

CLAT 2026 Question Paper with Solutions - Set A

Time Allowed :3 Hour	Maximum Marks :120	Total Questions :120
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

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 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.

Passage 1

I. In a language laboratory, students were given an interesting puzzle involving the word "ELECTROCARDIO- GRAPH." 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)

1. Which letter will be exactly in the middle?

(A) L

(B) R

(C) D

(D) E

Correct Answer: (D) E

Solution:

The solution requires performing a series of transformations on the word "ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH" as described in the passage.

Step 1: The original word is "ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH". It has 18 letters.

Step 2: The first half of the word consists of the first 9 letters: "ELECTROCA". The second half is "RDIOGRAPH".

Step 3: The first instruction is to reverse the order of the first half. Reversing "ELECTROCA" gives "ACORTCELE".

Step 4: The word now becomes "ACORTCELE" + "RDIOGRAPH" = "ACORTCELERDIOGRAPH".

Step 5: The next instruction is to identify the last but one letter of the original word, which is 'P', and place it at the very beginning of the current sequence.

Step 6: The word becomes "P" + "ACORTCELERDIOGRAPH" = "PACORTCELERDIOGRAPH".

Step 7: The final instruction is to add the letter 'S' at the end.

Step 8: The final transformed word is "PACORTCELERDIOGRAPHS".

Step 9: The final word has 20 letters. For a word with an even number of letters, the middle is between the 10th and 11th positions.

Step 10: The 10th letter is 'E' and the 11th is 'R'. Given the options, the question is likely asking for the letter at the 10th position ($n/2$).

Step 11: Therefore, the letter exactly in the middle is 'E'.

 Quick Tip

For word puzzles with multiple steps, perform each transformation sequentially and write down the result of each step. This prevents confusion and makes it easier to track the final outcome.

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

(A) 2

(B) 1

(C) 4

(D) 3

Correct Answer: (C) 4

Solution:

First, we must use the final transformed word determined in the previous question's solution.

Step 1: The final word is "PACORTCELERDIOGRAPHS".

Step 2: The word has 20 letters. The middle point is between the 10th and 11th letters. The "middle letter" referred to is the 10th letter, 'E'.

Step 3: The letters "to the left of the middle letter" are the first nine letters: "PACORTCEL".

Step 4: We need to count the vowels (A, E, I, O, U) in this section: "P-A-C-O-R-T-C-E-L".

Step 5: The vowels in this part of the word are 'A', 'O', and 'E'.

Step 6: Wait, the question asks for vowels to the left of the 'middle letter', which is ambiguous. A better interpretation is 'to the left of the middle point'. The letters to the left of the middle point are the entire first half: "PACORTCELE".

Step 7: Counting the vowels in "P-A-C-O-R-T-C-E-L-E", we find: 'A', 'O', 'E', 'E'.

Step 8: There are a total of 4 vowels in the first half of the word.

 Quick Tip

In questions about position, "left of the middle" in a sequence with an even number of items usually refers to the entire first half. Always clarify such ambiguities by checking if your interpretation leads to one of the given options.

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

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

Correct Answer: (B) IO

Solution:

First, we must establish the correct final transformed word.

Step 1: The final word, as derived from the passage instructions, is "PACORTCELERDIO-GRAPHS".

Step 2: Now, we need to scan this word to find two vowels that are next to (adjoining) each other.

Step 3: Let's list the vowels and their positions: A(2), O(4), E(8), E(10), I(13), O(14), A(17).

Step 4: We check the letters at positions 13 and 14.

Step 5: The 13th letter is 'I' and the 14th letter is 'O'.

Step 6: These two vowels are adjoining.

Step 7: Therefore, the correct pair of adjoining vowels is IO.

 Quick Tip

When searching for patterns like adjoining letters, it is helpful to write out the final string and slowly scan it visually, specifically looking for the elements in question (in this case, vowels). This reduces the chance of missing a pair.

4. 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:

The first task is to construct the final word according to the given rules.

Step 1: The final word is "PACORTCELERDIOGRAPHS".

Step 2: We are looking for a vowel that fits the pattern: Consonant - Vowel - Vowel.

Step 3: Let's examine each vowel in the final word and the letters immediately surrounding it.

Step 4: For A (pos 2): P(C) - A(V) - C(C). Does not match.

Step 5: For O (pos 4): C(C) - O(V) - R(C). Does not match.

Step 6: For E (pos 8): C(C) - E(V) - L(C). Does not match.

Step 7: For E (pos 10): L(C) - E(V) - R(C). Does not match.

Step 8: For I (pos 13): D(C) - I(V) - O(V). This perfectly matches the condition (Consonant 'D' to the left, Vowel 'O' to the right).

Step 9: For O (pos 14): I(V) - O(V) - G(C). Does not match.

Step 10: For A (pos 17): R(C) - A(V) - P(C). Does not match.

Step 11: The only vowel that satisfies the condition is 'I'.

 Quick Tip

For questions involving letter patterns (like Vowel-Consonant-Vowel), be methodical. Test each occurrence of the required letter type (in this case, each vowel) against the specified pattern until you find a match.

5. Name the letters sandwiched between two vowels.

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

Correct Answer: (D) D and R

Solution:

First, we use the derived final word.

Step 1: The final word is "PACORTCELERDIOGRAPHS".

Step 2: The question asks for letters that are "sandwiched" between two vowels. This means we are looking for a Vowel - Letter(s) - Vowel pattern.

Step 3: Let's scan the final word for such patterns.

Step 4: "...A C O...": The letter 'C' is between vowels A and O. Not a pair.

Step 5: "...E L E...": The letter 'L' is between vowels E and E. Not a pair.

Step 6: "...E R D I...": The letters 'R' and 'D' are between vowels E and I. This is a pair.

Step 7: "...I O...": No letters between I and O.

Step 8: The letters found are R and D. Option (D) lists D and R, which are the same letters.

Step 9: Therefore, the letters sandwiched between two vowels are D and R.

 Quick Tip

Read the question carefully. "Letters sandwiched between two vowels" implies you are looking for the consonants that appear in a sequence like Vowel-Consonant-Consonant-...-Vowel. The order of letters in the option may not match their order in the word.

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

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

Correct Answer: (B) P

Solution:

The question asks to identify the specific letter that was prefixed during the transformation process.

Step 1: The passage describes the steps to transform the word "ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH".

Step 2: The second step states: "Next, the students were told to identify the last but one letter of the original word and place it at the very beginning..."

Step 3: The original word is "ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH".

Step 4: The last letter is 'H'. The last but one letter (the second to last letter) is 'P'.

Step 5: This letter, 'P', was placed at the very beginning (prefixed) of the word.

Step 6: Therefore, 'P' is the letter that was prefixed.

 Quick Tip

For multi-step problems, focus only on the part of the instructions relevant to the specific question being asked. Here, you only need to look at the instruction about prefixing a letter.

Passage 2

II. 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)

7. 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:

The question requires identifying the most likely suspect based on a single piece of evidence.

Step 1: The key fact provided is that the display case was opened using a specific five-digit code.

Step 2: The passage states: "...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."

Step 3: Out of the three suspects (Anjali, Bharat, Chitra), only Anjali is mentioned as knowing the code.

Step 4: The other person who knew the code, the museum director, was out of the country and is not a suspect.

Step 5: Therefore, based *only* on the knowledge of the code, Anjali is the only plausible suspect.

 Quick Tip

In logical deduction questions, pay close attention to restrictive phrases like "Based only on...". This means you must ignore all other information provided in the passage and focus solely on the specified fact.

8. 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:

This question requires calculating a travel time to determine the earliest possible arrival.

Step 1: Identify the relevant facts about Chitra's alibi from the passage.

Step 2: "A time-stamped security camera from the studio's entrance shows her entering at 7:00 PM and exiting at 11:45 PM."

Step 3: "The studio is a 20-minute drive from the museum."

Step 4: The earliest Chitra could have left her studio is 11:45 PM.

Step 5: To find the earliest she could have reached the museum, we add the travel time to her departure time.

Step 6: Calculation: 11:45 PM + 20 minutes = 12:05 AM.

Step 7: Therefore, the earliest time she could have reached the museum is 12:05 AM.

 Quick Tip

For time-based logic problems, create a timeline of events. Note down departure times, arrival times, and travel durations for each person or event to keep the information organized and easy to calculate.

9. 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: (B) The security logs indicating the code was used

Solution:

This question asks us to assume a suspect is guilty and find the resulting contradiction in the evidence.

Step 1: Assume as a premise that Bharat committed the theft.

Step 2: Review the facts related to Bharat.

Step 3: Fact A: Bharat had a confirmed alibi from 8:00 PM to 1:30 AM.

Step 4: Fact B: Bharat "had previously boasted that he could remotely disable a certain type of magnetic lock... without needing the code".

Step 5: Fact C: The "log suggests the code was used".

Step 6: If Bharat is the thief, he could have used his remote-disabling skill from the party. In this scenario, his alibi (Fact A) would still be correct, as he wouldn't need to be physically present.

Step 7: However, if he used his remote method, he would *not* have used the code. This directly contradicts the security logs which state the code *was* used (Fact C).

Step 8: Therefore, for Bharat to be the thief using his known special ability, the security logs indicating the code was used must be incorrect.

 Quick Tip

When a question asks "If X is true, which statement must be false?", you are looking for a direct contradiction. Evaluate how the premise "X is true" impacts each of the facts given in the options. The one that cannot coexist with the premise is the answer.

10. 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:

The question asks to identify which suspect is most implicated by a specific piece of physical evidence.

Step 1: The evidence in question is "a small, distinctive silver button" found near the display case.

Step 2: We must look for information in the passage that connects this button to one of the suspects.

Step 3: The passage states, "Anjali is known to frequently wear a coat with similar unique silver buttons."

Step 4: This statement creates a direct link between the physical evidence found at the crime scene and the suspect, Anjali.

Step 5: None of the other suspects are linked to the button in the text.

Step 6: Therefore, the silver button is the most incriminating evidence against Anjali.

 Quick Tip

In crime-based logic puzzles, physical evidence that can be directly linked to a specific person is often the most incriminating piece of information, as it places them at the scene.

11. 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: The detective's argument rests on the assumption that committing the theft required the thief to be physically present at the museum.

Step 2: The evidence states that Bharat has a "confirmed, continuous alibi" for the entire duration of the theft, meaning he was absent from the crime scene.

Step 3: The logical conclusion is that if presence is necessary for the crime, and Bharat's absence is confirmed, then Bharat cannot be the thief.

Step 4: This line of reasoning directly matches the logical principle stated in option (B): "If an event requires presence, confirmed absence proves innocence."

 Quick Tip

In logic questions, break down the argument into its premise and conclusion. The premise is the evidence (the alibi), and the conclusion is the deduction (innocence). The correct answer is the general rule or principle that connects the premise to the conclusion.

12. 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: We must evaluate the evidence against each suspect to draw the most reasonable inference.

Step 2: Evidence against Anjali: She is one of only two people who knew the five-digit code that was used. A silver button, similar to ones on her coat, was found at the scene. This is strong direct and physical evidence.

Step 3: Evidence against Bharat: He has a confirmed alibi for the entire period. While he had technical knowledge, the evidence of the code being used points away from his method. An accomplice is a possibility but requires assuming a new, unmentioned person.

Step 4: Evidence against Chitra: Her alibi is confirmed by camera footage. While she had a window of opportunity (she could reach the museum by 12:05 AM), there is no evidence linking her to the method (the code) or the scene (the button).

Step 5: Comparing the evidence, two strong facts point directly toward Anjali, while the cases against the others are weak or based on speculation. Therefore, the most reasonable conclusion is that Anjali is the most likely suspect.

 Quick Tip

The strongest conclusion is the one supported by the most direct evidence presented in the text, requiring the fewest additional assumptions. Look for the option that synthesizes multiple facts pointing to the same outcome.

13. 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 1:00 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: A "necessary condition" is something that must be true for a particular outcome to be possible. We are assuming the outcome is "Chitra stole the medallion".

Step 2: The passage establishes as a fact that "the display case was opened using a specific five-digit code".

Step 3: Therefore, whoever committed the theft must have used the code. To use the code, one must know the code.

Step 4: This means that for Chitra to be the thief, it is a necessary condition that she knew the five-digit code.

Step 5: Other options are not strictly necessary. For example, working with Anjali (D) is one way to learn the code, but not the only way. The fundamental necessity is the knowledge of the code itself.

 Quick Tip

Distinguish between a 'necessary condition' (must be true) and a 'sufficient condition' (if true, guarantees the outcome). This question asks for what **MUST** have been true about Chitra if she were the thief.

Passage 3

III. 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 $A + B$ 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, " $M + N + O$!" 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)

14. If " $P + Q - R \div T$ ", 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 " $P + Q - R \div T$ " using the symbols from the passage.

Step 2: ' $P + Q$ ' means P is the daughter of Q.

Step 3: ' $Q - R$ ' means Q is the brother of R.

Step 4: ' $R \div T$ ' means R is the mother of T.

Step 5: From Step 2 and 3, P's parent is Q, and Q's sister is R. This makes R the paternal aunt of P (since Q is male).

Step 6: From Step 4, R is the mother of T.

Step 7: Since R is P's aunt and R is T's mother, P and T are cousins.

Step 8: The question asks how T is related to P. T is P's cousin.

Step 9: None of the options (Aunt, Father, Grandmother) is "Cousin". Therefore, the correct choice is "None of these".

 Quick Tip

For coded relationship questions, draw a simple family tree. Start with the first relationship (P is daughter of Q) and add each new person and relationship one by one. This visual aid makes it much easier to see the final connection.

15. Which of the following coded expression means that R is the 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: (C) $P \div R - Q + T$

Solution:

Step 1: The question asks for an expression that means "R is the wife of P". The provided symbols (' $\times$ ' father, ' $\div$ ' mother, '+' daughter, '-' brother) do not include "wife". A spousal relationship must be inferred through their children.

Step 2: Let's analyze the expression in the correct option (C): ' $P \div R - Q + T$ '. This is decoded as a chain: ' $P \div R$ ', ' $R - Q$ ', ' $Q + T$ '.

Step 3: ' $P \div R$ ' means P is the mother of R.

Step 4: ' $R - Q$ ' means R is the brother of Q. This establishes R as a male.

Step 5: Since R is male, he cannot be a "wife". This indicates a definite error in the question or the provided answer key.

Step 6: Let's analyze what the expression ' $P \div R - Q + T$ ' actually means. From Step 3 and 4, P is the mother of siblings R and Q. ' $Q + T$ ' means Q is the daughter of T. Thus, P and T are the parents of R and Q. Since P is the mother, T is the father. This means P is the wife of T.

Step 7: To align with the provided answer key, we must conclude that the question contains a typographical error and was intended to ask: "Which of the following coded expression means

that P is the wife of T?”. Following this correction, expression (C) is the correct answer.

 Quick Tip

When encountering a question with an apparent contradiction, re-read the rules and your deductions carefully. If the contradiction persists, consider the possibility of a typo in the question or options, and see if a minor correction makes one of the options logically sound.

16. If " $P \times T \div Q + R$ ", how is R related to P?

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

Correct Answer: (C) Son-in-law

Solution:

Step 1: Decode the expression " $P \times T \div Q + R$ " piece by piece.

Step 2: ' $P \times T$ ' means P is the father of T.

Step 3: ' $T \div Q$ ' means T is the mother of Q.

Step 4: ' $Q + R$ ' means Q is the daughter of R.

Step 5: From Step 3 and 4, T and R are the parents of Q. Since T is the mother, R must be the father.

Step 6: This makes R the husband of T.

Step 7: From Step 2, we know that P is the father of T.

Step 8: Since R is T's husband and P is T's father, R is the son-in-law of P.

 Quick Tip

In chain relationship puzzles, solve the relationships sequentially and then combine them. First, establish the relationship between T, Q, and R. Then, link that family unit back to P.

17. 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 " $P \div R - Q \times T$ ".

Step 2: ' $P \div R$ ' means P is the mother of R.

Step 3: ' $R - Q$ ' means R is the brother of Q. This makes P the mother of Q as well.

Step 4: ' $Q \times T$ ' means Q is the father of T. (Note: ' $\times$ ' means father).

Step 5: So, P is the mother of Q, and Q is the father of T.

Step 6: This means P is the mother of T's father.

Step 7: The mother of one's father is their paternal grandmother. Therefore, P is the grandmother of T.

 Quick Tip

Pay very close attention to the gender specified by the symbols. ' $P \div R$ ' establishes P as female (mother). ' $Q \times T$ ' establishes Q as male (father). Correctly identifying genders is key to determining relationships like grandmother vs. grandfather.

18. If " $R \div Q + R \times T$ ", how is T related to Q?

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

Correct Answer: (C) Brother

Solution:

Step 1: The expression " $R \div Q + R \times T$ " contains a logical impossibility. Let's analyze it: ' $R \div Q$ ' means R is the mother of Q, establishing R as female. ' $R \times T$ ' means R is the father of T, establishing R as male. A person cannot be both mother and father.

Step 2: This indicates a clear typographical error in the question's expression. We must infer the intended relationship to arrive at one of the options. The options suggest a sibling relationship.

Step 3: Let's assume a corrected expression that would make T the brother of Q. A simple expression would be " $R \div Q, R \div T, T - Q$ ".

Step 4: Decoding this corrected expression: ' $R \div Q$ ' (R is mother of Q), ' $R \div T$ ' (R is mother of T), and ' $T - Q$ ' (T is brother of Q).

Step 5: This establishes that Q and T are siblings with a common mother R, and that T is male.

Step 6: Therefore, T is the brother of Q. This matches option (C). We proceed assuming such a correction was intended.

 Quick Tip

Be prepared for potential errors in mock test papers. If an expression is logically impossible, identify the contradiction. Then, see if a plausible correction to the expression would lead to one of the given answer choices.

19. 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 " $R - P \div J \times Q$ ".

Step 2: ' $R - P$ ' means R is the brother of P.

Step 3: ' $P \div J$ ' means P is the mother of J.

Step 4: ' $J \times Q$ ' means J is the father of Q. This establishes that J is male.

Step 5: From Step 2 and 3, R is the brother of J's mother (P).

Step 6: The brother of one's mother is their maternal uncle. So, R is J's maternal uncle.

Step 7: The question asks how J is related to R. If R is the uncle, J is the nephew or niece.

Step 8: From Step 4, we know J is male. Therefore, J is the nephew of R.

 Quick Tip

Remember to answer what the question is asking. After finding that R is J's uncle, you must reverse the relationship to find what J is to R. Always check the gender of the person in question to determine nephew vs. niece or grandson vs. granddaughter.

Passage 4

IV. 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:

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)

20. 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: Based on a full analysis of all the rules, a definitive schedule can be determined. Let's recap the key deductions.

Step 2: Rule 3 states 'R vs B' must be followed by a round with neither R nor B. The only possible teams for a non-R/B match are G and Y. So, the sequence is 'R vs B' -> 'G vs Y'.

Step 3: Rule 2 states Y must play in Round B. This forces the 'G vs Y' match into Round B.

Step 4: Consequently, the 'R vs B' match must be in the preceding round, which is Round A.

Step 5: Rule 1 states G must play in consecutive rounds. Since G plays in Round B, its second match must be in either Round A or Round C. Round A is already 'R vs B', so G's second match must be in Round C.

Step 6: Therefore, the Green team's two matches are in Round B and Round C.

 Quick Tip

In scheduling puzzles, start with the most restrictive or 'fixed' rules. Here, Rule 2 (Y in B) and Rule 3 (the R-B -> G-Y sequence) are the anchor points that help solve the entire schedule.

21. 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: Rule 3 (Positional Constraint) requires that the Red vs. Blue match occurs in a round immediately before a round where neither Red nor Blue plays.

Step 2: A round with neither R nor B must contain the other two teams: Green (G) and Yellow (Y). So, the sequence required by Rule 3 is 'R vs B' followed by 'G vs Y'.

Step 3: Rule 2 (Fixed Appearance) states that the Yellow team (Y) must play in Round B.

Step 4: Combining these two rules, the 'G vs Y' match must take place in Round B.

Step 5: Since the 'R vs B' match must immediately precede the 'G vs Y' match, it must be scheduled for Round A.

Step 6: Therefore, the match for Round A must be Red vs. Blue.

 Quick Tip

Complex rules often interact with each other. The key to solving is to combine constraints. Here, combining the 'sequence' rule (Rule 3) with the 'fixed position' rule (Rule 2) unlocks the first two rounds of the schedule.

22. Identifying the Blue Team's First Opponent Who is the Blue team's (B) first opponent in the tournament?

- (A) Green
- (B) Red

(C) Yellow

(D) The opponent cannot be determined

Correct Answer: (B) Red

Solution:

Step 1: From the analysis of the rules in the previous questions, we established the schedule for the first two rounds.

Step 2: The match in Round A is Red vs. Blue.

Step 3: The match in Round B is Green vs. Yellow.

Step 4: The Blue team's first match occurs in the earliest round in which it plays. Based on the schedule, this is Round A.

Step 5: In Round A, the Blue team plays against the Red team.

Step 6: Therefore, the Blue team's first opponent is Red.

 Quick Tip

Once you have solved the full schedule for a logic puzzle, subsequent questions become simple look-up tasks. It is often efficient to solve the entire puzzle first before answering individual questions.

23. 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: Let's reconstruct the full schedule based on all the rules.

- Round A: Red vs. Blue
- Round B: Green vs. Yellow

Step 2: At this point, G has played once. Rule 1 says G plays in consecutive rounds, so G must also play in Round C.

Step 3: Who is G's opponent in Round C? G has already played Y. G cannot play R because that would violate Rule 5 (as we found in the main deduction). Therefore, G must play B.

Step 4: Let's verify this. If G plays B in Round C, the match schedule is: A(R-B), B(G-Y), C(G-B).

- Matches played: R(1), B(2), G(2), Y(1).
- The remaining match for Round D must be between the two teams with one match left: R and Y. So, D is R vs Y.
- This schedule (A: R-B, B: G-Y, C: G-B, D: R-Y) satisfies all the rules.

Step 5: Therefore, the match scheduled for Round C is Green vs. Blue.

Quick Tip

When solving logic puzzles, use a process of elimination. After placing the first few matches, list the remaining possibilities for the next slot and test them against all the rules to see which one fits.

24. Identifying the Teams Excluded from a Round Which pair of rounds contains matches where the Yellow team (Y) 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: We refer to the definitive schedule derived from the rules:

- Round A: Red vs. Blue
- Round B: Green vs. Yellow

- Round C: Green vs. Blue
- Round D: Red vs. Yellow

Step 2: The question asks in which rounds the Yellow team (Y) does NOT play.

Step 3: From the schedule, the Yellow team plays in Round B (against Green) and Round D (against Red).

Step 4: The Yellow team does not participate in Round A and Round C.

Step 5: Therefore, the correct pair of rounds is Round A and Round C.

 Quick Tip

For "which does NOT apply" questions, it's a simple process of checking a list. Having the full solved puzzle written down clearly makes these questions very fast to answer.

25. Team Opponent Check Which team does the Yellow team (Y) 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: We use the final, confirmed schedule of matches:

- Round A: Red vs. Blue
- Round B: Green vs. Yellow
- Round C: Green vs. Blue
- Round D: Red vs. Yellow

Step 2: We list the two opponents of the Yellow team (Y).

Step 3: In Round B, Yellow plays against Green.

Step 4: In Round D, Yellow plays against Red.

Step 5: The Yellow team plays a total of two matches, against Green and Red.

Step 6: Therefore, the Yellow team does not play against the Blue team.

 Quick Tip

After solving a logic game, create a small summary table of opponents for each team. This helps answer "who played whom" questions instantly. For example: R plays (B, Y), B plays (R, G), G plays (Y, B), Y plays (G, R).

26. 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: We start with the original valid schedule's first part: A(R vs B), B(G vs Y). We then introduce the change: the Round D match is B vs Y.

Step 2: This change forces other matches to be rearranged. With B playing in A and D, and Y playing in B and D, their schedules are full.

Step 3: This leaves R and G needing one more match each. The only available opponents are each other, and the only available slot is Round C.

Step 4: The new hypothetical schedule is:

- Round A: Red vs. Blue
- Round B: Green vs. Yellow
- Round C: Red vs. Green
- Round D: Blue vs. Yellow

Step 5: Now, we must test this new schedule against all the rules. Let's check Rule 5 (Opponent Link).

Step 6: Rule 5 states: "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."

Step 7: In our new schedule, the Red team's other opponent (not Blue) is Green (in Round C).

Step 8: The teams that play in Round D are Blue and Yellow.

Step 9: According to Rule 5, the opponent from Step 7 (Green) must be one of the teams from Step 8 (Blue or Yellow). This is not true (Green is not Blue or Yellow).

Step 10: Therefore, Rule 5 is violated.

Quick Tip

When a question asks you to test a hypothetical change, you must reconstruct the entire schedule based on that change and then systematically check every single original rule against the new schedule to find the one that no longer holds true.

Passage 5

V. 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)

27. What is the ratio of insured adults in Urban : Rural areas?

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

Correct Answer: (B) 748: 477

Solution:

Step 1: First, calculate the number of urban and rural residents.

- Urban population = 55% of 180,000 = $0.55 * 180,000 = 99,000$.
- Rural population = 45% of 180,000 = $0.45 * 180,000 = 81,000$.

Step 2: Calculate the number of insured adults in each area.

- Urban Uninsured = 32%, so Urban Insured = $100\% - 32\% = 68\%$.
- Number of Urban Insured = 68% of 99,000 = $0.68 * 99,000 = 67,320$.
- Rural Uninsured = 47%, so Rural Insured = $100\% - 47\% = 53\%$.
- Number of Rural Insured = 53% of 81,000 = $0.53 * 81,000 = 42,930$.

Step 3: Form the ratio of Urban Insured to Rural Insured.

- Ratio = 67,320 : 42,930.

Step 4: Simplify the ratio by finding the greatest common divisor or by testing common factors.

- Divide both by 10: 6732 : 4293.
- Both numbers are divisible by 3 (sum of digits is divisible by 3): 2244 : 1431.
- Divide by 3 again: 748 : 477.

Step 5: The final simplified ratio is 748 : 477.

 Quick Tip

For ratio problems with large numbers, simplify in steps. Start by dividing by obvious factors like 10, 2, or 5. Use divisibility rules (e.g., for 3 and 9) to find other common factors quickly.

28. 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 absolute number of uninsured adults in both areas.

- Urban population = 99,000. Uninsured = 32%.
- Number of Urban Uninsured = $0.32 * 99,000 = 31,680$.
- Rural population = 81,000. Uninsured = 47%.
- Number of Rural Uninsured = $0.47 * 81,000 = 38,070$.

Step 2: Use the formula for percentage increase: $((\text{New Value} - \text{Original Value}) / \text{Original Value}) * 100$.

- Here, "New Value" is Rural Uninsured and "Original Value" is Urban Uninsured.
- Percentage higher = $((38,070 - 31,680) / 31,680) * 100$.

Step 3: Calculate the difference.

- Difference = $38,070 - 31,680 = 6,390$.

Step 4: Perform the division and multiply by 100.

- Percentage = $(6,390 / 31,680) * 100$
- Percentage = $0.2017045... * 100$
- Percentage $\approx 20.17\%$.

 Quick Tip

Be careful with the base for percentage calculations. "Higher than X" means X is the base value (the denominator). In this case, "higher than Uninsured in Urban" makes the urban number the base.

29. 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: Since all percentage shares remain the same, the number of privately insured people will also grow by 5%. We can simply calculate the current number of privately insured people and find 5% of that total.

Step 2: Calculate the number of privately insured people in urban areas.

- Urban population = 99,000. Private insurance = 22%.
- Urban Private Insured = $0.22 * 99,000 = 21,780$.

Step 3: Calculate the number of privately insured people in rural areas.

- Rural population = 81,000. Private insurance = 10%.
- Rural Private Insured = $0.10 * 81,000 = 8,100$.

Step 4: Calculate the total number of privately insured people this year.

- Total Private Insured = $21,780 \text{ (Urban)} + 8,100 \text{ (Rural)} = 29,880$.

Step 5: Calculate the additional number for next year, which is a 5% growth on this year's total.

- Additional people = $5\% \text{ of } 29,880 = 0.05 * 29,880 = 1,494$.

 Quick Tip

When all percentages in a composition problem remain constant and the total base grows by a certain percentage, every sub-category also grows by that same percentage. This allows for a shortcut calculation.

30. 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 the number of employer-covered adults in urban areas.

- Urban population = 55% of 180,000 = 99,000.
- Percentage with Employer coverage in urban areas = 18%.
- Number of Urban Employer-covered = $0.18 * 99,000 = 17,820$.

Step 2: Calculate the number of employer-covered adults in rural areas.

- Rural population = 45% of 180,000 = 81,000.
- Percentage with Employer coverage in rural areas = 8%.
- Number of Rural Employer-covered = $0.08 * 81,000 = 6,480$.

Step 3: Add the numbers from both areas to find the total.

- Total Employer-covered = 17,820 (Urban) + 6,480 (Rural).
- Total = 24,300.

 Quick Tip

In data interpretation, it's good practice to pre-calculate key base numbers (like the total urban and rural populations) if you expect multiple questions to rely on them. This saves time and reduces calculation errors.

31. 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 the total number of publicly insured adults.

Urban Publicly Insured = 28% of 99,000 = $0.28 * 99,000 = 27,720$.

Rural Publicly Insured = 35% of 81,000 = $0.35 * 81,000 = 28,350$.

Total Publicly Insured = $27,720 + 28,350 = 56,070$.

Step 2: Calculate the total number of all insured adults.

Urban Insured = $(100\% - 32\%)$ of 99,000 = 68% of 99,000 = 67,320.

Rural Insured = $(100\% - 47\%)$ of 81,000 = 53% of 81,000 = 42,930.

Total Insured = $67,320 + 42,930 = 110,250$.

Step 3: Calculate the required percentage.

Percentage = $(\text{Total Publicly Insured} / \text{Total Insured}) * 100$.

Percentage = $(56,070 / 110,250) * 100$.

Percentage = $0.50857... * 100 \approx 50.86\%$.

 Quick Tip

When a question asks for a percentage of a sub-group (e.g., 'of all insured adults'), you must first calculate the total of that sub-group to use as the base (denominator) for your percentage calculation.

32. 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: Calculate the total number of insured adults from the previous question.

Total Insured = 110,250.

Step 2: Identify the total surveyed population from the passage.

Total surveyed population = 1,80,000.

Step 3: Calculate the percentage of the total population that was insured.

Percentage = (Total Insured / Total Surveyed Population) * 100.

Percentage = (110,250 / 1,80,000) * 100.

Percentage = 0.6125 * 100 = 61.25%.

 Quick Tip

Always read the question carefully to identify the correct base for the percentage.
"Percentage of the total surveyed population" means the denominator is the overall total (1,80,000), not a sub-group.

33. 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: The passage provides the total generation for each of the four quarters.

Q1 Total = 5,000 GWh.

Q2 Total = 5,500 GWh.

Q3 Total = 5,500 GWh.

Q4 Total = 6,000 GWh.

Step 2: To find the total annual generation, sum the totals of the four quarters.

Annual Total = 5,000 + 5,500 + 5,500 + 6,000.

Annual Total = 22,000 GWh.

 Quick Tip

In data sets presented chronologically (like quarterly reports), questions about annual totals are common. The first step is always to sum up the individual period data.

Passage 6

VI. 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)

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

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

Correct Answer: (C) 44.3%

Solution:

Step 1: First, calculate the total annual renewable generation. Renewables = Hydro + Solar + Wind.

$$\text{Q1 Renewables} = 900 + 700 + 400 = 2,000.$$

$$\text{Q2 Renewables} = 1,000 + 800 + 600 = 2,400.$$

$$\text{Q3 Renewables} = 800 + 1,000 + 700 = 2,500.$$

$$\text{Q4 Renewables} = 1,100 + 900 + 850 = 2,850.$$

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

Step 2: Use the total annual generation calculated previously (22,000 GWh).

Step 3: Calculate the percentage share.

$$\text{Share} = (\text{Total Annual Renewables} / \text{Total Annual Generation}) * 100.$$

$$\text{Share} = (9,750 / 22,000) * 100.$$

$$\text{Share} = 0.44318... * 100 \approx 44.3\%.$$

💡 Quick Tip

When a definition is given in the passage (e.g., "Renewables are taken as Hydro + Solar + Wind"), make sure to use that exact definition for all related calculations.

35. 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 the renewable percentage share for each quarter individually.

$$\text{Q1 Share} = (\text{Renewables} / \text{Total}) * 100 = (2,000 / 5,000) * 100 = 40.0\%.$$

$$\text{Q2 Share} = (\text{Renewables} / \text{Total}) * 100 = (2,400 / 5,500) * 100 \approx 43.64\%.$$

$$\text{Q3 Share} = (\text{Renewables} / \text{Total}) * 100 = (2,500 / 5,500) * 100 \approx 45.45\%.$$

$$\text{Q4 Share} = (\text{Renewables} / \text{Total}) * 100 = (2,850 / 6,000) * 100 = 47.5\%.$$

Step 2: Compare the calculated percentages.

47.5% (Q4) > 45.45% (Q3) > 43.64% (Q2) > 40.0% (Q1).

Step 3: The highest percentage share is in Q4.

 Quick Tip

To compare fractions or percentages quickly, you can sometimes compare the ratios directly. For Q2 vs Q3, 2400/5500 is clearly less than 2500/5500. For Q4, 2850/6000 is almost half, likely the highest.

36. 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: Find the original Q4 Coal generation from the passage.

Original Q4 Coal = 2,300 GWh.

Step 2: Calculate the 10% reduction in coal generation.

Reduction Amount = 10% of 2,300 = $0.10 * 2,300 = 230$ GWh.

Step 3: The reduction is shifted equally to Solar and Wind. Find the amount shifted to Solar.

Amount for Solar = $230 / 2 = 115$ GWh.

Step 4: Find the original Q4 Solar generation from the passage.

Original Q4 Solar = 900 GWh.

Step 5: Add the shifted amount to the original amount to find the new total.

New Q4 Solar = Original Q4 Solar + Shifted Amount = $900 + 115 = 1,015$ GWh.

 Quick Tip

Break down "change" problems into three parts: calculate the amount of the reduction/increase, determine how that amount is redistributed, and apply the redistribution to the original figures.

37. 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 the total annual generation for Gas.

Total Gas = $800 \text{ (Q1)} + 700 \text{ (Q2)} + 900 \text{ (Q3)} + 850 \text{ (Q4)} = 3,250 \text{ GWh}$.

Step 2: Calculate the total annual generation for Hydro.

Total Hydro = $900 \text{ (Q1)} + 1,000 \text{ (Q2)} + 800 \text{ (Q3)} + 1,100 \text{ (Q4)} = 3,800 \text{ GWh}$.

Step 3: Form the ratio of Gas to Hydro.

Ratio = $3,250 : 3,800$.

Step 4: Simplify the ratio by finding the greatest common divisor.

Divide by 10: $325 : 380$.

Divide by 5: $65 : 76$.

The ratio cannot be simplified further.

 Quick Tip

When simplifying ratios, always look for common factors ending in 0 or 5 first, as dividing by 10 or 5 is usually the easiest step.

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

(A) Q1

(B) Q2

(C) Q3

(D) Q4

Correct Answer: (A) Q1

Solution:

Step 1: This question asks for the lowest value from the same calculation performed for question 35.

Step 2: We recall or recalculate the renewable percentage share for each quarter.

$$\text{Q1 Share} = (2,000 / 5,000) * 100 = 40.0\%.$$

$$\text{Q2 Share} = (2,400 / 5,500) * 100 \approx 43.64\%.$$

$$\text{Q3 Share} = (2,500 / 5,500) * 100 \approx 45.45\%.$$

$$\text{Q4 Share} = (2,850 / 6,000) * 100 = 47.5\%.$$

Step 3: Comparing the percentages, the lowest value is 40.0%.

Step 4: This corresponds to Q1.

Quick Tip

Often, questions in a data interpretation set build on each other. If you've already done a calculation for a previous question (like the renewable shares), you can reuse the result to save time.

Passage 7

VII. 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)

39. 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: Read the passage carefully to locate the information about the tariff.

Step 2: The first paragraph of Passage 7 states: "...and weeks after imposing a 50% tariff on Indian exports to the US."

Step 3: The passage explicitly gives the figure as 50%.

Step 4: The question is a direct retrieval of a fact stated in the text.

 Quick Tip

For direct factual recall questions, use the "scan" method. Quickly look for keywords from the question (like "tariff" or "percentage") in the passage to find the relevant sentence.

40. 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: (A) India's IT service exports

Solution:

Step 1: The passage describes a "triple whammy" on India: torpedoing the H-1B visa, revoking a waiver on Chabahar, and imposing a tariff.

Step 2: The question asks for a reason for the penalty "apart from trade imbalances".

Step 3: The passage discusses the H-1B visa program in detail, stating Trump was convinced to reform it because "American workers were being gamed out of jobs by foreign companies

and US big tech acting in tandem.”

Step 4: The H-1B visa program is intrinsically linked to India’s IT service exports, as this is the primary industry that utilizes these visas.

Step 5: While the passage states that sources say the H-1B issue and the trade deal are “unrelated,” they are presented together as part of the overall pressure campaign. Among the given options, India’s IT service exports (related to H-1B) is the only other point of contention mentioned in the passage, making it the most plausible intended answer.

 Quick Tip

In some reading comprehension questions, you must infer the connection between different points mentioned in the passage. Even if not explicitly stated as a direct cause, related issues discussed in the same context can be the intended answer.

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

- (A) Provides trade access to China through Pakistan
- (B) Acts as a counterbalance to China’s presence in 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 a counterbalance to China’s presence in Gwadar Port, Pakistan

Solution:

Step 1: The passage mentions the Chabahar port in Iran but does not detail its strategic significance. This requires external general knowledge.

Step 2: India has invested in developing the Chabahar Port primarily to bypass Pakistan for trade with Afghanistan and Central Asia.

Step 3: A major geopolitical context for this project is the development of the nearby Gwadar Port in Pakistan by China as part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Step 4: India’s presence and influence at Chabahar are widely seen by strategic experts as a way to counter China’s growing influence in the region, centered around Gwadar.

Step 5: Therefore, Chabahar acts as a strategic counterbalance to Gwadar Port.

 Quick Tip

Reading Comprehension sections in competitive exams often include passages on current affairs. These may require some background knowledge to answer inference or significance-based questions correctly.

42. 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 allowing U.S. companies to hire foreign professionals in specialized fields

Correct Answer: (D) Non-immigrant visa allowing U.S. companies to hire foreign professionals in specialized fields

Solution:

Step 1: The passage refers to the H-1B as a "guest worker visa programme," which implies it is for temporary employment.

Step 2: This is a question of general knowledge regarding US visa types, prompted by the passage.

Step 3: The H-1B visa is specifically a non-immigrant (temporary) visa.

Step 4: Its purpose is to allow U.S. employers to temporarily employ foreign workers in specialty occupations, which are defined as requiring a bachelor's degree or higher in a specific field.

Step 5: Option (D) provides the most accurate and complete definition, aligning with both the passage's context (used by "US big tech") and the actual legal purpose of the visa.

 Quick Tip

For questions about specific terms or programs (like H-1B), look for the most precise definition among the options. Vague options like "Employment Visa" are usually less correct than more specific ones.

43. The acronym 'MAGA' mentioned in the 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: The question asks for the full form of the acronym 'MAGA' used in the passage in the context of US President Donald Trump.

Step 2: This is a well-known acronym from contemporary US politics.

Step 3: 'MAGA' stands for "Make America Great Again," which was the campaign slogan for Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign and a central theme of his presidency.

Step 4: This is a matter of general knowledge.

 Quick Tip

Acronyms related to major political figures or events are common in general knowledge sections. It's helpful to be aware of the most prominent ones from recent history.

Passage 8

VIII. 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)

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

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

Correct Answer: (C) India

Solution:

Step 1: The passage is about Indian chess players but does not mention the historical origin of the game. This question requires general knowledge.

Step 2: The historical consensus is that the game of chess originated in the eastern part of the Indian subcontinent during the Gupta Empire, around the 6th century.

Step 3: The earliest known form of the game was called "Chaturanga," which translates to "four divisions (of the military)": infantry, cavalry, elephantry, and chariotry, represented by the pieces that would evolve into the modern pawn, knight, bishop, and rook.

Step 4: Therefore, the origin of chess is believed to be India.

 Quick Tip

Even when a passage focuses on a modern aspect of a topic (like a current chess tournament), be prepared for related general knowledge questions about its history, origins, or key figures.

45. 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: The passage mentions several Indian Grandmasters but does not identify the first one. This is a general knowledge question about Indian sports history.

Step 2: Viswanathan Anand became India's first chess Grandmaster in 1988 at the age of 18.

Step 3: He went on to become a five-time World Chess Champion and is widely regarded as the greatest chess player India has ever produced.

Step 4: Dibyendu Barua became India's second Grandmaster in 1991. D. Gukesh is a prominent player from a much younger generation.

💡 Quick Tip

For questions asking about "the first" person to achieve something, the answer is often a very famous, pioneering figure in that field. Viswanathan Anand is synonymous with the rise of chess in modern India.

46. Who was the first official World Chess Champion?

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

Correct Answer: (D) Wilhelm Steinitz

Solution:

Step 1: The passage discusses the World Cup and other chess events but does not go into the history of the World Chess Championship title. This is a general knowledge question.

Step 2: While there were unofficial "best players" before him, Wilhelm Steinitz of Austria-Hungary is universally recognized as the first official World Chess Champion.

Step 3: He claimed the title after defeating Johannes Zukertort in their 1886 match, which was the first contest explicitly organized for the world championship.

Step 4: The other players listed were all World Champions, but much later: Fischer in 1972, Kasparov in 1985, and Anand in 2007 (undisputed).

 Quick Tip

History-based general knowledge questions often test your understanding of timelines. Knowing the approximate era of major figures (Steinitz - late 19th century, Fischer - Cold War era, Kasparov/Anand - modern era) can help you eliminate incorrect options.

47. 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: This question requires general knowledge about a landmark event in the history of artificial intelligence and chess. The passage does not contain this information.

Step 2: In 1997, a chess-playing supercomputer developed by IBM, named Deep Blue, played a six-game rematch against the then reigning World Champion, Garry Kasparov.

Step 3: Deep Blue won the match 3.5 to 2.5, marking the first time a computer had defeated a reigning world champion in a standard tournament match format.

Step 4: Deep Thought was a predecessor to Deep Blue and had played against Kasparov in 1989 but lost.

 Quick Tip

Famous "man vs. machine" events are popular general knowledge topics. The victory of Deep Blue over Garry Kasparov is one of the most cited examples in the history of AI.

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

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

Correct Answer: (B) Baku, Azerbaijan

Solution:

Step 1: This question asks for the location of a future sporting event. This information is not in the passage and requires specific, current general knowledge.

Step 2: The FIDE Chess World Cup is a major event in the international chess calendar. The city of Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, has a strong track record of hosting premier chess events.

Step 3: Baku hosted the Chess World Cup in 2015 and again in 2023.

Step 4: Given its recent history and excellent infrastructure for chess, it is a highly plausible venue for future events and is often used as an answer in mock tests. In the context of this question paper, Baku is the intended correct answer.

 Quick Tip

For questions about venues of international events, pay attention to cities and countries that have recently hosted similar major tournaments. They are often repeat hosts.

Passage 9

IX. 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)

49. Where is Pahalgam situated in India?

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

Correct Answer: (C) Jammu & Kashmir

Solution:

Step 1: The passage mentions a "Pahalgam terrorist attack" but doesn't state its location. This is a question of Indian geography.

Step 2: Pahalgam is a famous town and popular tourist destination located in the Anantnag district of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Step 3: It is situated on the banks of the Lidder River and is a key point in the annual Hindu pilgrimage, the Amarnath Yatra.

Step 4: Therefore, it is situated in Jammu & Kashmir.

 Quick Tip

Major tourist destinations, pilgrimage sites, and locations mentioned in news headlines (like Pahalgam) are important topics for the general knowledge and geography sections of competitive exams.

50. The checkpoint Attari is located in:

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

Correct Answer: (A) Near Amritsar, Punjab

Solution:

Step 1: The passage mentions the "integrated checkpoint Attari" but does not provide its location. This question tests knowledge of Indian geography and international borders.

Step 2: The Attari checkpoint is located on the India-Pakistan international border.

Step 3: It is the location on the Indian side of the border crossing, often referred to as the Attari-Wagah border. Wagah is the village on the Pakistani side.

Step 4: Attari is situated in the Amritsar district of the state of Punjab.

 Quick Tip

Knowing the locations of major international border crossings of India (like Attari-Wagah, Moreh, and Nathu La) is an important aspect of general awareness for competitive exams.

51. Which among the following is not a SAARC nation?

- (A) Afghanistan
- (B) Maldives
- (C) Mauritius
- (D) Bangladesh

Correct Answer: (C) Mauritius

Solution:

Step 1: The question asks to identify the country that is not a member of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation).

Step 2: The member states of SAARC are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Step 3: Comparing the options with the list of member states, we can see that Afghanistan, Maldives, and Bangladesh are all members.

Step 4: Mauritius is an island nation in the Indian Ocean but is not a part of the South Asian regional grouping of SAARC. It is, however, an observer state.

Step 5: Therefore, Mauritius is not a SAARC nation.

💡 Quick Tip

It's crucial to know the member countries of important international and regional organizations like SAARC, ASEAN, G20, and the UN Security Council for general knowledge questions.

52. The 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: The passage mentions that certain advisors would be declared "persona non grata".

Step 2: "Persona non grata" is a Latin phrase used in diplomacy.

Step 3: Its literal translation is "an unwelcome person".

Step 4: In a diplomatic context, when a country declares a foreign diplomat as persona non grata, it is barring that person from entering or remaining in the country. This is the most severe form of censure a country can apply to foreign diplomats.

Step 5: Therefore, the meaning of the expression is an unwelcome person.

 Quick Tip

Familiarize yourself with common Latin phrases used in legal and political English, such as 'persona non grata', 'quid pro quo', 'ad hoc', and 'status quo', as they frequently appear in such passages.

53. 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: The question asks about the facilitator of the Indus Water Treaty of 1960, which is mentioned in the passage.

Step 2: This is a historical fact related to India-Pakistan relations.

Step 3: After years of negotiations, the Indus Waters Treaty was signed in Karachi on September 19, 1960, by Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistani President Ayub Khan.

Step 4: The entire negotiation process was brokered and facilitated by the World Bank (then known as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development).

Step 5: The Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) was created by the treaty to implement it, not facilitate its signing.

 Quick Tip

Key international treaties involving India, such as the Indus Water Treaty, Shimla Agreement, and Panchsheel, are important general knowledge topics. Know their year, signatories, and key facilitators or outcomes.

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

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

Correct Answer: (C) Tapti

Solution:

Step 1: This question tests knowledge of the major river systems of India.

Step 2: The Indus River system is one of the largest in Asia. Its main tributaries in India are known as the "Punjab rivers".

Step 3: These major tributaries are the Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej.

Step 4: Therefore, Ravi, Jhelum, and Chenab are all tributaries of the Indus.

Step 5: The Tapti (or Tapi) River is a major river in central India. It is a peninsular river that flows westward and drains into the Arabian Sea, separate from the Indus system.

 Quick Tip

Create a mental map or a small chart of India's major river systems (Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Peninsular rivers like Narmada, Tapti, Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery) and their primary tributaries.

Passage 10

X. 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)

55. 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: This is a direct reading comprehension question based on Passage 10.

Step 2: The last sentence of the passage explicitly states the purpose of the proposed forum.

Step 3: It reads: "Prime Minister proposed commencing a Civilizational Dialogue Forum within the group to foster greater people-to-people ties and cultural understanding."

Step 4: This directly matches option (D).

💡 Quick Tip

When a question asks about the purpose or intention behind an action described in the passage, look for keywords like "to promote," "in order to," "to foster," or "for the purpose of" in the relevant section.

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

(A) Kyrgyzstan

(B) Tajikistan

(C) Uzbekistan

(D) Kazakhstan

Correct Answer: (D) Kazakhstan

Solution:

Step 1: The question asks about the succession of the SCO Presidency. This is a matter of general knowledge about the functioning of the organization.

Step 2: The passage mentions the 25th Meeting was held in China in September 2025, implying China held the presidency for 2024-2025.

Step 3: The SCO Presidency rotates annually among the member states in Russian alphabetical order.

Step 4: In the real-world sequence, after China's presidency (2024-2025), the next in line is Kazakhstan for the 2025-2026 term.

 Quick Tip

The functioning of international bodies, including the principle of rotating presidencies, is a key area of current affairs. Knowing the current and next chair of important groups like SCO, G20, and BRICS is beneficial.

57. 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: The passage mentions India's support for the Chabahar Port. The question requires geographical knowledge to locate it.

Step 2: The Chabahar Port is a seaport located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.

Step 3: It has been jointly developed by India, Iran, and Afghanistan to create a trade route that bypasses Pakistan, providing India with access to Afghanistan and Central Asia.

Step 4: Therefore, the port is located in Iran.

 Quick Tip

India's major strategic and connectivity projects, like the Chabahar Port, the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), and the Kaladan Multi-Modal Project, are important topics for current affairs and general knowledge.

58. 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: This question tests knowledge about the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Step 2: As of 2024, the full members of the SCO are China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Belarus.

Step 3: From the options, Belarus, Iran, and Pakistan are all full members.

Step 4: Myanmar has the status of a "Dialogue Partner" with the SCO but is not a full member state.

Step 5: Therefore, Myanmar is the correct answer.

 Quick Tip

For international organizations, it's important to distinguish between different levels of association: full members, observer states, and dialogue partners. Questions often test this specific knowledge.

59. 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: The question asks for the location of the main administrative body of the SCO.

Step 2: While the organization gets its name from Shanghai, where it was founded in 2001, its two permanent bodies are located elsewhere.

Step 3: The SCO Secretariat, the primary executive body, is located in Beijing, the capital of China.

Step 4: The other permanent body, the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), is based in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

💡 Quick Tip

Don't assume an organization's headquarters is in its namesake city. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a prime example, with its Secretariat in Beijing. Always verify the locations of HQs for major bodies.

60. At the conclusion of the 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: This is an inference question based on diplomatic conventions and information provided in the passage.

Step 2: The passage states that the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO was held in "Tianjin, China".

Step 3: It is a standard international diplomatic practice to name the main declaration or outcome document of a summit after the city where it was hosted.

Step 4: Therefore, the declaration adopted at the summit in Tianjin would be called the Tianjin Declaration.

 Quick Tip

In questions about international summits, if the host city is mentioned, the name of the final accord or declaration is almost always "[Host City] Declaration/Accord/Agreement".

Passage 11

XI. 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)

61. 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: (B) Heathrow Airport

Solution:

Step 1: The passage describes the aftermath of the AI-171 accident, mentioning it originated in Ahmedabad but not its destination. This question requires external or inferred knowledge.

Step 2: An international flight from a major Indian city like Ahmedabad to the UK would most likely target the primary international hub.

Step 3: London Heathrow Airport (LHR) is the main and busiest international airport serving London and the UK, and it is a primary destination for Air India's long-haul flights.

Step 4: Given the context of a major international flight, Heathrow is the most plausible and standard destination for a flagship route from a city like Ahmedabad.

 Quick Tip

For questions where information is missing from the passage, use the principle of probability and standard practice. Major international flights from India typically connect to other major global hubs like Heathrow, Dubai, or Singapore.

62. 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: This question asks for the name of the Union Minister for Civil Aviation in India, relevant to the exam's time frame (2025-2026).

Step 2: This is a current affairs question.

Step 3: Following the formation of the new government after the 2024 General Elections, Shri Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu was appointed as the Union Minister of Civil Aviation.

Step 4: Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia was the previous minister in this portfolio.

 Quick Tip

Knowledge of the current Union Cabinet, especially ministers holding key portfolios like Home, Defence, Finance, External Affairs, Law, and major infrastructure ministries like Civil Aviation and Railways, is essential for current affairs.

63. '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: The passage states that the Tata Group registered the trust. It does not mention the location of registration.

Step 2: This question requires an inference based on general knowledge about the Tata Group.

Step 3: The Tata Group is one of India's largest multinational conglomerates, and its global headquarters, 'Bombay House', is located in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Step 4: Major corporate entities typically register key national-level trusts and foundations in the city where their headquarters and primary administrative offices are located.

Step 5: Therefore, it is logical to infer that the trust was registered in Mumbai.

 Quick Tip

For inference questions involving corporate entities, knowing the location of their headquarters can often provide the logical link needed to determine the correct answer for administrative matters like registrations or major announcements.

64. The sole survivor of the Air India 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: (D) Indian National

Solution:

Step 1: The passage provides details on the number of deceased passengers and crew but gives no information about any survivors, let alone a "sole survivor."

Step 2: This indicates the question is flawed or requires an assumption based on probability.

Step 3: The flight is operated by Air India, India's national carrier.

Step 4: The flight originated from an Indian city, Ahmedabad.

Step 5: On any flight originating from India, a vast majority of the passengers are typically Indian nationals.

Step 6: Therefore, based on statistical probability, if there were to be a sole survivor, they would most likely be an Indian National. This is the most logical choice among the given options.

💡 Quick Tip

When faced with a question where the information is not in the passage, first check if it's a general knowledge question. If not, try to make the most logical inference based on the context provided. In this case, the context of an Indian airline and origin city points to an Indian national.

65. 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: This question asks for the official body in India responsible for investigating aircraft accidents. This is a matter of general knowledge about governmental agencies.

Step 2: The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is the body responsible for the investigation of serious aircraft accidents and incidents in India.

Step 3: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is the regulatory body for civil aviation, responsible for safety oversight, regulations, and airworthiness standards, but not for independent accident investigation.

Step 4: The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is responsible for managing civil aviation infrastructure.

Step 5: Therefore, the correct agency is the AAIB.

 Quick Tip

It is important to know the specific roles of different government agencies in the same sector. For aviation, distinguish between the regulator (DGCA), the infrastructure manager (AAI), and the accident investigator (AAIB).

66. 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: The passage does not specify the type of aircraft. This question relies on external knowledge about airline fleets and routes.

Step 2: The flight is a long-haul international flight from Ahmedabad to London (as inferred in a previous question).

Step 3: The Boeing 737 family of aircraft (options A, C, D) are narrow-body jets primarily used for short to medium-haul routes and would not typically be used for a direct flight from India to the UK.

Step 4: The Boeing 787 Dreamliner is a wide-body aircraft designed for long-haul routes and is a prominent part of Air India's international fleet.

Step 5: Based on the nature of the flight, the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner is the only plausible option.

Quick Tip

Even without specific knowledge, you can often answer technical questions through logical elimination. Knowing the general difference between long-haul (wide-body like Boeing 777/787, Airbus A350) and short-haul (narrow-body like Boeing 737, Airbus A320) aircraft is very helpful.

Passage 12

XII. 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)

67. 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: This is a direct comprehension question based on the main idea of Passage 12.

Step 2: The first paragraph of the passage clearly defines the motivation behind "One Nation" policies.

Step 3: It states these 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."

Step 4: This directly corresponds to the idea of applying uniform solutions and replacing state-specific variations. Options (A), (C), and (D) describe the opposite of this centralizing, uniform approach.

 Quick Tip

The main idea of a passage is often stated explicitly in the introductory paragraph. Read the first and last sentences of the first paragraph carefully to quickly grasp the central theme.

68. Which 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: (B) One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment

Solution:

Step 1: This question requires knowledge of specific legislative bills related to the 'One Nation, One Election' proposal.

Step 2: The One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment Bill, as introduced in reality, pertains to the women's reservation in legislatures (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam).

Step 3: However, in the context of this question paper, which may be using hypothetical or placeholder numbers for future legislation, this bill number is associated with the major electoral reform of simultaneous elections.

Step 4: The Ram Nath Kovind committee on 'One Nation, One Election' recommended constitutional amendments. For the purpose of this exam question, the 128th Amendment Bill is presented as the legislative instrument for these reforms.

💡 Quick Tip

Mock question papers can sometimes contain factual inaccuracies or use hypothetical numbers for future events. In such cases, you must work within the logic of the question paper itself and choose the answer that it points towards, even if it conflicts with real-world facts.

69. 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: The question asks to identify a committee or report that has examined the concept of simultaneous elections.

Step 2: The Law Commission of India, in its draft report titled "Simultaneous Elections," released in August 2018, comprehensively examined the legal and constitutional feasibility of the idea.

Step 3: The report concluded that simultaneous elections are not possible within the existing framework of the Constitution and would require amendments to the Constitution and relevant election laws.

Step 4: While the passage mentions the 2023 HLC, the 2018 Law Commission Report was a foundational document in this debate. The other committees listed dealt with different subjects (Verma - criminal law, Sarkaria/Punchhi - Centre-State relations).

💡 Quick Tip

Be familiar with the mandates of major commissions and committees in India (e.g., Sarkaria, Punchhi, Law Commission reports, Finance Commission reports). Questions often test whether you can match the committee to its subject area.

70. 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 Jagdeep Dhankhar
- (C) Shri Pranab Mukherjee
- (D) Smt. Draupadi Murmu

Correct Answer: (A) Shri Ram Nath Kovind

Solution:

Step 1: The question asks about the head of the High-Level Committee (HLC) on 'One Nation, One Election'.

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

Step 3: This is a direct current affairs question. The government constituted an eight-member committee in September 2023 to examine this issue.

Step 4: The committee was headed by the former President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind.

 Quick Tip

The composition and leadership of high-profile government committees are important current affairs topics. Pay special attention to committees headed by former Presidents, Prime Ministers, or Chief Justices.

71. As per the new GST reforms introduced in September 2025, the structure of new GST rates is:

(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: The question asks about the GST rate structure following a hypothetical reform in September 2025.

Step 2: The passage mentions the introduction of GST as an example of a "One Nation, One Tax" policy but does not give details of the rate slabs.

Step 3: This question tests general knowledge about the existing GST structure in India.

Step 4: The current GST regime in India primarily operates with a four-tier tax structure for goods and services.

Step 5: These standard rates are 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%. (There are also special rates like 0% for essential goods and 3% for gold).

Step 6: The question assumes that the "new reforms" maintain the existing primary slab structure. Therefore, option (A) is the correct one.

 Quick Tip

For questions about economic policies like GST, it's important to know the fundamental structure, such as the main tax slabs. Even if a question introduces a hypothetical future reform, the answer is often based on the current, real-world framework.

72. The objective of the 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: This is a direct comprehension question asking for the objective of the "One Nation, One Ration Card" scheme.

Step 2: The passage explicitly describes this scheme.

Step 3: It states: "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."

Step 4: This directly identifies the primary beneficiaries as "internal migrants," which is synonymous with migrant labourers in this context.

Quick Tip

Look for words that signal purpose or intent, such as "objective," "aim," "goal," or "intended to." The text immediately following these words usually provides the answer to questions about the purpose of a scheme or policy.

Passage 13

XIII. 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 sub-committee 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)

73. 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: The question asks to describe the relationship between the Preamble and the Constitution as per the passage.

Step 2: The second and third sentences of the passage provide a clear summary of this relationship.

Step 3: It says, "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 4: This shows a mutual, interactive relationship where each influenced the other.

Step 5: This idea is best captured by option (C), which states that both were shaped in light of each other.

💡 Quick Tip

When a question asks for a relationship between two concepts, look for sentences that explicitly link them. The passage uses the phrase "in light of" to show the mutual influence between the Preamble and the Constitution.

74. 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: The question asks about the content of the "earliest draft" of the Preamble mentioned in the passage.

Step 2: The passage quotes this earliest draft directly in the fourth sentence.

Step 3: It reads: "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 4: This text focuses on the act of creation and adoption of the Constitution by the people via their representatives. It is a formal statement of enactment.

Step 5: This corresponds most closely to option (C). The other options contain substantive values that were added later.

 Quick Tip

For questions about a specific version or draft mentioned in a historical passage, locate the exact quotation or description. The answer will be a summary of that specific text, not the final version.

75. 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
- (D) Fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual

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

Solution:

Step 1: This question requires knowledge of the text of the Preamble to the Indian Constitution.

Step 2: The Preamble secures several key objectives for its citizens. Let's check the options against the actual text.

Step 3: JUSTICE: The Preamble mentions "JUSTICE, social, economic and political". It does not use the words "moral, ethical and legal".

Step 4: LIBERTY: The Preamble mentions "LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship". This matches option (B).

Step 5: EQUALITY: The Preamble mentions "EQUALITY of status and of opportunity". This matches option (A).

Step 6: FRATERNITY: The Preamble mentions "FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual". This matches option (D).

Step 7: Therefore, the phrase "Justice moral, ethical and legal" is not enshrined in the Preamble.

 Quick Tip

Memorizing the key terms of the Preamble (Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic; Justice, Liberty, Equality, Fraternity) and their associated descriptors is essential for Indian Polity questions.

76. 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: The question asks for the correct sequence of the descriptive words for India in the Preamble.

Step 2: The opening line of the Preamble declares India to be a "SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC".

Step 3: This exact sequence must be followed.

Step 4: Option (A) matches this sequence perfectly. The other options rearrange the words incorrectly.

Step 5: It's important to note that the words "SOCIALIST" and "SECULAR" were added by the 42nd Amendment in 1976 and placed between "SOVEREIGN" and "DEMOCRATIC".

 Quick Tip

Use a mnemonic to remember the correct order of the keywords in the Preamble: SSSDR (Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic).

77. 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 the special Sub-committee of the Constituent Assembly

Correct Answer: (A) The Objectives Resolution

Solution:

Step 1: The question asks for the foundational document upon which the Preamble was finally based.

Step 2: The passage traces the history of the Preamble's drafting. It mentions that the Union Constitution Committee provisionally accepted a draft but with the "tacit recognition at that stage that the Preamble would be finally based on the Objectives Resolution."

Step 3: The last sentence reinforces this: "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..."

Step 4: The Objectives Resolution, moved by Jawaharlal Nehru in the Constituent Assembly in December 1946, laid down the philosophy and guiding principles for the constitution, which were ultimately reflected in the Preamble.

 Quick Tip

The Objectives Resolution is a cornerstone document in the making of the Indian Constitution. It is considered the direct precursor to the Preamble.

78. 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: The question asks about the role of Sir B. N. Rau. The passage mentions him as the drafter of an early version of the Preamble ("as drafted by B.N. Rao").

Step 2: This is a historical question about the key figures in the Constituent Assembly.

Step 3: Sir Benegal Narsing Rau was a pre-eminent jurist and civil servant who was appointed as the Constitutional Advisor to the Constituent Assembly.

Step 4: In this capacity, he prepared the initial draft of the constitution in February 1948, which was then debated and revised by the Drafting Committee.

Step 5: The Chairman of the Drafting Committee was Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. The President of the Constituent Assembly was Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

 Quick Tip

Distinguish between the key roles in the Constituent Assembly: Dr. Rajendra Prasad (President), Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Chairman, Drafting Committee), and Sir B. N. Rau (Constitutional Advisor). These three are frequently asked about.

Passage 14

XIV. 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)

79. 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: The question asks what the Court *can* do, according to the passage.

Step 2: The second sentence of the passage provides the answer directly.

Step 3: It says: "...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 4: This matches option (B) almost verbatim. The passage later clarifies that the court cannot issue directions (disqualify ministers) but can play a "prophetic duty to remind."

 Quick Tip

In legal passages, pay attention to the distinction between the powers the court has (jurisdiction) and the actions it can take. The passage highlights the court's role as a reminder of constitutional principles rather than a direct enforcer in this specific context.

80. 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 administer the Constitution
- (C) The presence of a strong opposition
- (D) Judicial intervention in governance

Correct Answer: (B) The good sense and integrity of those who administer the Constitution

Solution:

Step 1: The question asks for Dr. Ambedkar's belief as stated in the passage.

Step 2: The passage says, "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..."

Step 3: The first sentence of the passage also introduces this idea: "Good governance is only in the hands of good men."

Step 4: This indicates that Dr. Ambedkar believed the constitution's success depended not on the text itself, but on the character and integrity of the people running the government (the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers).

Step 5: This aligns perfectly with option (B).

 Quick Tip

Passages often paraphrase the views of historical figures. Look for phrases like "According to [Name]..." or "[Name] believed that..." to locate the specific part of the text that represents their opinion.

81. 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: The question asks what the Court emphasized regarding the selection of Ministers.

Step 2: The last sentence of the passage contains the Court's view on this matter.

Step 3: It states that the Prime Minister and Chief Minister "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 4: This is a direct match with the statement in option (A). The court's statement is an advisory ("well advised to consider avoiding"), respecting the executive's prerogative.

💡 Quick Tip

In legal judgments, distinguish between a binding order (a 'mandamus' or direction) and an advisory opinion or suggestion ('obiter dictum'). The passage makes it clear the court is advising, not ordering.

82. What role does the Court assume 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: The question asks to define the role the Court takes upon itself in this matter.

Step 2: The passage explicitly defines this role.

Step 3: It says, "No doubt, it is not for the court to issue any direction... But it is the prophetic duty of this Court to remind the key duty holders about their role in working the Constitution."

Step 4: This sentence directly states that the Court's role is a "prophetic duty to remind," which matches option (B) exactly.

Step 5: The passage clarifies that the court does not have the power of judicial review or veto in this specific area of ministerial appointment.

 Quick Tip

Passages based on court judgments often use specific, and sometimes unusual, phrases to define their role. Look for these unique phrases, as questions are often designed to test if you noticed and understood them. "Prophetic duty" is the key phrase here.

83. 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: The question asks to identify the primary constitutional functionaries being addressed in the passage.

Step 2: Throughout the passage, the text repeatedly singles out two specific roles.

Step 3: For example, "...it has become the bounden duty of the court to remind the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of the State of their duty..."

Step 4: And again, "...the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of the State, who themselves have taken oath..."

Step 5: While the Council of Ministers is the subject, the duty and advice are directed specifically at the heads of the executive who make the appointments: the Prime Minister (at the Union level) and the Chief Minister (at the State level).

 Quick Tip

In passages about governance, pay attention to who holds the power and responsibility. Here, the power to appoint ministers rests with the PM/CM, so the court's advice is directed at them.

84. Who, according to the 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 a 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: The question asks for the specific condition under which the court advises against appointing a person as a Minister.

Step 2: The last sentence of the passage provides the most detailed description of this condition.

Step 3: The court advises the PM and CM to "consider avoiding any person... 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."

Step 4: The key elements are (i) charges have been *framed* (not just a pending case or a conviction) and (ii) the offences involve *moral turpitude*.

Step 5: Option (B) captures these two key elements most accurately. Option (A) is too broad (doesn't mention moral turpitude), and (C) is incorrect (it's about framed charges, not proven charges/conviction).

Quick Tip

Legal language is precise. Pay close attention to the exact stage of a criminal proceeding mentioned: 'case is pending', 'charges are framed', or 'charges are proved' (conviction). These are distinct legal stages with different implications.

Passage 15

XV. The recent Supreme Court judgment in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu* (2025) affirmed that a Governor cannot exercise an absolute or "pocket" veto on bills, holding that if assent is withheld, the bill must be returned to the legislature "as soon as possible" for reconsideration, with the Governor having no discretion to withhold assent again. The court established that inaction or indefinite delay is illegal and unconstitutional, prescribing timelines for the Governor's decision and even "deeming assent" on pending bills in the Tamil Nadu case, establishing a critical precedent for judicial review of gubernatorial powers. The Supreme Court explicitly rejected the Governor's power to an absolute or "pocket" veto, which allows for bills to be indefinitely delayed. If a Governor withholds assent to a bill, they are constitutionally obligated to return it to the State Assembly for reconsideration, according to the proviso in Article 200 of the Constitution. 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. The Court held that indefinitely delaying or remaining silent on bills is unconstitutional and that Governors must act "as soon as possible" on bills. The judgment expanded the scope of judicial review by setting timelines for the Governor's actions on bills, allowing state governments to approach courts if these timelines are breached. In the case of the Tamil Nadu, the Court used its powers under Article 142 to "deem assent" on the long-pending bills, which had the effect of making any subsequent decision by the President on those bills void. (276 words)

85. 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 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: This is a principle-application question. We must apply the legal principles from the passage to the hypothetical situation.

Step 2: The passage states, "The Supreme Court explicitly rejected the Governor's power to an absolute or 'pocket' veto, which allows for bills to be indefinitely delayed."

Step 3: It further states, "The Court held that indefinitely delaying or remaining silent on bills is unconstitutional..." and that if assent is withheld, the bill must be returned "as soon as possible".

Step 4: The Governor in the scenario decides to "neither give assent nor return the bill," which is an act of indefinitely delaying it.

Step 5: Based on the principles in the passage, this action is unconstitutional. Option (B) accurately describes this legal position.

Quick Tip

In principle-application questions, first identify the core legal rule or principle from the passage. Then, analyze the facts of the hypothetical scenario to see if they trigger that rule. The correct answer will be a direct application of the rule to the facts.

86. 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: This scenario tests the procedure for a bill that has been returned and re-enacted.

Step 2: We need to find the relevant rule in the passage.

Step 3: The passage states, "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 4: The scenario describes this exact situation: the Governor returns the bill, and the Assembly re-enacts it without change.

Step 5: According to the rule, the Governor is now constitutionally obligated to give assent. Option (A) correctly states this obligation.

 Quick Tip

The procedure for a re-passed bill is a critical aspect of the legislative process. The Governor has a 'suspensive veto' which can be used once. If the legislature overrides the veto by passing the bill again, the Governor's assent becomes mandatory.

87. 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: The scenario involves a Governor's inaction on a bill, which the State Government considers unconstitutional. We need to find the remedy provided by the judgment in the passage.

Step 2: The passage states, "The Court held that indefinitely delaying or remaining silent on bills is unconstitutional..."

Step 3: Crucially, it adds, "The judgment expanded the scope of judicial review by setting timelines for the Governor's actions on bills, allowing state governments to approach courts if these timelines are breached."

Step 4: The Governor's eight-month inaction constitutes an indefinite delay and breaches the judicially set timelines.

Step 5: Therefore, the recourse available to the State Government is to "approach the courts," as explicitly allowed by the judgment. Option (D) correctly identifies this recourse.

Quick Tip

Judicial review is the power of the courts to examine the actions of the legislative and executive branches. The passage describes an expansion of this power into the Governor's role in the legislative process, making judicial intervention a possible remedy.

88. 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: The question asks for the likely outcome if the Supreme Court follows the precedent set in the Tamil Nadu case mentioned in the passage.

Step 2: We must identify the specific action the Court took in that precedent-setting case.

Step 3: The last sentence of the passage describes this action: "In the case of the Tamil Nadu, the Court used its powers under Article 142 to 'deem assent' on the long-pending bills..."

Step 4: Therefore, following this precedent in a similar situation would mean the Court could again "deem assent" on the delayed bills.

Step 5: Option (C) accurately describes this likely outcome, mirroring the action taken in the original case.

Quick Tip

A 'precedent' in law means that a principle established in a previous case will be followed in similar future cases. To answer precedent-based questions, you must identify the exact ruling or action from the original case and apply it to the new scenario.

89. A newly appointed Governor publicly declares that he intends 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: The scenario involves a Governor claiming the power to indefinitely delay bills by not acting on them (a "pocket veto"). We must evaluate this claim against the Supreme Court's interpretation in the passage.

Step 2: The passage is unequivocal on this point: "The Supreme Court explicitly rejected the Governor's power to an absolute or 'pocket' veto, which allows for bills to be indefinitely delayed."

Step 3: It also states, "The Court held that indefinitely delaying or remaining silent on bills is unconstitutional..."

Step 4: The Governor's declared intention is to do exactly what the Supreme Court has ruled unconstitutional.

Step 5: Therefore, the Governor's declaration is unconstitutional, as stated in option (D).

💡 Quick Tip

Constitutional law questions often test the limits of executive power. The passage illustrates a key principle: discretionary powers are not absolute and are subject to constitutional limitations and judicial interpretation.

90. 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 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: This question asks about the constitutional options available to a Governor regarding a bill, based on Article 200 of the Constitution, which is discussed in the passage.

Step 2: The passage discusses the action of withholding assent and the subsequent requirement to return the bill for reconsideration. This covers the first two options.

Step 3: The passage refers to the proviso in Article 200: "...according to the proviso in Article 200 of the Constitution."

Step 4: Article 200 of the Indian Constitution lays out four options for a Governor:

1. Give assent to the bill.
2. Withhold assent (and subsequently, as the judgment clarifies, return it for reconsideration if it's not a money bill).
3. Reserve the bill for the consideration of the President.
4. Return the bill (if it is not a Money Bill) with a message for reconsideration.

Step 5: Options 2 and 4 are linked. Withholding assent triggers the process of returning the bill. Thus, the three distinct paths are: Assent, Withhold (and return), or Reserve for President.

Step 6: Option (C) most accurately captures these three primary courses of action. The option to "withhold assent" encompasses the subsequent action of returning it for reconsideration as laid out in the proviso.

Quick Tip

Article 200 (for Governors) and Article 111 (for the President) are fundamental to the legislative process in India. Knowing the options available to the executive when a bill is presented for assent is a key topic in Indian Polity.

Passage 16

XVI. 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 @ Supriya 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)

91. 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: This is a principle-application question based on the Supreme Court's judgment described in Passage 16.

Step 2: The passage clearly states the court's verdict: "...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."

Step 3: It further adds, "The Court stated that the power to legislate on same-sex marriage rests with the Parliament and state legislatures."

Step 4: The scenario describes a same-sex couple seeking to marry. Based on the ruling, their marriage would not be legally recognized.

Step 5: Option (B) accurately reflects this outcome and the reasoning provided by the court (deferring the matter to Parliament).

Quick Tip

In legal reasoning, distinguish between what the court **affirmed** (e.g., right to co-habit) and what it **declined to do** (e.g., legalize same-sex marriage). The answer often lies in understanding the limits the court placed on its own judgment.

92. 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 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: The question presents an argument and asks how the judgment in the passage would counter it.

Step 2: The advocate's argument is that the "right to choose a partner" implies a "fundamental right to marry".

Step 3: The passage describes how the Court dealt with this exact line of reasoning. It states that while the court "...acknowledged systemic discrimination and the right to choose a partner, it held that there is no fundamental right to marry."

Step 4: The Court explicitly separated the right to choose a partner from a fundamental right to marry and left the latter to the legislature.

Step 5: Option (B) perfectly summarizes this counter-argument made by the Court in its judgment. Option (D) is incorrect as the court did not uphold a fundamental right to marry.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to legal distinctions made in court judgments. The Supreme Court often acknowledges a broader right (like the right to choose a partner) while declining to recognize a more specific, institutional right (like the right to marry) that it believes requires legislative action.

93. 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: The question asks where lobbying efforts should be directed to achieve legal recognition for same-sex marriage, based on the court's decision.

Step 2: The Supreme Court, in its judgment, clearly indicated which body has the authority to create such a law.

Step 3: The passage states: "The Court stated that the power to legislate on same-sex marriage rests with the Parliament and state legislatures."

Step 4: By deferring the issue, the Court has essentially pointed advocacy groups to the legislative branch of government as the correct venue for seeking change.

Step 5: Therefore, the lobbying efforts should be directed at the Parliament and state legislatures, as mentioned in option (C).

💡 Quick Tip

Understand the principle of 'separation of powers'. The judiciary interprets laws (as the SC did), the legislature makes laws (as Parliament must do), and the executive implements laws. The judgment clearly places the ball in the legislature's court.

94. While same-sex marriage is not legally recognized in India, 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: The question asks to identify a right that the Supreme Court *did* affirm for same-sex couples, despite not legalizing marriage.

Step 2: We need to scan the passage for positive affirmations made by the court.

Step 3: The second-to-last sentence of the passage provides a clear statement: "The Court affirmed the right of same-sex couples to cohabit privately."

Step 4: The passage also notes that rights like automatic inheritance and adoption are benefits they do not receive because they cannot legally marry.

Step 5: Therefore, the right to cohabit privately was the one specifically affirmed.

 Quick Tip

In questions about complex judgments, create a simple two-column list in your mind: "What the Court GRANTED" and "What the Court DENIED." This helps to clearly separate the different parts of the ruling.

95. 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: The scenario describes a same-sex couple wanting legal rights like inheritance and pensions, which are typically associated with marriage.

Step 2: We must identify the obstacle to achieving these rights based on the passage.

Step 3: The passage states, "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.”

Step 4: This shows a direct causal link: the inability to marry is the reason they are denied these specific automatic rights.

Step 5: The government panel mentioned was only to “explore” rights, not grant them, and its formation is not a guaranteed path. The primary, fundamental obstacle is the lack of legal recognition of their marriage. Option (B) correctly identifies this.

 Quick Tip

In legal systems, many rights and benefits (inheritance, insurance, pension) are bundled with the legal status of marriage. If that status cannot be achieved, access to the bundled rights is blocked. This is the core issue highlighted in the passage.

96. The new acronym that evolved after LGBTQ+ is 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: This question tests knowledge of the expanded acronym for the queer community, prompted by the mention of LGBTQ+ in the passage.

Step 2: The acronym LGBTQIA+ is a more inclusive version of the older LGBT or LGBTQ.

Step 3: The letters stand for: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual/Aromantic/Agender, and the '+' signifies other identities not listed.

Step 4: In this expanded acronym, the 'I' stands for Intersex, and the 'A' stands for Asexual.

Step 5: Therefore, 'IA' refers to Intersex and Asexual.

 Quick Tip

Acronyms related to social and political movements evolve over time to become more inclusive. Staying updated with the most current and comprehensive versions (like LGBTQIA+) is important for general awareness.

Passage 17

XVII. 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]

97. 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 a microscopic minority

Correct Answer: (C) The Non-Cooperation Movement gained the sympathy of majority of the Indians

Solution:

Step 1: The question asks for a conclusion that can be drawn from the passage about the Non-Cooperation Movement.

Step 2: Let's evaluate the options based on the text.

Step 3: Option (A) is incorrect. The passage states Gandhiji promised Swaraj, which energized the movement. It doesn't call the idea futile.

Step 4: Option (B) is incorrect. The passage describes its successes but also ends by noting an "unfortunate" negative feature (decline in communal unity later), implying it was not a complete, unqualified success.

Step 5: Option (D) is incorrect. The passage states the movement showed the "capacity of the 'poor dumb millions' of India to take part," and that it had a "truly mass character," which contradicts the idea of representing a minority.

Step 6: Option (C) is strongly supported. The second paragraph begins: "The Non-Cooperation Movement demonstrated that it commanded the support and sympathy of vast sections of the Indian people." This directly states that it gained the sympathy of the majority.

 Quick Tip

Look for summarizing sentences at the beginning or end of paragraphs. These often encapsulate the main point the author is making and can directly answer "it is evident that" or "the main idea is" type questions.

98. The term "poor dumb millions" refers 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: The question asks for the meaning of the phrase "poor dumb millions" as used in the passage.

Step 2: This is an archaic and now-offensive phrase used by British colonial writers and some Indian nationalists to describe the masses.

Step 3: In this context, "poor" refers to their economic condition (impoverished).

Step 4: "Dumb" in this old usage does not mean stupid, but rather "mute" or "voiceless" - unable to speak for themselves politically, largely due to a lack of education and political organization.

Step 5: Therefore, the phrase refers to the masses who were both economically poor and politically unrepresented or uneducated. Option (D) captures both these aspects.

 Quick Tip

Be aware that historical texts may use words with meanings that are different from their modern usage. 'Dumb' historically meant 'mute' or 'unable to speak', which is the intended meaning in this context, alluding to a lack of political voice.

99. Which of the statements is true?

- (A) The Swaraj movement happened before the Non-Cooperation Movement
- (B) The Non-Cooperation 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-Cooperation Movement

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

Solution:

Step 1: We must evaluate the truthfulness of each statement based on the provided passage.

Step 2: (A) is incorrect. The passage says Gandhiji promised "Swaraj within a year, if his programme was adopted," indicating Swaraj was the goal of the Non-Cooperation Movement, not a prior event.

Step 3: (B) is not stated in the passage. The passage focuses on the successes and character of the movement, not its end or failure. (Historically it was withdrawn, but the passage doesn't mention this).

Step 4: (D) is incorrect. The passage explicitly states that "thousands of students left their educational institutions" and "nationalists from the towns" participated, contradicting the idea that the educated kept away.

Step 5: (C) is correct. The final paragraph states: "The tremendous participation of different communities in the movement, and the maintenance of communal unity... was in itself no mean achievement." This confirms a "fine show of communal unity."

 Quick Tip

For "Which statement is true/false?" questions, methodically check each option against the text. Cross out the ones that are directly contradicted or not mentioned, which will leave you with the correct answer.

100. The main idea of the passage is:

- (A) The Non-Cooperation Movement did not give impetus to future movements
- (B) The movement made Indians realize their potential to fight the British
- (C) The British became fearful of Gandhiji's leadership
- (D) The most positive feature of the movement was that it was repeated later

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

Solution:

Step 1: The question asks for the main idea, or central theme, of the entire passage.

Step 2: The passage details how the Non-Cooperation Movement energized the freedom struggle, had a "nation-wide" spatial spread, and involved "vast sections of the Indian people."

Step 3: A key sentence is: "The capacity of the 'poor dumb millions' of India to take part in modern nationalist politics was also demonstrated."

Step 4: This demonstrates a newfound awareness of mass power and potential. The movement showed that ordinary Indians could unite and challenge the British administration on a large scale. This aligns with option (B).

Step 5: Option (A) and (C) are not discussed in the passage. Option (D) is directly contradicted by the last sentence: "...this most positive feature... was not to be repeated in later

years.”

 Quick Tip

The main idea of a passage is a summary of its overall message. Ask yourself, "What is the single most important point the author is trying to convey?" The answer is often about the significance or impact of the subject being discussed.

101. The word "Communalism" in the passage refers to:

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

Correct Answer: (A) Religious identity

Solution:

Step 1: The question asks for the meaning of "Communalism" in the context of the passage and Indian history.

Step 2: The passage contrasts "communal unity" with "communalism." It also mentions the "Malabar developments" (a reference to the Moplah Rebellion, which had religious overtones).

Step 3: In the context of the Indian subcontinent's history, the term "communalism" almost always refers to the politicization of religious identities, particularly the tensions and conflicts between Hindu and Muslim communities.

Step 4: The passage celebrates the "participation of different communities" (implying religious communities) and laments that this unity was later broken by communalism.

Step 5: Therefore, communalism in this context refers to conflict based on religious identity.

 Quick Tip

Words can have specific meanings in specific contexts. In the context of modern Indian history, "communalism" is a key term referring to political antagonism between different religious groups.

Passage 18

XVIII. 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]

102. 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 dominance
- (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: The question asks for the most significant characteristic of prehistoric humans according to the passage.

Step 2: The passage emphasizes how unremarkable early humans were. It states, "There was nothing special about them."

Step 3: The key sentence is: "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."

Step 4: This directly states that their defining characteristic was their lack of significant environmental impact, making them indistinguishable from other animals in this regard.

Step 5: This perfectly matches option (D). Options (A), (B), and (C) describe features that would make them special, which the passage argues against.

 Quick Tip

Look for superlative statements in the passage, such as "The most important thing..." or "The most significant feature...". These phrases are often inserted by the author to highlight the main point they want the reader to take away.

103. In the content 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: The question asks for the meaning of 'incognisant' in the context it is used.

Step 2: The sentence before the use of 'incognisant' sets the context: "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."

Step 3: This sentence is about the lack of awareness regarding their future capabilities and destiny.

Step 4: The passage then calls them "incognisant animals". Given the preceding context, 'incognisant' here means being unaware of this vast future potential.

Step 5: Option (B) captures this specific contextual meaning perfectly. The passage does not say they lacked intelligence (A) or social interaction (C), just that they were not special.

 Quick Tip

To understand the meaning of an unfamiliar word in a passage, always read the sentence before and the sentence after it. The context provided by the surrounding sentences is the best clue to the intended meaning.

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

- (A) They had fewer offspring
- (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 for language

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

Solution:

Step 1: The question asks why early humans were not special.

Step 2: The passage addresses this in the first paragraph.

Step 3: It lists several behaviours of archaic humans: "loved, played, formed close friendships and competed for status and power".

Step 4: It immediately follows this list by saying, "...but so did chimpanzees, baboons and elephants. There was nothing special about them."

Step 5: This directly explains that their behaviours were not unique and were shared by many other animals. This is precisely what option (B) states.

 Quick Tip

When a passage makes a claim ("humans were not special"), look for the evidence or reason it provides immediately afterward. The supporting detail is usually found in the same or the very next sentence.

105. 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
- (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: The question asks for the definition of a species as given in the passage.

Step 2: The second paragraph provides a clear definition from a biologist's perspective.

Step 3: The text states: "Animals are said to belong to the same species if they tend to mate with each other, giving birth to fertile offspring."

Step 4: This is the biological species concept. The passage then gives the example of horses and donkeys, which can mate but produce sterile offspring (mules), thus they are different species.

Step 5: Option (A) is a direct paraphrase of this definition. The passage explicitly states physical appearance can be misleading (bulldog and spaniel).

 Quick Tip

When a passage presents a technical definition, the question will often test your recall of that exact definition. Pay close attention to definitional statements, often introduced with phrases like "is defined as," "is classified as," or "are said to be."

106. The passage explains the concept of species classification by:

- (A) Highlighting 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 environmental impact of species like horses and donkeys

Correct Answer: (B) Focusing on the DNA pool they share

Solution:

Step 1: The question asks how the passage illustrates the concept of species.

Step 2: The passage uses two examples to explain the concept. First, horses and donkeys, which produce sterile offspring. It states "Mutations in donkey DNA can therefore never cross over to horses, or vice versa." This highlights their separate DNA pools.

Step 3: Second, it uses the example of a bulldog and a spaniel. It says they "look very different, but they are members of the same species, sharing the same DNA pool."

Step 4: The unifying concept in both examples is the idea of a shared or separate "DNA pool," which is directly linked to the ability to produce fertile offspring. Option (B) correctly identifies this underlying focus.

Step 5: The answer in the key is (B). A better option might have been "Contrasting pairs of animals to explain reproductive compatibility," but focusing on the shared DNA pool is the underlying biological reason given in the passage. The contrast made in option (C) is incorrect (it's horse/donkey vs bulldog/spaniel, not horse/bulldog vs donkey/spaniel).

💡 Quick Tip

When a passage uses examples to explain a concept, try to identify the single underlying principle that the examples are meant to demonstrate. Here, both examples illustrate the importance of a shared or separate gene pool.

Passage 19

XIX. 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]

107. 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
- (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: The question asks for the most critical aspect of Freedom House's process, based on the passage.

Step 2: The first sentence introduces Freedom House as a "nongovernmental organization that produces quantitative measures of civil and political rights for countries around the world."

Step 3: The key phrases here are "quantitative measures" and "counted as 'free'". This implies a specific system or methodology for scoring and classifying countries.

Step 4: The entire passage revolves around the results of this measurement (e.g., "only 45... were counted as 'free'", "freedom had declined").

Step 5: Therefore, the most critical aspect to understand their work is the methodology they use to arrive at these numbers and classifications. Option (A) describes this perfectly. The other options describe things Freedom House might do, but the passage's focus is on its role as a measurer.

 Quick Tip

When reading about an organization or a study, pay close attention to the description of what it **does**. The core function is usually the most critical aspect. Here, Freedom House's core function is to produce "quantitative measures."

108. What does the phrase "vote with their feet" imply in the context of the passage?

- (A) Participating in electoral processes
- (B) Public protests expressing dissatisfaction
- (C) Migrating to other countries with better governance
- (D) Joining local government reform initiatives

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

Solution:

Step 1: The question asks for the meaning of the idiom "vote with their feet."

Step 2: The passage lists factors driving social mobilization, including "cheap travel and communications that allowed people to vote with their feet if they didn't like their government".

Step 3: The idiom "to vote with one's feet" means to express one's opinion or preference by leaving a place or situation.

Step 4: In the context of not liking one's government, and enabled by "cheap travel," leaving implies migrating or moving to another country that is perceived as better.

Step 5: Option (C) accurately captures this meaning of expressing dissatisfaction by physically leaving.

 Quick Tip

Idiomatic expressions are often tested in reading comprehension. If you don't know an idiom, use the context clues around it. The mention of "cheap travel" is a big clue that "voting with their feet" involves movement or leaving.

109. The term "third wave of democratization" as used in the passage refers to:

- (A) Rise of communism in Eastern Europe
- (B) Spread of democracy and market-oriented economies
- (C) Decline of authoritarian regimes in the 1960s
- (D) Global civil rights movements

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

Solution:

Step 1: The question asks for the meaning of the term "third wave of democratization," which has been garbled by the OCR.

Step 2: The passage introduces the term by describing the preceding political change: "...democracies and market-oriented economies spreading in virtually every part of the world..."

Step 3: It then says, "This transformation was Samuel Huntington's third wave of democratization".

Step 4: Therefore, the term directly refers to the widespread global shift towards democracy and market-based economies that occurred in the late 20th century.

Step 5: Option (B) is a perfect summary of this transformation as described in the passage.

 Quick Tip

Even if a key term in a question is garbled due to a scanning error, you can often deduce the original term from the context in the passage. The passage clearly defines what the "transformation" was before naming it.

110. 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: The question asks to identify the factor that was NOT mentioned in a specific list within the passage.

Step 2: The third paragraph lists the factors that drove social mobilization.

Step 3: The list includes: "greatly expanded access to education," "information technology," "cheap travel and communications," and "greater prosperity."

Step 4: We must check the options against this list.

Step 5: Option (A), (B), and (D) are all explicitly mentioned in the passage.

Step 6: Option (C), "Heightened global military presence," is not mentioned in this list of factors.

 Quick Tip

For "NOT mentioned" or "EXCEPT" questions, use a process of elimination. Go through the options one by one and find the sentence in the passage that supports it. The option that you cannot find support for is the correct answer.

111. According to the passage, when was the first time that freedom had declined around the world?

- (A) 1973
- (B) 1990

(C) 2006

(D) 2009

Correct Answer: (D) 2009

Solution:

Step 1: The question asks for the year when, according to the passage, a specific event occurred for the first time.

Step 2: The final sentence of the passage provides this information.

Step 3: It reads: "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 4: The question is slightly ambiguous. Does it ask for the start of the decline (2006) or the year it was noted as a first-time consecutive trend (2009)? The options contain both 2006 and 2009. However, the passage says "2009 marked the fourth consecutive year... the first time this had happened." This phrasing points to 2009 as the landmark year when the multi-year trend was confirmed as a first. Given the answer key, 2009 is the intended answer, focusing on the year of the report/observation of the milestone. If 2009 is the 4th year, the decline started in 2006. The question "when was the first time that freedom had declined" would be 2006. The question seems flawed. Let's re-read: "...the first time *this* had happened...". "This" refers to the phenomenon of consecutive years of decline. The first time this phenomenon was noted was after the data for 2009 came in, confirming four years of decline. So, 2009 is the correct interpretation.

💡 Quick Tip

Pay close attention to anaphora (pronouns like 'this', 'that', 'it'). To understand what 'this' refers to in "...the first time this had happened," you must look at the preceding clause: "the fourth consecutive year in which freedom had declined." 'This' refers to the multi-year decline.

Passage 20

XX. 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)

112. 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: The question asks about the theme highlighted by the initial impression of the man.

Step 2: The passage describes the initial impression: ”At first, judging from his dress and bearing, we mistook him for an up-country boorish man.”

Step 3: It then describes the change in impression: ”But as soon as he began to speak, our impression changed.” He turned out to be incredibly knowledgeable and well-spoken.

Step 4: This contrast between his outward appearance (boorish) and his actual intellect and character (erudite) is a classic example of appearances being deceptive.

Step 5: Therefore, the theme most strongly highlighted is the deceptive nature of appearances.

 Quick Tip

Look for moments of contrast or change in a narrative. A character's initial impression changing upon further interaction is a common literary device used to explore the theme of appearance versus reality.

113. 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: We need to identify the literary device in the given quote.

Step 2: The line says the man spoke with such confidence that it seemed as if God ("the Disposer of All Things") consulted him on every decision.

Step 3: This is a deliberate and extreme exaggeration used for effect. The narrator does not literally believe God consults this man.

Step 4: A deliberate exaggeration for rhetorical effect is the definition of hyperbole.

Step 5: Therefore, the most evident literary device is hyperbole.

 Quick Tip

Hyperbole is a figure of speech involving exaggeration. When you see a statement that is clearly not meant to be taken literally and is an over-the-top description, it's likely a hyperbole (e.g., "I'm so hungry I could eat a horse").

114. The word "theosophist" means:

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

Correct Answer: (B) Mystic

Solution:

Step 1: The question asks for the meaning of "theosophist."

Step 2: The passage provides context clues. The kinsman, a theosophist, "became convinced that our fellow passenger was inspired by some strange magnetism, occult power, or astral body."

Step 3: These beliefs in occult powers and non-physical forces are characteristic of mysticism.

Step 4: Theosophy itself is a system of esoteric philosophy that seeks direct knowledge of the mysteries of being and nature, often through mystical experience or intuition. A follower is a theosophist.

Step 5: Among the given options, "Mystic" is the closest synonym for someone who believes in such concepts. The other options are opposites (Skeptic, Materialist) or related but different (Agnostic).

 Quick Tip

Use context clues to define words. The description of what the theosophist kinsman believed ("occult power, astral body") points directly to the meaning of the word.

115. The word "boorish" means:

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

Correct Answer: (A) Discourteous

Solution:

Step 1: The question asks for the meaning of the word "boorish."

Step 2: The narrator initially mistook the man for an "up-country boorish man" based on his dress and bearing.

Step 3: The word "boorish" means rough, ill-mannered, and insensitive. It describes someone who lacks social refinement.

Step 4: Of the options provided, "Discourteous" is the best synonym.

Step 5: Options (B), (C), and (D) are all antonyms, meaning polite, refined, and well-mannered.

 Quick Tip

Vocabulary questions often include both a correct synonym and several direct antonyms. If you can identify the general positive or negative connotation of the word, you can often eliminate several incorrect choices immediately. "Boorish" has a negative connotation.

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

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

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

Solution:

Step 1: The question asks us to interpret the phrase "quietly pleased" in the context of the story.

Step 2: The kinsman is listening with "devotional rapture" and secretly taking notes. The narrator suspects the man notices this admiration.

Step 3: The narrator's suspicion that the man was "quietly pleased" implies that the man enjoyed the admiration and the effect he was having on his listeners.

Step 4: This suggests he gained a sense of satisfaction from being seen as knowledgeable and impressive.

Step 5: Option (D) perfectly captures this idea. The other options (humble, indifferent) are contrary to the feeling of being "pleased" by the attention.

 Quick Tip

Analyze the character's motivations. Why would someone be "quietly pleased" by others' admiration? It suggests a degree of vanity or at least satisfaction in their own ability to influence and impress, which is a common human trait.

Passage 21

XXI. 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)

117. 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: To determine the tone, we must analyze the language, imagery, and emotional content of the passage.

Step 2: The passage uses strong, negative, and emotional language: "consumes without producing," "bare minimum to keep us from starving," "enemies," "cruel knife," "scream your lives out."

Step 3: The speaker is clearly critical of "Man," accusing him of exploitation. The mood is dark and serious, hence "somber."

Step 4: There is a clear sense of injustice and anger, which can be described as "resentful" and designed to evoke "outrage" in the listeners.

Step 5: Option (B) combines all these elements accurately. The tone is far from neutral (A), humorous (C), or celebratory (D).

 Quick Tip

The tone of a passage is the author's or speaker's attitude toward the subject. To identify it, look at the word choice (diction). Words with strong positive or negative connotations are the biggest clues to the underlying emotion.

118. 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: The question asks to classify the literary technique used. The passage is a famous excerpt from George Orwell's *Animal Farm*.

Step 2: In the speech, the animals (the workers) produce everything (milk, eggs, labor), while Man (the owner/ruling class) consumes the products without working.

Step 3: This entire scenario is a symbolic representation of a political or social issue. The animals represent the proletariat or the working class, and Man represents the bourgeoisie, capitalists, or the ruling elite who exploit their labor.

Step 4: A story or speech where characters and events represent abstract ideas or historical situations is called an allegory. This specific allegory is about class exploitation.

Step 5: Therefore, option (A) is the most accurate classification.

 Quick Tip

An allegory is a story with two levels of meaning: a literal one and a symbolic one. If you recognize that the characters (animals) and their situation (exploitation by humans) stand for something else (workers and capitalists), you have identified an allegory.

119. Who is a "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: The passage warns the horse, Boxer, that when his muscles fail, "Jones will sell you to the knacker, who will slit your throat and boil you down for the foxhounds."

Step 2: This description gives clues to the knacker's profession. He doesn't just slaughter animals for meat (A). He disposes of an old, useless animal.

Step 3: The phrase "boil you down for the foxhounds" indicates that the horse's body will be processed for products not meant for human consumption (e.g., glue, animal feed).

Step 4: A "knacker" is a person in this specific trade. Option (C) provides the most precise and complete definition, including the crucial detail that the flesh is often not for human consumption, which distinguishes a knacker from a regular butcher.

💡 Quick Tip

For vocabulary questions, the most precise and detailed definition is often the correct one. While a knacker is a type of slaughterer (A), option (C) gives a much more specific and accurate description of their particular trade.

120. 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: The question asks for the primary purpose of mentioning the violent ends of the animals.

Step 2: The speaker details these fates: pigs will "scream your lives out at the block," Boxer will be sold to the "knacker, who will slit your throat," and old dogs are "drowned in the nearest pond."

Step 3: These are powerful, graphic, and emotionally charged images. They are not neutral descriptions of farm management (A).

Step 4: The purpose of using such strong imagery is to shock the audience (the other animals) and stir their emotions. The speaker wants to make them feel anger, fear, and outrage at their condition.

Step 5: This emotional appeal is designed to highlight the ultimate cruelty and brutality of their exploitation, showing that their lives are worthless to their masters beyond their utility. This perfectly matches option (B).

 Quick Tip

When analyzing a persuasive speech, consider the speaker's goal. Here, the speaker wants to incite a rebellion. To do this, they use pathos (appeal to emotion) by painting a grim and brutal picture of the animals' future to provoke an emotional reaction.