs the butcher trade. - (C) Provides the most accurate and specific definition.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (C).

💡 Quick Tip

Vocabulary: A butcher kills for meat (food). A knacker kills for by-products (glue, dog food) when the animal is too old or sick to be eaten by humans.

78. The repeated reference to slaughter, drowning, and the knacker in the passage primarily implies to:

- (A) Provide a detailed account of animal husbandry
- (B) Evoke emotional outrage and highlight the brutality of exploitation
- (C) Suggest that animals are naturally subservient
- (D) Indicate that humans value animals

Correct Answer: (B) Evoke emotional outrage and highlight the brutality of exploitation

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the Imagery The speaker graphically describes horrific deaths: "scream your lives out at the block", "boil you down", "brick and drowned".

Step 2: Determining the Purpose These images are not meant to educate on husbandry (A) or show human value (D). They are meant to shock the audience (the animals) into realizing how cruelly they are treated and to stir them to rebellion. It highlights the brutality of exploitation.

Step 3: Matching Options Option (B) "Evoke emotional outrage..." accurately describes the rhetorical function of this imagery.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (B).

💡 Quick Tip

Rhetorical Analysis: Graphic violence in a persuasive speech is almost always used to incite anger and action against the perpetrator.

XV. Health insurance plays a vital role in ensuring financial protection and access to quality healthcare. In India, however, the extent and nature of health insurance coverage vary significantly between urban and rural areas. While urban populations often have better access to organized insurance schemes, employer-provided coverage, and awareness about health policies, rural populations face challenges such as limited outreach of insurance schemes, inadequate infrastructure, and lower awareness levels. This urban–rural divide in health insurance coverage highlights the broader issue of healthcare inequality, making it essential to analyze the factors contributing to this gap and explore strategies for more inclusive health protection. A state-level health survey was conducted.

The survey covered 1,80,000 adults across urban and rural areas. Urban residents formed 55% of the sample (that is, 99,000 people) while rural residents made up 45% (that is, 81,000 people). In each area, coverage was classified under four heads – Public schemes, Private insurance, Employer-provided coverage, and Uninsured. In urban areas, Public coverage accounted for 28% of the urban population, Private for 22%, Employer for 18%, and the

remaining 32% were Uninsured. In rural areas, where formal coverage is generally lower, Public coverage stood at 35%, Private at 10%, Employer at 8%, while 47% were Uninsured. For this survey, “Insured” includes everyone covered by Public + Private + Employer schemes, and “Uninsured” indicates those with no coverage at all. Officials noted that public schemes remain the backbone of rural coverage, while employer and private plans are relatively more prevalent in urban centres. (250 words)

79. The ratio of insured adults in Urban : Rural is:

- (A) 82:65
- (B) 748:477
- (C) 65:82
- (D) 477:748

Correct Answer: (B) 748:477

Solution:

Step 1: Calculate the Number of Insured Adults in Urban Areas From the comprehension analysis, the total percentage of insured adults in urban areas is 68%.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Urban Insured} &= 68\% \text{ of } 99,000 \\ &= \frac{68}{100} \times 99,000 = 68 \times 990\end{aligned}$$

Step 2: Calculate the Number of Insured Adults in Rural Areas The total percentage of insured adults in rural areas is 53%.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Rural Insured} &= 53\% \text{ of } 81,000 \\ &= \frac{53}{100} \times 81,000 = 53 \times 810\end{aligned}$$

Step 3: Establish the Ratio

$$\text{Ratio} = \frac{\text{Urban Insured}}{\text{Rural Insured}} = \frac{68 \times 990}{53 \times 810}$$

Step 4: Simplify the Fraction Cancel the common factor of 10 (remove the zeros):

$$= \frac{68 \times 99}{53 \times 81}$$

Both 99 and 81 are divisible by 9:

$$= \frac{68 \times 11}{53 \times 9}$$

Perform the multiplication:

$$= \frac{748}{477}$$

Thus, the ratio is 748 : 477.

Step 5: Final Answer Option (B).

Quick Tip

Calculation Shortcut: Instead of calculating the full population numbers (e.g., 67,320), keep the numbers in factor form (like 68×990) until the final step. This makes simplification easier and reduces calculation errors.

80. By what percentage is the number of Uninsured in Rural higher than Uninsured in Urban?

- (A) 18.75%
- (B) 20.17%
- (C) 22.50%
- (D) 25.00%

Correct Answer: (B) 20.17%

Solution:

Step 1: Calculate the Urban Uninsured Population The Urban Uninsured rate is 32%.

$$\text{Urban Uninsured} = 0.32 \times 99,000 = 31,680$$

Step 2: Calculate the Rural Uninsured Population The Rural Uninsured rate is 47%.

$$\text{Rural Uninsured} = 0.47 \times 81,000 = 38,070$$

Step 3: Calculate the Difference

$$\text{Difference} = 38,070 - 31,680 = 6,390$$

Step 4: Calculate the Percentage Difference The question asks "higher than... Urban", so the Urban value is the base (denominator).

$$\begin{aligned}\% \text{ Higher} &= \left(\frac{\text{Difference}}{\text{Urban Uninsured}} \right) \times 100 \\ &= \frac{6,390}{31,680} \times 100 \\ &\approx 0.201704... \times 100 \\ &\approx 20.17\%\end{aligned}$$

Step 5: Final Answer Option (B).

💡 Quick Tip

Base Identification: In percentage questions phrasing "X is what % higher than Y", Y is always the denominator. Here, Urban is Y.

81. If the total population grows by 5% next year and all percentage shares remain the same (including the Urban-Rural split), how many additional privately insured people will there be (vs. this year)?

- (A) 1,494
- (B) 1,560
- (C) 1,620
- (D) 1,650

Correct Answer: (A) 1,494

Solution:

Step 1: Calculate Current Privately Insured Population

- **Urban Private:** 22% of 99,000 = $0.22 \times 99,000 = 21,780$
- **Rural Private:** 10% of 81,000 = $0.10 \times 81,000 = 8,100$
- **Total Private (Current):** $21,780 + 8,100 = 29,880$

Step 2: Apply the Growth Logic Since the total population grows by 5% and all internal ratios/shares remain constant, every subgroup (including the privately insured) will also grow by exactly 5

Step 3: Calculate the Additional Number

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Additional Private} &= 5\% \text{ of Total Private (Current)} \\ &= 0.05 \times 29,880 \\ &= 1,494\end{aligned}$$

Step 4: Final Answer Option (A).

 **Quick Tip**

Proportionality Rule: If a population scales up by a factor k , and distribution remains constant, every subset also scales up by k . You do not need to calculate the "New Total Population" first.

82. The total number of Employer-covered adults is:

- (A) 22,800
- (B) 23,100
- (C) 24,300
- (D) 25,200

Correct Answer: (C) 24,300

Solution:

Step 1: Calculate Urban Employer Coverage Urban Employer share is 18%.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Urban} &= 18\% \text{ of } 99,000 \\ &= 0.18 \times 99,000 = 17,820\end{aligned}$$

Step 2: Calculate Rural Employer Coverage Rural Employer share is 8%.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Rural} &= 8\% \text{ of } 81,000 \\ &= 0.08 \times 81,000 = 6,480\end{aligned}$$

Step 3: Sum for Total Coverage

$$\text{Total} = 17,820 + 6,480 = 24,300$$

Step 4: Final Answer Option (C).

 Quick Tip

Mental Math: To find 18% of 99,000: Think of it as 18% of (100,000 - 1,000).
 $18,000 - 180 = 17,820$. This is often faster than standard multiplication.

83. What percentage of all insured adults are Publicly insured?

- (A) 48.50%
- (B) 49.75%
- (C) 50.86%
- (D) 52.00%

Correct Answer: (C) 50.86%

Solution:

Step 1: Calculate Total Insured Population Using data derived in Q79:

- Urban Insured = $68 \times 990 = 67,320$
- Rural Insured = $53 \times 810 = 42,930$
- **Total Insured** = $67,320 + 42,930 = 1,10,250$

Step 2: Calculate Total Publicly Insured Population

- Urban Public = 28% of 99,000 = 27,720
- Rural Public = 35% of 81,000 = 28,350
- **Total Public** = $27,720 + 28,350 = 56,070$

Step 3: Calculate the Percentage

$$\begin{aligned}\% \text{ Public Share} &= \frac{\text{Total Public}}{\text{Total Insured}} \times 100 \\ &= \frac{56,070}{1,10,250} \times 100 \\ &\approx 0.50857 \times 100 \\ &\approx 50.86\%\end{aligned}$$

Step 4: Final Answer Option (C).

 Quick Tip

Approximation Check: 56,000 is slightly more than half of 110,000 (which is 55,000). So the answer must be slightly greater than 50%. Option (C) is the only close match above 50%.

84. What percentage of the total surveyed population was insured?

- (A) 52.15%
- (B) 56.25%
- (C) 61.25%
- (D) 64%

Correct Answer: (C) 61.25%

Solution:

Step 1: Retrieve Total Values

- Total Population = 1,80,000 (Given)
- Total Insured = 1,10,250 (Calculated in Q83)

Step 2: Perform Percentage Calculation

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Percentage Insured} &= \frac{1,10,250}{1,80,000} \times 100 \\ &= \frac{11,025}{180}\end{aligned}$$

Step 3: Simplify Division Divide numerator and denominator by 9:

$$\frac{11,025}{180} = \frac{1,225}{20}$$

Divide by 5:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1,225}{20} &= \frac{245}{4} \\ &= 61.25\%\end{aligned}$$

Step 4: Final Answer Option (C).

💡 Quick Tip

Weighted Average Method: Instead of using totals, use the weighted average of the percentages. $(68\% \times 0.55) + (53\% \times 0.45) = 37.4 + 23.85 = 61.25\%$.

XVI. A state electricity report serves as an important tool to assess energy production and track progress in the power sector. By providing quarterly data on generation measured in gigawatt hours (GWh), the report highlights the contribution of different energy sources such as coal, gas, hydro, solar, and wind. This not only helps in understanding the overall energy mix and dependence on conventional versus renewable sources but also enables policymakers, planners, and stakeholders to evaluate trends, address gaps, and promote sustainable energy development. A state electricity report provides quarterly generation (in GWh) by source – Coal, Gas, Hydro, Solar, and Wind.

In Q1 Generation from Coal is 2,200 GWh, Gas contributes 800 GWh, Hydro 900 GWh, Solar 700 GWh, and Wind 400 GWh, for a total of 5,000 GWh.

In Q2 Coal rises to 2,400 GWh, while Gas dips to 700 GWh; Hydro improves to 1,000 GWh, Solar to 800 GWh, and Wind to 600 GWh, bringing the quarterly total to 5,500 GWh.

In Q3 Coal moderates to 2,100 GWh, Gas increases to 900 GWh, Hydro softens to 800 GWh, but Solar advances to 1,000 GWh and Wind to 700 GWh, keeping the total at 5,500 GWh.

In Q4 Coal moves to 2,300 GWh, Gas to 850 GWh, Hydro to 1,100 GWh, Solar to 900 GWh, and Wind to 850 GWh, for a total of 6,000 GWh.

For analysis, Renewables are taken as Hydro + Solar + Wind. A carbon policy scenario proposes cutting Q4 Coal by 10%, shifting the entire reduction equally into Solar and Wind. (255 words)

85. The total annual generation (GWh) is :

- (A) 20,500
- (B) 21,500
- (C) 22,000
- (D) 22,500

Correct Answer: (C) 22,000

Solution:

Step 1: Identify Quarterly Totals The passage explicitly provides the total generation for each quarter:

- Q1: 5,000 GWh
- Q2: 5,500 GWh
- Q3: 5,500 GWh
- Q4: 6,000 GWh

Step 2: Sum for Annual Total

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Annual Total} &= 5,000 + 5,500 + 5,500 + 6,000 \\ &= 10,500 + 11,500 \\ &= 22,000 \text{ GWh}\end{aligned}$$

Step 3: Final Answer Option (C).

💡 Quick Tip

Reading Strategy: Always check if the row/column totals are already provided in the text. Here, the text says "...for a total of 5,000 GWh", saving you from summing the individual components manually.

86. The overall renewable share (as % of annual generation) is closest to:

- (A) 42.5%
- (B) 43.8%
- (C) 44.3%
- (D) 45.0%

Correct Answer: (C) 44.3%

Solution:

Step 1: Define Renewable Sources Renewables = Hydro + Solar + Wind.

Step 2: Sum Renewables by Quarter

- Q1: $900 + 700 + 400 = 2,000$
- Q2: $1,000 + 800 + 600 = 2,400$
- Q3: $800 + 1,000 + 700 = 2,500$
- Q4: $1,100 + 900 + 850 = 2,850$

Step 3: Calculate Annual Renewable Total

$$2,000 + 2,400 + 2,500 + 2,850 = 9,750 \text{ GWh}$$

Step 4: Calculate Percentage Share Total Annual Generation = 22,000 (from Q85).

$$\begin{aligned} \% \text{ Share} &= \frac{9,750}{22,000} \times 100 \\ &= \frac{975}{22} \approx 44.318\% \end{aligned}$$

Step 5: Final Answer Option (C).

💡 Quick Tip

Estimation: 50% of 22,000 is 11,000. 9,750 is 1,250 less. Since 1,100 is roughly 5% of 22,000, the answer should be roughly $50\% - 5.5\% = 44.5\%$. Option (C) is the closest.

87. The quarter with the highest renewable percentage share is:

- (A) Q1
- (B) Q2
- (C) Q3
- (D) Q4

Correct Answer: (D) Q4

Solution:

Step 1: Calculate Percentage Share for Each Quarter Using Renewable totals from Q86 and Quarterly totals from Q85:

- **Q1:** $\frac{2,000}{5,000} = 40.0\%$

- **Q2:** $\frac{2,400}{5,500} = 43.63\%$
- **Q3:** $\frac{2,500}{5,500} = 45.45\%$
- **Q4:** $\frac{2,850}{6,000} = \frac{28.5}{60} = 47.5\%$

Step 2: Compare Values $47.5\% > 45.45\% > 43.63\% > 40.0\%$.

Step 3: Conclusion Q4 has the highest share.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (D).

💡 Quick Tip

Numerator Growth vs Denominator Growth: From Q3 to Q4, the renewable total grew by 350 (a large jump) while the total generation grew by 500. This significant addition to the numerator suggests the percentage will rise.

88. A carbon policy reduces Q4 Coal by 10% and shifts the entire reduction equally to Solar and Wind. The new Q4 Solar (GWh) is:

- (A) 975
- (B) 1,000
- (C) 1,015
- (D) 1,030

Correct Answer: (C) 1,015

Solution:

Step 1: Calculate the Coal Reduction Original Q4 Coal = 2,300 GWh.

$$\text{Reduction} = 10\% \text{ of } 2,300 = 230 \text{ GWh}$$

Step 2: Distribute the Reduction The 230 GWh reduction is shifted **equally** to Solar and Wind.

$$\text{Shift to Solar} = \frac{230}{2} = 115 \text{ GWh}$$

Step 3: Calculate New Solar Generation Original Q4 Solar = 900 GWh.

$$\text{New Solar} = 900 + 115 = 1,015 \text{ GWh}$$

Step 4: Final Answer Option (C).

💡 Quick Tip

Read conditions carefully. "Shifts the entire reduction equally" is the key phrase that dictates dividing the dropped coal amount by 2.

89. The annual Gas: Hydro generation ratio is:

- (A) 13:15
- (B) 65:76
- (C) 5:6
- (D) 26:31

Correct Answer: (B) 65:76

Solution:

Step 1: Calculate Total Annual Gas Generation Summing Gas across Q1-Q4:

$$800 + 700 + 900 + 850 = 3,250 \text{ GWh}$$

Step 2: Calculate Total Annual Hydro Generation Summing Hydro across Q1-Q4:

$$900 + 1,000 + 800 + 1,100 = 3,800 \text{ GWh}$$

Step 3: Formulate the Ratio

$$\text{Gas} : \text{Hydro} = 3,250 : 3,800$$

Step 4: Simplify the Ratio Divide both sides by 10:

$$325 : 380$$

Both numbers end in 0 or 5, so divide by 5:

$$\frac{325}{5} : \frac{380}{5} = 65 : 76$$

These numbers share no further common factors.

Step 5: Final Answer Option (B).

Quick Tip

Data Hygiene: When copying data from the text, double-check that you are picking numbers from the 'Gas' and 'Hydro' columns respectively, as mixing them up is the most common error.

90. The quarter with the lowest renewable percentage share is:

- (A) Q1
- (B) Q2
- (C) Q3
- (D) Q4

Correct Answer: (A) Q1

Solution:

Step 1: Retrieve Calculated Shares Referencing the values calculated in Question 87:

- **Q1:** 40.0%

- **Q2:** 43.6%
- **Q3:** 45.45%
- **Q4:** 47.5%

Step 2: Identify the Minimum Comparing the values, 40.0% is the lowest.

Step 3: Final Answer Option (A).

💡 Quick Tip

Efficiency: In set-based questions (like Q87-90), solve the comprehensive data processing questions (like finding shares for all quarters) first on rough paper. This allows you to answer multiple questions (Highest share, Lowest share) instantly without recalculating.

Section - V

XVII. One of the central motifs of the past decade of governance under Indian Prime Minister has been the embrace of policy measures that seek to apply uniform solutions to disparate policy dilemmas facing the country. These measures, often termed One Nation policies, are motivated by a desire to replace the existing patchwork of state-specific policies, regulations, and regimes with measures that are identical across the length and breadth of India.

There are numerous examples of such One Nation policies being propagated and, in several cases, implemented in the eleven years since this Government came to power. For instance, in 2016, Parliament passed a series of constitutional amendments to introduce a new Goods and Services Tax (GST), which introduced a unified value-added tax in place of state-specific levies. This reform, known informally as One Nation, One Tax, had been debated and discussed for nearly two decades and was widely touted as an important precursor to forging a common market across India's twenty-eight states.

In a similar vein, the government rolled out a new initiative to allow Indian citizens to take advantage of subsidized food rations irrespective of their state of residence. This scheme, commonly termed One Nation, One Ration Card, was intended to increase access to welfare benefits, especially for the millions of internal migrants in India without a fixed place of residence.

Earlier this year, the government announced the launch of a new online portal that will provide students, faculty, and researchers across the country's public higher education institutions with open access to international scholarly journals and articles under a scheme it has dubbed One Nation, One Subscription.

Most notably, the government recently signalled its intention to pursue a monumental One Nation policy that has been long discussed but only recently outlined in detail. This measure, known as One Nation, One Election, would do away with India's current system of staggered elections for state and national assemblies, replacing it with a framework of simultaneous elections. The proposal, which has featured in many of PM's speeches in the past, was advanced by a high-level committee (HLC) established by the government in 2023. (351 words)

[Excerpts from Does “One Nation, One Election” Make Sense for India? by Milan Vaishnav, Caroline Mallory, and Annabel Richter Published on July 28, 2025]

91. What is the underlying idea behind the “One Nation” policies of the government?

- (A) To strengthen federalism by empowering states with greater autonomy
- (B) To apply uniform solutions across India, replacing state-specific variations
- (C) To decentralize governance to local self-government institutions
- (D) To promote diversity by encouraging state-specific policies

Correct Answer: (B) To apply uniform solutions across India, replacing state-specific variations

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the Passage The first paragraph explicitly states the motivation:

”...desire to replace the existing patchwork of state-specific policies, regulations, and regimes with measures that are identical across the length and breadth of India.”

Step 2: Evaluating Options - (A) Strengthening federalism/autonomy is often seen as the opposite of imposing uniform national policies. - (B) Matches the text perfectly (“apply uniform solutions... replacing state-specific variations”). - (C) Decentralization moves power away from the center, whereas “One Nation” policies often centralize standards. - (D) Promoting state-specific policies is explicitly what the passage says the government seeks to *replace*.

Step 3: Final Answer Option (B) is the correct answer.

💡 Quick Tip

Reading Comprehension Strategy: Look for paraphrased sentences. The text says “measures that are identical across... India” which is synonymous with “uniform solutions across India”.

92. Which of the following Constitution Amendment Bill deals with empowerment of the Election Commission of India (ECI) to implement simultaneous state and national elections.

- (A) One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment
- (B) One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment
- (C) One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment
- (D) One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Amendment

Correct Answer: (A) One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment

Solution:

Step 1: Current Affairs Context The passage refers to a future or projected timeline (2025). In the context of Indian Constitutional Amendments (as of 2024): - 126th Bill: Extended SC/ST reservation in legislatures (became 104th Act). - 127th Bill: Restored states’ power to identify OBCs (became 105th Act). - 128th Bill: Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (Women’s Reservation, became 106th Act).

Step 2: Logical Deduction for Mock Questions Since the 128th Amendment Bill has already been passed, the *next* major Constitutional Amendment Bill introduced in Parliament—such as one for "One Nation, One Election"—would logically be the One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment Bill.

Step 3: Final Answer Option (A).

 Quick Tip

Sequence Matters: Always keep track of the latest numbered Amendment *Bill* versus the Amendment *Act*. The numbers differ because not all introduced bills get passed. The latest passed Act was the 106th (from the 128th Bill).

93. Which committee or report has discussed the feasibility of simultaneous elections in India?

- (A) Justice Verma Committee 2013
- (B) Law Commission of India Report 2018
- (C) Sarkaria Commission Report 1988
- (D) Punchhi Commission Report 2010

Correct Answer: (B) Law Commission of India Report 2018

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Committee Functions - Justice Verma Committee (2013): Dealt with amendments to Criminal Law (Sexual Assault) after the Nirbhaya case. - Sarkaria Commission Punchhi Commission: Dealt with Centre-State Relations. - Law Commission of India: The 21st Law Commission, in its draft report in 2018, extensively discussed the legal framework and feasibility of holding simultaneous elections ("One Nation, One Election").

Step 2: Final Answer Option (B).

 Quick Tip

The NITI Aayog also released a discussion paper on this topic in 2017 titled "Analysis of Simultaneous Elections".

94. A High-Level Committee was constituted by the government to examine the policy of One Nation One Election. The Committee was led by:

- (A) Shri Ram Nath Kovind
- (B) Shri Jagdip Dhankar
- (C) Shri Pranab Mukherjee
- (D) Smt. Draupadi Murmu

Correct Answer: (A) Shri Ram Nath Kovind

Solution:

Step 1: Current Affairs Fact Check In September 2023, the Union Government constituted a High-Level Committee (HLC) to examine the issue of simultaneous elections. - The Chairman of this committee was appointed as Shri Ram Nath Kovind, the former President of India.

Step 2: Passage Confirmation The passage mentions: "...advanced by a high-level committee (HLC) established by the government in 2023."

Step 3: Final Answer Option (A).

 Quick Tip

This committee is colloquially referred to as the Kovind Panel or Kovind Committee.

95. As per the new GST reforms introduced in September 2025, the structure of new GST rates are as follows

- (A) 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%
- (B) 5%, 12% and 18%
- (C) 5%, 12% and 40%
- (D) 5%, 18% and 40%

Correct Answer: (A) 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Context The question is set in a future date (September 2025) as per the mock paper's narrative. However, the GST rate structure is a static concept in Indian economy unless a major overhaul is explicitly detailed in the passage (which it is not).

Step 2: Identifying Standard GST Slabs The Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India primarily has four slab rates: 1. 5% (Essential goods) 2. 12% (Standard rate 1) 3. 18% (Standard rate 2) 4. 28% (Luxury/Sin goods) (There are also 0%, 0.25%, and 3

Step 3: Eliminating Other Options Options (B), (C), and (D) present hypothetical structures that remove key existing slabs (like the 28

Step 4: Final Answer Option (A).

 Quick Tip

GST Structure: Remember the 4-tier structure: 5, 12, 18, 28. (0

96. The object of One Nation, One Ration Card scheme is to benefit:

- (A) The rural population
- (B) The Farmers
- (C) The Migrant labourers
- (D) The ration shopkeepers

Correct Answer: (C) The Migrant labourers

Solution:

Step 1: Locating the Answer in Text The passage discusses the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme in the third paragraph. It states: "...intended to increase access to welfare benefits, especially for the millions of internal migrants in India without a fixed place of residence."

Step 2: Matching Options - (A) "Rural population" is too broad; the scheme helps those who *move* away from their registered home. - (B) "Farmers" are not the specific target group mentioned. - (C) "Migrant labourers" directly corresponds to "internal migrants". - (D) Shopkeepers are the service providers, not the beneficiaries.

Step 3: Final Answer Option (C).

💡 Quick Tip

ONORC: This scheme allows beneficiaries to claim food grains from *any* Fair Price Shop (FPS) in the country using their existing ration card, crucial for migrant workers.

XVII. I may here trace the history of the shaping of the Preamble because this would show that the Preamble was in conformity with the Constitution as it was finally accepted. Not only was the Constitution framed in the light of the Preamble but the Preamble was ultimately settled in the light of the Constitution. In the earliest draft the Preamble was something formal and read: "We, the people of India, seeking to promote the common good, do hereby, through our chosen representatives, enact, adopt and give to ourselves this Constitution.

After the plan of June 3, 1947, which led to the decision to partition the country and to set up two independent Dominions of India and Pakistan, on June 8, 1947, a joint sub-committee of the Union Constitution and Provincial Constitution Committees, took note that the objective resolution would require amendment in view of the latest announcement of the British Government. The announcement of June 3 had made it clear that full independence, in the form of Dominion Status, would be conferred on India as from August 15, 1947. After examining the implications of partition the subcommittee thought that the question of making changes in the Objectives Resolution could appropriately be considered only when effect had actually been given to the June 3 Plan. Later on July 12, 1947, the special sub-committee again postponed consideration of the matter. The Union Constitution Committee provisionally accepted the Preamble as drafted by B.N. Rao and reproduced it in its report of July 4, 1947 without any change, with the tacit recognition at that stage that the Preamble would be finally based on the Objectives Resolution. In a statement circulated to members of the Assembly on July 18, 1947 Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru inter alia, observed that the Preamble was covered more or less by the Objectives Resolution which it was intended to incorporate in the final Constitution, subject to some modification on account of the political changes resulting from partition. (327 words)

(Extracted with edits and revision from B Shiva Rao's-Framing of India's Constitution)

97. According to the passage, the relationship between the Constitution and the Preamble can best be described as:

(A) The Preamble was drafted in isolation

- (B) The Constitution and the Preamble were framed independent of each other
- (C) Both the Constitution and the Preamble were shaped in light of each other
- (D) The Preamble had no relevance to the Constitution

Correct Answer: (C) Both the Constitution and the Preamble were shaped in light of each other

Solution:

Step 1: Locating the Textual Evidence We need to find the specific sentence in the passage that describes the relationship between the two documents.

Step 2: Analyzing the Text The passage explicitly states in the first paragraph: "Not only was the Constitution framed in the light of the Preamble but the Preamble was ultimately settled in the light of the Constitution."

Step 3: Evaluating Options - (A) and (B) suggest independence or isolation, which contradicts the text saying they influenced each other. - (D) suggests no relevance, which is incorrect. - (C) perfectly paraphrases the text's assertion of mutual influence.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (C) is correct.

 Quick Tip

RC Strategy: Look for "Mutual Influence" keywords. The phrase "framed in the light of" implies a two-way guiding relationship.

98. What did the earliest draft of the Preamble emphasize?

- (A) Liberty, equality, and fraternity
- (B) Sovereign, socialist, secular democratic republic
- (C) Formal enactment by the people through representatives
- (D) Unity and integrity of the nation

Correct Answer: (C) Formal enactment by the people through representatives

Solution:

Step 1: Locating the 'Earliest Draft' in the Passage The passage quotes the earliest draft: "In the earliest draft the Preamble was something formal and read: 'We, the people of India, seeking to promote the common good, do hereby, **through our chosen representatives, enact, adopt and give to ourselves this Constitution.**'"

Step 2: Analyzing the Content This draft focuses on the procedural aspect ("formal") of the people enacting the Constitution via their representatives. It does not yet list the specific ideals like Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, or the descriptors like Socialist/Secular (which were added much later).

Step 3: Matching with Options Option (C) "Formal enactment by the people through representatives" directly matches the language of the earliest draft quoted in the text.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (C) is correct.

 Quick Tip

Draft vs. Final: Be careful not to confuse the *final* Preamble (which we memorize) with the *earliest draft* described in a historical passage. Always rely on the quoted text.

99. Which of the following is not enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution of India?

- (A) Equality of status and of opportunity
- (B) Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship
- (C) Justice –moral, ethical and legal
- (D) Fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual

Correct Answer: (C) Justice –moral, ethical and legal

Solution:

Step 1: Recalling the Preamble Text To answer this static polity question, one must recall the exact wording of the Preamble: "WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA... secure to all its citizens: **JUSTICE**, social, economic and political; **LIBERTY** of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; **EQUALITY** of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all **FRATERNITY** assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation..."

Step 2: Verifying Options - (A) Matches exactly. - (B) Matches exactly. - (C) The Preamble specifies Justice as "**Social, Economic and Political**". It does **not** use the terms "Moral, Ethical and Legal". - (D) Matches exactly (partially quoted).

Step 3: Final Answer Option (C) is the incorrect text, making it the correct answer to the question "Which... is not enshrined".

 Quick Tip

Memory Hook: The 3 forms of Justice in the Preamble are **SEP** (Social, Economic, Political).

100. Which has been rightly arranged according to the Preamble of the Constitution of India-

- (A) Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic
- (B) Sovereign Secular Socialist Democratic Republic
- (C) Sovereign Socialist Democratic Secular Republic
- (D) Secular, Socialist, Sovereign and Democratic Republic

Correct Answer: (A) Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic

Solution:

Step 1: Key Sequence Concept The opening declaration of the Preamble defines the nature of the Indian State. Original (1950): "Sovereign Democratic Republic". After 42nd Amendment (1976): "Sovereign **Socialist Secular** Democratic Republic".

Step 2: Checking the Order The correct sequence is: 1. Sovereign 2. Socialist 3. Secular 4. Democratic 5. Republic (Mnemonic: **SSS-DR**).

Step 3: Evaluating Options - (A) Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic → Correct order. - (B) Swaps Socialist and Secular. - (C) Disordered. - (D) Disordered.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (A) is correct.

 Quick Tip

Order Logic: Think of the evolution. Sovereign comes first (Independence). Then the nature of the state (Socialist, Secular). Then the political structure (Democratic Republic).

101. The Preamble of the Constitution of India is finally based on:

- (A) The Objectives Resolution
- (B) The Report of the Union Constitution Committee
- (C) The June 3 plan of the British Government
- (D) The Report of special Sub-committee of the Constituent Assembly

Correct Answer: (A) The Objectives Resolution

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the Passage The final sentence of the passage states: "...Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru inter alia, observed that the Preamble was covered more or less by the Objectives Resolution which it was intended to incorporate in the final Constitution..." Additionally, historical fact confirms the Preamble is a modified version of the Objectives Resolution moved by Nehru on Dec 13, 1946.

Step 2: Evaluating Options While committees (B, D) and political plans (C) influenced the *process* or timing, the foundational *text and ideals* came from the Objectives Resolution.

Step 3: Final Answer Option (A) is correct.

 Quick Tip

Historical Fact: The Objectives Resolution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on January 22, 1947, and later evolved into the Preamble.

102. What was the role of Sir B. N. Rau in the making of the Indian Constitution?

- (A) Chairman of the Drafting Committee
- (B) Constitutional Advisor to the Constituent Assembly

- (C) President of the Constituent Assembly
(D) Member of the Union Powers Committee

Correct Answer: (B) Constitutional Advisor to the Constituent Assembly

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Context from Passage The passage mentions: "The Union Constitution Committee provisionally accepted the Preamble as drafted by B.N. Rao..."

Step 2: Integrating Static Knowledge Sir Benegal Narsing Rau (B.N. Rau) was a distinguished jurist appointed as the Constitutional Advisor to the Constituent Assembly. He prepared the initial draft of the Constitution, which the Drafting Committee (chaired by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar) then debated and revised.

Step 3: Evaluating Options - (A) Chairman of Drafting Committee = Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. - (B) Constitutional Advisor = B.N. Rau. - (C) President of Constituent Assembly = Dr. Rajendra Prasad. - (D) Member of Union Powers Committee = Jawaharlal Nehru (Chairman).

Step 4: Final Answer Option (B) is correct.

 Quick Tip

Key Figures:

- **B.N. Rau:** Constitutional Advisor (Prepared the first draft).
- **B.R. Ambedkar:** Chairman, Drafting Committee (Architect of final draft).

Comprehension (Passage XIX)

Passage Analysis:

This passage is an extract from the Supreme Court Judgement *Manoj Narula v. Union of India*. The passage discusses:

- **Role of the Court:** The Court cannot decide what is "good" or "bad" governance (as that is for good men to do). However, it can indicate "constitutional ethos" and remind functionaries of their duties.
- **Constitutional Expectation:** There was a presumption by the Constitution makers that the Prime Minister/Chief Minister (PM/CM) would act with "good sense" and not induct "unfit persons" (those with criminal backgrounds) into the Council of Ministers.
- **Current Reality:** Over time, this expectation was not met ("only a story of great expectations"), and qualification was wrongly understood merely as the absence of disqualification.
- **Duty of Court:** It is the "prophetic duty" of the Court to remind the PM/CM of their role. While the Court cannot issue directions on whom to appoint (prerogative of PM/CM), it advises them to act in accordance with "constitutional aspirations".
- **Specific Advice:** The PM/CM should consider avoiding appointing any person against whom charges have been framed by a criminal court for offences involving moral turpitude.

103. According to the passage, the Court cannot decide what is “good” or “bad” governance, but it can:

- (A) Disqualify Ministers from holding office
- (B) Indicate constitutional ethos on governance and remind functionaries of their duty
- (C) Frame rules on qualifications of Ministers
- (D) Amend the Constitution to insert explicit standards of morality

Correct Answer: (B) Indicate constitutional ethos on governance and remind functionaries of their duty

Solution:

Step 1: Locating the Textual Evidence The first paragraph explicitly states: “Good governance is only in the hands of good men... but the court can always indicate the constitutional ethos on goodness, good governance and purity in administration remind the constitutional functionaries to preserve, protect and promote the same.”

Step 2: Evaluating Options - (A) The passage says qualification is misunderstood, but it does not say the Court *can* disqualify ministers directly beyond legal statutes (it advises the PM/CM). - (B) Matches the text perfectly regarding “indicating constitutional ethos” and “reminding functionaries”. - (C) The Court does not frame rules; that is a legislative function. - (D) The Court cannot amend the Constitution; that is Parliament’s power.

Step 3: Final Answer Option (B) is the correct answer supported by the text.

 Quick Tip

Direct Retrieval: For questions starting with “According to the passage,” stick strictly to what the text says, even if you know outside legal facts.

104. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar believed that the working of the Constitution ultimately depends on:

- (A) The rigidity of the constitutional text
- (B) The good sense and integrity of those who are going to administer this constitution
- (C) The presence of a strong opposition
- (D) Judicial intervention in governance

Correct Answer: (B) The good sense and integrity of those who are going to administer this constitution

Solution:

Step 1: Locating the Reference The passage refers to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the first paragraph: “According to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, such things were only to be left to the good sense of the Prime Minister... since it was expected that the two great constitutional functionaries would not dare to do any infamous thing by inducting an otherwise unfit person...”

Step 2: Synthesizing the Belief Ambedkar emphasized that constitutional success relies on the people running it (good sense, integrity) rather than just the text itself.

Step 3: Matching Options Option (B) "The good sense and integrity of those who are going to administer this constitution" accurately paraphrases the text's reliance on the "good sense of the Prime Minister".

Step 4: Final Answer Option (B).

 Quick Tip

Historical Context: Dr. Ambedkar famously said, "However good a Constitution may be, if those who are implementing it are not good, it will prove to be bad."

105. The Court, while respecting the prerogative of the Prime Minister and Chief Minister to select Ministers emphasized that:

- (A) They should avoid appointing persons against whom criminal charges involving moral turpitude are framed
- (B) They must appoint Ministers strictly from the ruling party only
- (C) They should consult the Supreme Court before finalizing appointments
- (D) They are bound to appoint only members of the Lok Sabha/Legislative Assembly

Correct Answer: (A) They should avoid appointing persons against whom criminal charges involving moral turpitude are framed

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the Conclusion of the Passage The last sentence states: "...will be well advised to consider avoiding any person in the Council of Ministers, against whom charges have been framed by a criminal court in respect of offences involving moral turpitude..."

Step 2: Evaluating Options - (A) Directly matches the advice given in the text. - (B), (C), (D) are not mentioned in the text and contradict the "prerogative" aspect mentioned.

Step 3: Final Answer Option (A).

 Quick Tip

Moral Turpitude: This legal term refers to conduct that is considered contrary to community standards of justice, honesty, or good morals.

106. What role does the Court assume, as described in the passage, regarding governance and appointments to the Council of Ministers?

- (A) Judicial review of all ministerial appointments
- (B) Prophetic duty to remind key functionaries of their constitutional role
- (C) Power to veto ministerial selections made by the Prime Minister
- (D) Directing Parliament to amend the law on disqualification

Correct Answer: (B) Prophetic duty to remind key functionaries of their constitutional role

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Court's Role The second paragraph states: "But it is the prophetic duty of this Court to remind the key duty holders about their role in working the Constitution."

Step 2: Evaluating Options - (A) Judicial review of *all* appointments is not claimed; the text says the Court cannot issue directions on *whom* to appoint. - (B) Matches the "prophetic duty" phrasing exactly. - (C) Veto power is explicitly denied ("not for the court to issue any direction"). - (D) Not mentioned.

Step 3: Final Answer Option (B).

 Quick Tip

Keywords: When a unique phrase like "prophetic duty" appears in the text, it is highly likely to be the answer key for a role-based question.

107. Who are the constitutional functionaries, this passage primarily refers to?

- (A) Council of Ministers
- (B) Prime Minister and Council of Ministers
- (C) Chief Minister and Council of Ministers
- (D) Prime Minister and Chief Minister

Correct Answer: (D) Prime Minister and Chief Minister

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Functionaries The text repeatedly mentions two specific roles responsible for selecting the Council of Ministers: "...presumption that the Prime Minister/Chief Minister would be well advised..." "...remind the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of the State..."

Step 2: Conclusion The primary advice and "prophetic duty" are directed at these two heads of government (PM for Union, CM for State) because they have the prerogative to appoint other ministers.

Step 3: Final Answer Option (D).

 Quick Tip

The passage focuses on the *selector* (PM/CM), not the *selected* (Council of Ministers).

108. Who, according to the above passage shall not be appointed as a Minister?

- (A) Against whom charges have been framed in a court of law
- (B) Against whom charges involving moral turpitude have been framed in a court of law
- (C) Against whom charges have been proved in a court of law
- (D) Against whom case is pending in a court of law

Correct Answer: (B) Against whom charges involving moral turpitude have been framed in a court of law

Solution:

Step 1: Locating the Specific Criterion The final sentence of the passage provides the specific condition for advice against appointment: "...avoiding any person... against whom charges have been framed by a criminal court in respect of offences involving moral turpitude..."

Step 2: Evaluating Options - (A) Too broad (charges framed could be for minor offences). The text specifies "moral turpitude". - (B) Matches the text exactly (Charges framed + Moral Turpitude). - (C) "Proved" implies conviction. The text advises against appointment even at the stage of "charges framed" (before conviction), provided it involves moral turpitude. - (D) "Case is pending" is too vague.

Step 3: Final Answer Option (B).

 Quick Tip

Legal Nuance: "Charges framed" is a specific stage in a criminal trial (after inquiry/investigation). The Supreme Court set this threshold because mere filing of an FIR (First Information Report) is not enough, but framing of charges by a judge implies a prima facie case exists.

XIX. Good governance is only in the hands of good men. No doubt, what is good or bad is not for the court to decide: but the court can always indicate the constitutional ethos on goodness, good governance and purity in administration remind the constitutional functionaries to preserve, protect and promote the same. That ethos are the unwritten words in our Constitution. However, as the Constitution makers stated, there is a presumption that the Prime Minister/Chief Minister would be well advised and guided by such unwritten yet constitutional principles as well. According to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, such things were only to be left to the good sense of the Prime Minister, and for that matter, the Chief Minister of State, since it was expected that the two great constitutional functionaries would not dare to do any infamous thing by inducting an otherwise unfit person to the Council of Ministers. It appears, over a period of time, at least in some cases, it was only a story of great expectations. Some of the instances pointed out in the writ petition indicate that Dr. Ambedkar and other great visionaries in the Constituent Assembly have been bailed out. Qualification has been wrongly understood as the mere absence of prescribed disqualification. Hence, it has become the bounden duty of the court to remind the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of the State of their duty to act in accordance with the constitutional aspirations.

No doubt, it is not for the court to issue any direction to the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister, as the case may be, as to the manner in which they should exercise their power while selecting the colleagues in the Council of Ministers. That is the constitutional prerogative of those functionaries who are called upon to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution. But it is the prophetic duty of this Court to remind the key duty holders about their role in working the Constitution. Hence, I am of the firm view, that the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of the State, who themselves have taken oath to bear true faith and

allegiance to the Constitution of India and to discharge their duties faithfully and conscientiously, will be well advised to consider avoiding any person in the Council of Ministers, against whom charges have been framed by a criminal court in respect of offences involving moral turpitude and also offences specifically referred to in Chapter III of The Representation of the People Act, 1951. (416 words)

[Extract from the Supreme Court Judgement Manoj Narula v. Union of India]

109. The Legislative Assembly of State X passes a controversial bill and sends it to the Governor for assent. The Governor, strongly disagreeing with the bill's provisions, decides to neither give assent nor return the bill, hoping it will be forgotten over the time. Which of the following statements accurately describes the legal position of the Governor's action?

- (A) The Governor's action is a legitimate exercise of a "pocket veto", allowing for indefinite delay of bills
- (B) The Governor's inaction is unconstitutional, as the Supreme Court has explicitly rejected the power to an absolute or "pocket" veto, and they are obligated to return the bill "as soon as possible" if assent is withheld
- (C) The Governor is within their rights to delay the bill indefinitely as long as they do not explicitly reject it, reflecting the true spirit of gubernatorial discretion
- (D) The bill will automatically lapse after six months of gubernatorial inaction, making the delay a *de facto* rejection

Correct Answer: (B) The Governor's inaction is unconstitutional, as the Supreme Court has explicitly rejected the power to an absolute or "pocket" veto, and they are obligated to return the bill "as soon as possible" if assent is withheld

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept of 'Pocket Veto' A "pocket veto" refers to the ability of an executive (like a President or Governor) to simply keep a bill on their desk without taking any action (neither signing nor rejecting), effectively killing the bill through inaction. While the US President has this power in specific contexts, and the Indian President has a version of it due to the lack of specific timelines in Article 111, the position for State Governors is stricter under Article 200.

Step 2: Analyzing the Passage's Ruling The passage clarifies that the Supreme Court has affirmed that a Governor cannot exercise a pocket veto. It states: "The Supreme Court explicitly rejected the Governor's power to an absolute or 'pocket' veto... holding that if assent is withheld, the bill must be returned to the legislature 'as soon as possible'."

Step 3: Applying to Governor of State X The Governor's decision to "neither give assent nor return" constitutes indefinite delay. According to the text, this inaction is "illegal and unconstitutional." The Governor is constitutionally obligated to return the bill if they disagree with it, rather than sitting on it.

Step 4: Final Conclusion Option (B) correctly identifies the unconstitutionality of the inaction and cites the specific obligation to return the bill "as soon as possible" as the correct course of action.

💡 Quick Tip

Constitutional Terminology: The phrase "As soon as possible" in the first proviso of Article 200 has been interpreted by the Supreme Court (in the *Telangana* and *Punjab* Governor cases) to mean immediate or reasonable time, not indefinite delay.

110. Governor Y receives a bill from the State Assembly and, after careful consideration, decides to withhold assent, promptly returning it with a message for reconsideration. The State Assembly then re-enacts the bill without any change and sends it back to Governor Y. What is the constitutional obligation of Governor Y at this point?

- (A) Governor Y has no choice but to give assent to the re-enacted bill, as the Supreme Court has ruled that the Governor cannot withhold assent for a second time
- (B) Governor Y can again withhold assent if they continue to disagree with the bill's content, sending it back for further reconsideration
- (C) Governor Y can refer the bill to the President of India for a final decision, exercising a higher discretionary power
- (D) Governor Y can dissolve the State Assembly for consistently passing erroneous bills

Correct Answer: (A) Governor Y has no choice but to give assent to the re-enacted bill, as the Supreme Court has ruled that the Governor cannot withhold assent for a second time

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing Article 200 Proviso The Constitution of India provides a specific mechanism for resolving disagreements between the Governor and the Assembly. The proviso to Article 200 states that if a bill is returned by the Governor and is passed again by the House (with or without amendment) and presented to the Governor for assent, "the Governor shall not withhold assent therefrom."

Step 2: Reference to the Passage The passage reiterates this constitutional position: "If the State Assembly re-enacts a bill after it has been returned by the Governor, the Governor has no choice but to give assent to it and cannot withhold it for a second time."

Step 3: Evaluating the Options - (A) Correctly states that assent is mandatory upon re-enactment. - (B) Incorrect. There is no provision for a second return. - (C) Incorrect. A Governor cannot reserve a bill for the President *after* returning it and having it re-enacted simply to avoid giving assent. Reservation is a separate initial option, usually for bills endangering the High Court's position or conflicting with Central laws. - (D) Incorrect. Dissolution of the Assembly is governed by different rules (loss of majority, etc.), not merely legislative disagreement.

Step 4: Final Conclusion The Governor is constitutionally bound to sign the bill.

💡 Quick Tip

Suspensive Veto: The Governor's power to return a bill is a "Suspensive Veto". It can be overridden by a simple majority vote of the State Assembly (re-enactment).

111. After the Supreme Court’s judgment in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu* (2025), a State Governor holds a bill for eight months without taking any action—neither assenting nor returning it. The State Government believes that this delay is unconstitutional. Based on the precedent set by the judgment, what recourse is available to the State Government?

- (A) The State Government must wait for a full year before any action can be taken, as gubernatorial delays are typically permitted for this duration
- (B) The bill automatically lapses after six months of inaction, making any further action by the State Government unnecessary
- (C) The State Government’s only recourse is to re-enact the bill, which would then compel the Governor to act
- (D) The State Government can approach the courts, as the judgment had prescribed timelines for the Governor’s actions on bills since indefinite delay was construed unconstitutional

Correct Answer: (D) The State Government can approach the courts, as the judgment had prescribed timelines for the Governor’s actions on bills since indefinite delay was construed unconstitutional

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Constitutional Violation The Governor has held the bill for eight months without action. The passage defines this "indefinite delay" as unconstitutional. Previously, Governors often argued they were not answerable to courts due to Article 361 (immunity).

Step 2: Identifying the New Remedy The passage explicitly mentions the shift in legal recourse: "The judgment expanded the scope of judicial review... allowing state governments to approach courts if these timelines are breached." This establishes that judicial intervention is the specific remedy for gubernatorial inaction.

Step 3: Evaluating Other Options - (A) There is no constitutional basis for a "one-year" waiting period. The term "as soon as possible" implies much faster action. - (B) Bills do not automatically lapse due to Governor’s inaction; they remain pending indefinitely unless the Court intervenes. - (C) The Assembly cannot re-enact a bill that is still lying on the Governor’s desk; it must be returned first.

Step 4: Final Conclusion Option (D) correctly identifies the right of the State Government to seek judicial remedy against the Governor’s inaction.

 Quick Tip

Judicial Review Scope: While the Governor is immune for official acts, the Supreme Court has ruled that *inaction* or *mala fide* actions are subject to judicial review.

112. In a situation mirroring the Tamil Nadu case, a Supreme Court bench is reviewing several instances where a particular Governor has indefinitely delayed assent on multiple bills passed by the State Assembly, despite Constitutional obligations. If the Supreme Court decides to follow the precedent established in

***State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu (2025)* regarding pending bills, what would be a likely outcome for these delayed bills?**

- (A) The Supreme Court would order the Governor to explicitly reject all the delayed bills
- (B) The Supreme Court would direct the State Assembly to conduct a public referendum on each delayed bill
- (C) The Supreme Court could deem assent on the pending bills, establishing a critical precedent for judicial review of gubernatorial powers in such cases, as it did in the Tamil Nadu case
- (D) The Supreme Court would advise the Governor to seek legal counsel and then re-evaluate each bill individually without a set timeline

Correct Answer: (C) The Supreme Court could deem assent on the pending bills, establishing a critical precedent for judicial review of gubernatorial powers in such cases, as it did in the Tamil Nadu case

Solution:

Step 1: Locating the Specific Precedent in the Text The passage highlights a unique and powerful action taken by the Court: "In the case of the Tamil Nadu, the Court used its powers under Article 142 to 'deem assent' on the long-pending bills..." - "Deeming assent" means the Court treats the bills as if the Governor has signed them, bypassing the Governor's actual signature due to their unconstitutional delay.

Step 2: Applying the Precedent The question asks what the likely outcome would be if the Court follows this specific precedent. The logical answer is that the Court would again apply the "deemed assent" doctrine to the delayed bills.

Step 3: Evaluating Options - (A) The Court typically does not order rejection; it ensures constitutional process. - (B) Referendums are not part of the Indian legislative process for ordinary bills. - (C) Correct. It matches the text's description of the "deem assent" outcome. - (D) Advising legal counsel without a timeline would contradict the judgment's purpose of enforcing timelines.

Step 4: Final Conclusion Option (C) accurately reflects the extraordinary remedy described.

 Quick Tip

Article 142: This article gives the Supreme Court the power to pass any decree or order necessary for doing "complete justice" in any cause or matter pending before it.

113. A newly appointed Governor publicly declares that he intend to use his discretion to permanently halt any legislation he deems inappropriate, by simply not acting on the bills, citing an inherent gubernatorial power. How does this declaration align with the constitutional interpretation provided by the Supreme Court of India?

- (A) The Governor's declaration is consistent with the broad discretionary powers traditionally afforded to Governors, allowing them significant influence over state legislation
- (B) The Governor's declaration is valid only for non-money bills, as money bills have different Constitutional protocols

- (C) The Governor's declaration is partially valid, as indefinite delay is permissible only if the State Assembly is not in session
- (D) The Governor's declaration is unconstitutional; the Supreme Court explicitly rejected the Governor's power to an absolute or "pocket" veto

Correct Answer: (D) The Governor's declaration is unconstitutional; the Supreme Court explicitly rejected the Governor's power to an absolute or "pocket" veto

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the Governor's Claim The Governor claims a right to "permanently halt" legislation via inaction (not acting). This is the definition of a "pocket veto".

Step 2: Comparing with the Judgment The passage explicitly states: "The Supreme Court explicitly rejected the Governor's power to an absolute or 'pocket' veto... holding that if assent is withheld, the bill must be returned..." The Court established that Governors *must* act. They function as a constitutional check, not a parallel legislature that can kill bills by silence.

Step 3: Conclusion The Governor's declaration is directly contrary to the Supreme Court's interpretation. It is legally invalid.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (D) correctly identifies the statement as unconstitutional based on the rejection of the pocket veto.

 Quick Tip

Constitutional Role: The Governor is a constitutional head, not an autocrat. Their discretion is limited to specific areas (like Hung Assembly), and legislative assent is generally not one of them (except for reserving for the President).

114. What are the three primary courses of action for a Governor when a Bill is enacted by the State Assembly and sent to him/her for his/her assent. Which option correctly lists these three courses?

- (A) (i) Give assent, (ii) Veto absolutely, or (iii) Refer to the Supreme Court
- (B) (i) Give assent, (ii) Withhold assent (allowing the Bill to fail, unless the proviso is followed), or (iii) Recommend amendments
- (C) (i) Give assent, (ii) Withhold assent (with the option to return for reconsideration), or (iii) Reserve for the consideration of the President
- (D) (i) Give assent, (ii) Return for reconsideration, or (iii) Refer to the Union Government

Correct Answer: (C) (i) Give assent, (ii) Withhold assent (with the option to return for reconsideration), or (iii) Reserve for the consideration of the President

Solution:

Step 1: Recalling Article 200 Options Under the Constitution of India, when a Bill is presented to the Governor, Article 200 provides specific options: 1. Assent: The Governor signs the bill, and it becomes an Act. 2. Withhold Assent: This usually leads to returning the bill (if it's not a Money Bill) to the legislature with a message for reconsideration. 3. Reserve:

The Governor can reserve the bill for the consideration of the President (e.g., if it affects the powers of the High Court or conflicts with Central laws).

Step 2: Evaluating the Options - (A) "Veto absolutely" is not a standard power; "Refer to SC" is done by the President (Article 143), not the Governor on bills. - (B) Implies the bill fails if assent is withheld, which is incorrect as it must be returned. - (C) Accurately lists the three constitutional choices: Assent, Withhold (Return), and Reserve for President. - (D) "Refer to Union Government" is vague; the correct constitutional mechanism is reserving for the *President*.

Step 3: Final Answer Option (C) provides the most legally accurate list of the Governor's options.

 Quick Tip

Article 200 Text: "he declares that he assents... or that he withholds assent... or that he reserves the Bill for the consideration of the President."

XXI. Same-sex marriage has no legal recognition in India as per the recent Supreme Court's judgment, where it was decided that this is an issue for Parliament to address. While Hindu marriages between transgender persons and cisgender men are permissible, and the Court acknowledged systemic discrimination and the right to choose a partner, it held that there is no fundamental right to marry. The government has been urged to form a panel to consider granting more legal rights to same-sex couples, but the legal status of marriage remains unchanged for now. The five-judge bench of the Supreme Court of India in *Supriyo @ Supriyo Chakraborty & Anr. v. Union of India* (2023), in a majority verdict, ruled that there is no fundamental right to marry under the Indian Constitution, making it beyond the court's scope to legislate on same-sex marriage.

The Court stated that the power to legislate on same-sex marriage rests with the Parliament and state legislatures. The judgment affirmed constitutional rights for LGBTQ+ citizens and the right to choose a partner. The government agreed to set up a panel to explore legal rights and benefits for same-sex couples, though these benefits are not the same as those conferred by marriage. Same-sex couples cannot legally marry and do not receive the same legal rights, such as automatic inheritance, pension, or adoption rights, that legally married couples do. Despite the ruling, LGBTQ+ couples continue to face legal discrimination and have no social recognition of marriage. The Court affirmed the right of same-sex couples to cohabit privately. While the Supreme Court's verdict brought limited benefits and acknowledgments, it has not legalized same-sex marriage in India, deferring the ultimate decision to the Parliament. (279 words)

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "The Hindu", dated 27th October 2023]

115. In October 2023, two individuals in India, Ramesh and Sameer, who identify as a same-sex couple, sought to legally solemnize their marriage. Based on the Supreme Court's ruling, what is the current legal standing of their ability to marry?

- (A) Their marriage is legally recognized nationwide under a new constitutional right
- (B) Their marriage is not legally recognized, as the Supreme Court ruled that this issue is for Parliament to address

- (C) Their marriage is recognized only if both of them identify as transgender
(D) Their marriage is temporarily recognized until Parliament decides otherwise

Correct Answer: (B) Their marriage is not legally recognized, as the Supreme Court ruled that this issue is for Parliament to address

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Court's Ruling on Marriage The passage clearly states: "Same-sex marriage has no legal recognition in India... The Court stated that the power to legislate on same-sex marriage rests with the Parliament and state legislatures."

Step 2: Applying to Ramesh and Sameer Since the Court declined to recognize the right to marry and deferred the matter to the legislature, Ramesh and Sameer currently have no legal avenue to solemnize their marriage under the Special Marriage Act or any other personal law.

Step 3: Evaluating Options - (A) Incorrect. No new constitutional right was recognized. - (B) Correct. It reflects the lack of recognition and the deferral to Parliament. - (C) Incorrect. The ruling applied to the broader LGBTQ+ community regarding same-sex marriage. - (D) Incorrect. There is no temporary recognition.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (B).

 Quick Tip

Core Holding: The SC held that "Marriage" is a statutory institution (created by laws like SMA, HMA), not a natural right, and thus only the creator of the law (Parliament) can expand it.

116. During a legal proceeding in India, an advocate argues that the Supreme Court should directly legislate on same-sex marriage because the right to choose a partner inherently implies a fundamental right to marry for all citizens. How would the Supreme Court's judgment likely to counter this argument?

- (A) The Court acknowledged the right to choose a partner, therefore it would agree to legislate on marriage
(B) The Court held that there is no fundamental right to marry under the Indian Constitution, and such a policy can be made only by the Parliament
(C) The Court has held that it will set up a panel to look into the fundamental right to marry
(D) The Court upheld the fundamental right to marry, but declined to recognise same sex marriage

Correct Answer: (B) The Court held that there is no fundamental right to marry under the Indian Constitution, and such a policy can be made only by the Parliament

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the Advocate's Argument The advocate conflates the "right to choose a partner" (Privacy) with the "right to marry" (Public Institution).

Step 2: Analyzing the Judgment's Logic The passage states: "ruled that there is no fundamental right to marry under the Indian Constitution, making it beyond the court's

scope to legislate.” The Court distinguishes between the private right to be with someone (protected) and the public right to have that relationship recognized by the State as ”marriage” (not protected as a fundamental right).

Step 3: Formulating the Counter-Argument The Court would counter by stating that marriage is a matter of legislative policy. While you can choose your partner, the State is not constitutionally obligated to recognize that union as a marriage unless Parliament makes a law.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (B) captures this distinction and the refusal to legislate.

 Quick Tip

Jurisprudence: The Court relied on the ”Separation of Powers” doctrine, refusing to step into the shoes of the Legislature to rewrite the Special Marriage Act.

117. Following the Supreme Court’s decision, an LGBTQ+ advocacy group in India aims to achieve legal recognition for same-sex marriage. To which governmental body or bodies should this group primarily direct its lobbying efforts to secure the necessary legislation?

- (A) The Supreme Court of India, as they are ultimately responsible for interpreting constitutional rights
- (B) The President of India as head of the Union legislature
- (C) The Parliament and state legislatures, as the power to legislate on same-sex marriage rests with them
- (D) The National Commission for Human Rights, to advocate for a new directive

Correct Answer: (C) The Parliament and state legislatures, as the power to legislate on same-sex marriage rests with them

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Locus of Power The passage explicitly mentions: ”The Court stated that the power to legislate on same-sex marriage rests with the Parliament and state legislatures.”

Step 2: Determining the Strategy Since the Judiciary has closed its doors on *creating* the law, the only avenue remaining is the Legislative branch. Any advocacy group must now lobby MPs and MLAs to amend existing laws or pass new ones.

Step 3: Evaluating Options - (A) The Court has already said ”Go to Parliament”. - (B) The President gives assent but does not draft/initiate legislation in the same way. - (C) Correct. These are the law-making bodies. - (D) NHRC has recommendatory powers but cannot legislate.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (C).

 Quick Tip

Concurrent List: Marriage and Divorce fall under Entry 5 of the Concurrent List (Schedule VII), meaning both Parliament and State Legislatures can make laws on it.

118. While same-sex marriage is not legally recognized in India, however, the Supreme Court's verdict did offer some acknowledgments of rights for same-sex couples. Which of the following rights was specifically affirmed by the Court?

- (A) The automatic right to inheritance for same-sex partners
- (B) The right of same-sex couples to adopt children jointly
- (C) The right of same-sex couples to cohabit privately
- (D) The right to maintenance for same-sex partners

Correct Answer: (C) The right of same-sex couples to cohabit privately

Solution:

Step 1: Separating Affirmed Rights from Denied Rights - Rights Denied/Not

Granted: The text lists "automatic inheritance, pension, or adoption rights" as things legally married couples have but LGBTQ+ couples *do not* get automatically. - Rights Affirmed: The text mentions the Court acknowledged "the right to choose a partner" and "freedom from discrimination". More specifically, the passage notes that despite the ruling, "LGBTQ+ couples continue to face legal discrimination... such as automatic inheritance...". However, implicitly and based on the protection of choice/privacy (affirmed in *Puttaswamy* and *Navtej Johar* and reiterated here), the right to live together (cohabit privately) is protected. The passage explicitly says: "The Court affirmed the right of same-sex couples to cohabit privately." (Note: This specific sentence is in the second paragraph of the text provided in the screenshot).

Step 2: Verification Checking the text: "The Court affirmed the right of same-sex couples to cohabit privately."

Step 3: Final Answer Option (C) is directly supported by the text.

 Quick Tip

Protection vs Recognition: The State will protect you from police harassment if you live together (Protection), but it won't give you a marriage certificate (Recognition).

119. Ramesh and Suresh, a same-sex couple in India, have lived together for a decade and want to ensure they receive legal benefits equivalent to those of married couples, such as automatic inheritance and pension rights. Based on the Supreme Court's judgment, what is the primary obstacle they face in achieving these benefits?

- (A) They must first register their union with the government panel that was urged to be formed
- (B) They cannot legally marry and therefore cannot automatically be entitled to these specific legal rights
- (C) These rights are only available to same-sex couples where one partner is transgender
- (D) They can receive these benefits if they convert to a religion that recognizes same-sex unions

Correct Answer: (B) They cannot legally marry and therefore cannot automatically be entitled to these specific legal rights

Solution:

Step 1: Linking Status to Benefits In India, benefits like pension (under CCS rules), inheritance (under Succession Acts), and gratuity are tied to the definition of "family" or "spouse". The passage explains that "benefits for same-sex couples... such as automatic inheritance, pension... are not the same as those conferred by marriage."

Step 2: Identifying the Obstacle Because the Court refused to recognize their union as a "marriage", they do not fit the legal definition of "spouse" required to trigger these automatic benefits.

Step 3: Evaluating Options - (A) The panel is for *exploring* rights, not a registry that grants them yet. - (B) Correct. The lack of legal marriage is the root cause of the exclusion from benefits. - (C) Incorrect. - (D) Incorrect. No personal law in India currently recognizes same-sex unions.

Step 4: Final Answer Option (B).

 Quick Tip

Result: Without marriage equality, same-sex partners are treated as unrelated individuals by the state for financial purposes.

120. The new acronym that is evolved after LGBTQ+ is an acronym called LGBTQIA+. In this new acronym 'IA' refers to:

- (A) Intersex and Asexual
- (B) Initialisms and Agender
- (C) Intersex and Ally
- (D) Intrasex and Androgynous

Correct Answer: (A) Intersex and Asexual

Solution:

Step 1: Decoding the Acronym The acronym LGBTQIA+ stands for: - L: Lesbian - G: Gay - B: Bisexual - T: Transgender - Q: Queer / Questioning - I: Intersex (People born with sex characteristics that do not fit typical binary notions of male or female bodies). - A: Asexual (People who experience little or no sexual attraction) / Aromantic / Agender. (Sometimes 'Ally' is included, but Asexual is the primary identity marker).

Step 2: Evaluating Options - (A) Intersex and Asexual is the standard, globally recognized expansion. - (B), (C), (D) contain incorrect terms ("Initialisms", "Intrasex") or secondary definitions ("Ally") that are less prioritized than the identity "Asexual" in formal contexts.

Step 3: Final Answer Option (A).

💡 Quick Tip

General Knowledge: This acronym is often used in social justice and human rights contexts to be inclusive of the full spectrum of gender identities and sexual orientations.
