

CUET PG 2026 General Management Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :1 Hour 30 Minutes

Maximum Marks :300

Total Questions :75

General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.
- You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes
- This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.
- The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers,
- The paper has four Sections.
- Section A is compulsory - All questions in Section A must be answered.
- You must attempt one question from each of the Sections B, C and D and one other question from any Section of your choice.

1. Which function of management is known as the "essence of management" because it binds all other functions?

- (A) Planning
- (B) Organizing
- (C) Directing
- (D) Controlling

Correct Answer: (A) Planning

Solution:

In management studies, **Coordination** is universally regarded as the "essence of management." It is the process of synchronizing the activities of different departments and individuals to achieve organizational goals. While Coordination is not a separate function, it is a thread that runs through all management functions (Planning, Organizing, Staffing, Directing, and Controlling).

The question asks which **function** is known as the essence. This can be ambiguous as none of the functions alone is the essence. However, we must choose the best fit.

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the management function that is considered the most fundamental for binding or integrating all other managerial activities.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's analyze the options in the context of "binding" other functions:

- **(A) Planning:** This is the primary function of management. It involves setting objectives and determining the course of action to achieve them. All other functions are performed within the framework of the plans. By establishing a common goal and direction, planning provides the foundation that binds all subsequent activities and decisions.
- **(B) Organizing:** This function creates the structure and allocates resources, but it follows the plan.
- **(C) Directing:** This function guides and motivates employees, which integrates human efforts, but it is also based on the established plans and organizational structure.
- **(D) Controlling:** This function ensures that activities conform to plans. It connects the end results back to the initial plan, but it is a follow-up action.

Since Planning is the foundational function upon which all others depend and are directed, it serves as the primary binding force by setting a unified purpose.

Step 3: Final Answer:

While Coordination is the true essence, among the given functional options, Planning is the most appropriate choice as it is the primary function that provides the basis for all other functions.

💡 Quick Tip

Remember the management hierarchy of functions: **Planning → Organizing → Staffing → Directing → Controlling.**

Coordination is considered the "Essence of Management" because it is required at every step and in every function.

If Coordination is not an option, consider **Planning** as the primary function that lays the groundwork and provides a common direction for all other functions, thereby binding them.

2. Arrange the following in the correct sequence of the management process: Staffing, Planning, Organizing, Controlling, Directing.

- (A) Planning → Organizing → Staffing → Directing → Controlling
- (B) Planning → Staffing → Organizing → Directing → Controlling
- (C) Organizing → Planning → Staffing → Directing → Controlling
- (D) Planning → Organizing → Directing → Staffing → Controlling

Correct Answer: (A) Planning → Organizing → Staffing → Directing → Controlling

Solution:

The management process consists of a series of interrelated functions that are performed in a logical sequence to achieve organizational goals. This sequence is often remembered by the acronym POSDC.

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question requires arranging the five fundamental functions of management in their correct logical order.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The standard sequence of the management process is as follows:

1. **Planning (P):** The first step where goals are set and a course of action is decided.
2. **Organizing (O):** After planning, resources are arranged and a structure of roles and responsibilities is created to carry out the plan.
3. **Staffing (S):** This involves recruiting, selecting, and placing the right people in the roles created during the organizing phase.
4. **Directing (D):** Once the team is in place, management must lead, motivate, and communicate with them to perform their tasks effectively.
5. **Controlling (C):** The final step involves monitoring performance, comparing it with the set standards (from the planning phase), and taking corrective actions.

This sequence **P → O → S → D → C** matches option (A).

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct sequence is Planning → Organizing → Staffing → Directing → Controlling.

💡 Quick Tip

A useful mnemonic to remember the sequence of management functions is **POSDC**:

- **P** - Planning
- **O** - Organizing
- **S** - Staffing
- **D** - Directing
- **C** - Controlling

This sequence represents the logical flow of managerial activities.

3. According to the scalar principle, what term describes a superior exercising direct supervision over a subordinate?

- (A) Authority
- (B) Responsibility
- (C) Span of Control
- (D) Unity of Command

Correct Answer: (D) Unity of Command

Solution:

The scalar principle, also known as the chain of command, states that there should be a clear and unbroken line of authority from the top to the bottom of an organization. Several other principles are derived from this.

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the specific term related to the scalar principle that describes the relationship of direct supervision between a single superior and a subordinate.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's analyze the options:

- **(A) Authority:** This is the right of a superior to give orders to a subordinate. While supervision involves authority, it is a broader concept.
- **(B) Responsibility:** This is the obligation of a subordinate to perform the assigned duty.
- **(C) Span of Control:** This refers to the number of subordinates a manager can effectively supervise. It's about quantity, not the nature of the supervisory relationship.

- **(D) Unity of Command:** This principle states that every subordinate should receive orders from and be accountable to only one superior. This directly describes the ideal structure of "a superior exercising direct supervision over a subordinate" in a clear, unambiguous line. It avoids confusion and conflicting instructions.

The phrase "a superior exercising direct supervision" points to a clear, one-to-one reporting relationship, which is the core idea of the Unity of Command principle.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The term that best describes this aspect of the scalar principle is Unity of Command.

💡 Quick Tip

Remember these key principles by Fayol:

- **Scalar Chain:** The line of authority from top to bottom.
- **Unity of Command:** One subordinate should have only one boss.
- **Unity of Direction:** One head and one plan for a group of activities having the same objective.
- **Span of Control:** The number of subordinates a manager can effectively manage.

4. What is the primary characteristic of "Management as an Art" according to Henry Mintzberg?

- (A) Application of theoretical knowledge only
- (B) Reliance on creativity, experience, and practical skills
- (C) Strict adherence to scientific rules and formulas
- (D) Complete dependence on automated systems

Correct Answer: (B) Reliance on creativity, experience, and practical skills

Solution:

The debate of whether management is a science, an art, or both is a classic one. Henry Mintzberg, a prominent management theorist, is a strong advocate for viewing management as a "craft" or an art, which goes beyond pure scientific analysis.

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the main feature of "Management as an Art," particularly from the perspective of Henry Mintzberg.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Management is considered an art because it involves the application of skills and knowledge in a personalized and creative way to achieve desired results.

- **(A) Application of theoretical knowledge only:** This is incomplete. Art is about *applying* knowledge, not just having it.
- **(B) Reliance on creativity, experience, and practical skills:** This is the essence of art. An artist (and a manager) uses their intuition, experience, and creativity to handle unique situations. Mintzberg argued that managers often work in chaotic environments and must rely on judgment and craft, not just formal analysis.
- **(C) Strict adherence to scientific rules and formulas:** This describes "Management as a Science," not an art.
- **(D) Complete dependence on automated systems:** This relates to technology, not the human-centric skills associated with art.

Therefore, the characteristic that best defines management as an art is the use of creativity, practical skills, and experience.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The primary characteristic is the reliance on creativity, experience, and practical skills.

Quick Tip

Think of the distinction this way:

- **Management as Science:** Provides universal principles and theories (the "knowing").
- **Management as Art:** Involves the skillful and creative application of these principles to real-world situations (the "doing").

A successful manager needs both: the knowledge of the science and the skill of the art.

5. In Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, which need is situated directly above 'Safety Needs'?

- (A) Physiological Needs
- (B) Social Needs (Love and Belongingness)
- (C) Esteem Needs
- (D) Self-Actualization Needs

Correct Answer: (B) Social Needs (Love and Belongingness)

Solution:

Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs is a motivational theory in psychology comprising a five-tier model of human needs, often depicted as a pyramid. Needs lower down in the hierarchy must be satisfied before individuals can attend to needs higher up.

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the level of need that comes immediately after 'Safety Needs' in Maslow's hierarchy.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The five levels of Maslow's hierarchy, from the bottom (most basic) to the top, are:

1. **Physiological Needs:** Basic survival needs like air, water, food, shelter, sleep.
2. **Safety Needs:** Security, order, law, stability, freedom from fear.
3. **Social Needs (Love and Belongingness):** Friendship, intimacy, family, sense of connection.
4. **Esteem Needs:** Self-esteem, achievement, mastery, independence, status, respect from others.
5. **Self-Actualization Needs:** Realizing personal potential, self-fulfillment, seeking personal growth.

Based on this order, the need situated directly above 'Safety Needs' is 'Social Needs'.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The need directly above 'Safety Needs' is Social Needs (Love and Belongingness).

💡 Quick Tip

Remember the order of Maslow's Hierarchy from bottom to top:

P → **S** → **S** → **E** → **S**

- **P**hysiological
- **S**afety
- **S**ocial
- **E**steem
- **S**elf-Actualization

This simple acronym can help you recall the correct sequence in exams.

6. Disbursing organizational authority for decision-making throughout an organized structure is called what?

- (A) Centralization
- (B) Decentralization
- (C) Delegation
- (D) Coordination

Correct Answer: (B) Decentralization

Solution:

The distribution of authority is a key aspect of organizational design. It determines where in the structure decisions are made.

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the term that describes the systematic dispersal or distribution of decision-making authority to lower levels of an organization.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's define the options:

- **(A) Centralization:** This is the concentration of decision-making authority at the top level of management.
- **(B) Decentralization:** This is the systematic delegation of authority at all levels of management and throughout the organization. Decision-making is pushed down to the managers who are closest to the action. This matches the question's description.

- **(C) Delegation:** This is the process of a manager assigning authority to a subordinate for a specific task. Decentralization is a broader concept that results from a policy of widespread delegation.
- **(D) Coordination:** This is the process of integrating activities to achieve common goals.

The term for disbursing authority throughout the entire structure is Decentralization.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct term is Decentralization.

💡 Quick Tip

Differentiate between Delegation and Decentralization:

- **Delegation** is a process between a superior and a subordinate (one-to-one). It is a necessary act in all organizations.
- **Decentralization** is a policy decision that applies to the entire organization (organization-wide). It is an optional policy.

Essentially, decentralization is the result of systematic delegation of authority.

7. A manager who interprets and communicates board policies to personnel is working at which level of management?

- (A) Top-level management
- (B) Middle-level management
- (C) Lower-level management
- (D) Supervisory level

Correct Answer: (B) Middle-level management

Solution:

Organizations typically have a hierarchy of management levels, each with distinct roles and responsibilities. These levels are generally classified as top, middle, and lower (or supervisory) management.

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question describes a manager's role as interpreting policies set by higher authorities (the board) and communicating them to lower-level employees. We need to identify which management level performs this function.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's break down the roles of each level:

- **(A) Top-level management (e.g., CEO, Board of Directors):** They are responsible for setting the overall organizational goals, strategies, and policies.
- **(B) Middle-level management (e.g., Departmental Managers, Branch Managers):** They act as a crucial link between top-level and lower-level management. Their primary role is to interpret the policies and plans formulated by top management and ensure their implementation at the lower levels. This perfectly matches the role described in the question.
- **(C) Lower-level management / (D) Supervisory level (e.g., Supervisors, Foremen):** They are responsible for the direct oversight of non-managerial employees (the workforce). Their focus is on execution and day-to-day operations.

The function of interpreting and communicating policies is the defining characteristic of middle-level management.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The manager is working at the middle-level of management.

💡 Quick Tip

Think of the management levels as a communication chain:

- **Top Level:** Creates the message (Strategy & Policy).
- **Middle Level:** Translates and transmits the message (Interprets policy for departments).
- **Lower Level:** Delivers the message and ensures action (Assigns tasks to workers).

Middle managers are the essential link in this chain.

8. What is "Planned Obsolescence" in the context of marketing and product management?

- (A) Designing products to last indefinitely without replacement
- (B) Intentionally designing products with a limited useful life so they need replacement
- (C) Producing goods only after receiving customer orders
- (D) Eliminating outdated products from the market immediately

Correct Answer: (B) Intentionally designing products with a limited useful life so they need replacement

Solution:

Planned obsolescence is a business and marketing strategy related to the product life cycle. It has significant economic and ethical implications.

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the definition of the term "Planned Obsolescence."

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's analyze the options:

- **(A) Designing products to last indefinitely:** This is the opposite of planned obsolescence; this would be called planned durability.
- **(B) Intentionally designing products with a limited useful life:** This is the precise definition of planned obsolescence. Companies do this to encourage consumers to buy new versions of the product sooner than they otherwise would. This can be achieved by using lower-quality components, not making spare parts available, or frequently changing designs to make older versions seem out of style (psychological obsolescence).
- **(C) Producing goods only after receiving customer orders:** This is a production strategy known as "make-to-order" or "just-in-time" manufacturing.
- **(D) Eliminating outdated products from the market immediately:** This is part of product life cycle management but is not the definition of planned obsolescence itself.

The core idea of planned obsolescence is the deliberate shortening of a product's lifespan.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct definition is intentionally designing products with a limited useful life so they need replacement.

💡 Quick Tip

Examples of Planned Obsolescence:

- **Smartphones:** New models with slightly better features are released annually, making older ones seem outdated. Software updates may slow down older devices.
- **Fast Fashion:** Clothing trends change very quickly, encouraging frequent purchases.
- **Inkjet Printers:** Often, the cost of a new ink cartridge is almost as high as a new printer, encouraging replacement.

9. If a company targets 1,000 units but achieves them at double the cost due to inefficiencies, is the manager 'Effective' or 'Efficient'?

- (A) Both Effective and Efficient
- (B) Efficient but not Effective
- (C) Effective but not Efficient
- (D) Neither Effective nor Efficient

Correct Answer: (C) Effective but not Efficient

Solution:

In management, effectiveness and efficiency are two critical measures of performance. While related, they refer to different aspects of achieving goals.

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

We are given a scenario where a goal was achieved, but with a very high cost. We need to analyze this performance in terms of effectiveness and efficiency.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's define the two terms:

- **Effectiveness:** Refers to completing the task or achieving the goal. It is concerned with the end result. In this case, the target of 1,000 units was achieved. Therefore, the manager was **effective**.
- **Efficiency:** Refers to performing the task correctly and with minimum cost and resources. It is concerned with the means of achieving the result (cost-benefit ratio). In this case, the goal was achieved at double the cost, indicating a waste of resources. Therefore, the manager was **not efficient**.

Combining these two analyses, the manager was effective (achieved the goal) but not efficient (wasted resources).

Step 3: Final Answer:

The manager is Effective but not Efficient.

💡 Quick Tip

A simple way to remember the difference:

- **Effectiveness** = Doing the **Right Things** (achieving the goal).
- **Efficiency** = Doing **Things Right** (using the least resources).

The ideal manager is both effective and efficient. However, in many situations, one can exist without the other.

10. Which Indian portal serves as an e-commerce platform for Government-to-Business (G2B) procurement?

- (A) SWAYAM
- (B) Government e-Marketplace (GeM)
- (C) DIKSHA
- (D) e-NAM

Correct Answer: (B) Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

Solution:

The Government of India has launched several digital platforms to enhance transparency and efficiency in various sectors. This question focuses on the platform for public procurement.

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the specific Indian e-commerce portal used by government departments and organizations to purchase goods and services from businesses. This is a Government-to-Business (G2B) interaction.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's analyze the purpose of each portal listed:

- **(A) SWAYAM:** An educational platform providing Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).
- **(B) Government e-Marketplace (GeM):** This is the national public procurement portal of India. It is an online platform for public sector undertakings, government departments, and other organizations to procure common use goods and services in a transparent and efficient manner. Businesses can register as sellers on this platform. This fits the G2B

procurement description perfectly.

- **(C) DIKSHA:** A national digital platform for teachers, providing e-content and training resources.
- **(D) e-NAM (National Agriculture Market):** An online trading platform for agricultural commodities in India.

Based on the functions, GeM is the correct answer.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The portal that serves as a G2B e-commerce platform for procurement is the Government e-Marketplace (GeM).

💡 Quick Tip

Remember these key Government of India portals:

- **GeM:** For Government Marketplace / Procurement.
- **SWAYAM & DIKSHA:** For Education and Learning.
- **e-NAM:** For National Agriculture Market.

Matching the acronyms to the core function can help in quick recall.

11. Identify the odd one out among these management roles: CEO, Vice President, Production Manager, Managing Director.

- (A) CEO
- (B) Vice President
- (C) Production Manager
- (D) Managing Director

Correct Answer: (C) Production Manager

Solution:

This question requires classifying managerial roles based on their level in the organizational hierarchy.

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The task is to find the managerial position that does not belong in the same category as the others. The basis for categorization is the level of management.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's classify each role:

- **CEO (Chief Executive Officer):** This is typically the highest-ranking executive in a company. It is a **Top-level management** position.
- **Vice President (VP):** A high-level executive who reports to the CEO or President. This is also a **Top-level management** position.
- **Production Manager:** This manager is responsible for a specific department or function (production). They report to top-level management and supervise lower-level managers. This is a classic **Middle-level management** position.
- **Managing Director (MD):** Often similar to the CEO, the MD is responsible for the overall performance of the company. This is a **Top-level management** position.

The roles of CEO, Vice President, and Managing Director are all at the top level of the management hierarchy. The Production Manager is at the middle level.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Production Manager is the odd one out as it is a middle-level management role, while the others are top-level roles.

💡 Quick Tip

To solve "odd one out" questions, first identify the common characteristic shared by most of the options.

Here, the common characteristic is the **Level of Management**.

- **Top Level:** CEO, MD, President, VP, Chairman. (Focus on strategy).
- **Middle Level:** Departmental Managers (Production, Marketing, Finance), Branch Managers. (Focus on implementation).
- **Lower Level:** Supervisors, Foremen. (Focus on execution).

12. If 'COMMUNICATION' is coded as 'NOITACINUMMOC', how would 'MANAGEMENT' be coded?

- (A) TNEMEGANAM
- (B) TNEGANAMEM
- (C) TNEMAGANAM
- (D) TNEMEGANMA

Correct Answer: (A) TNEMEGANAM

Solution:

This is a simple letter coding problem where the logic lies in rearranging the letters of the original word.

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

We need to decipher the coding pattern from the given example (COMMUNICATION → NOITACINUMMOC) and apply the same pattern to the word 'MANAGEMENT'.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

Let's analyze the example:

Original Word: C-O-M-M-U-N-I-C-A-T-I-O-N

Coded Word: N-O-I-T-A-C-I-N-U-M-M-O-C

By comparing the two, we can see that the coded word is simply the original word written in reverse order.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

Now, we apply this "reversal" logic to the word 'MANAGEMENT'.

Original Word: M-A-N-A-G-E-M-E-N-T

Writing it in reverse order:

T-N-E-M-E-G-A-N-A-M

So, the coded word is **TNEMEGANAM**.

Let's check the options:

(A) TNEMEGANAM - This matches our result.

(B), (C), (D) - These are incorrect rearrangements.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The coded form of 'MANAGEMENT' is TNEMEGANAM.

 Quick Tip

For coding-decoding questions based on letter arrangement, always check for these common patterns first:

- **Complete Reversal:** The entire word is written backward.
- **Half Reversal:** The word is split into two halves, and each half is reversed.
- **Pair Reversal:** Letters are swapped in pairs (e.g., AB CD EF becomes BA DC FE).
- **Alphabetical Order:** The letters are rearranged alphabetically.

13. A man invests Rs10,000 at 10% compound interest compounded annually; what is the total amount after 2 years?

- (A) Rs12,000
- (B) Rs12,100
- (C) Rs11,000
- (D) Rs12,200

Correct Answer: (B) Rs12,100

Solution:

This problem requires the calculation of the final amount on an investment using the formula for compound interest.

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

We need to find the total amount (Principal + Interest) after 2 years for a principal of Rs10,000 at a 10% annual compound interest rate.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

The formula for the amount (A) in compound interest is:

$$A = P \left(1 + \frac{r}{n}\right)^{nt}$$

Where:

P = Principal amount (Rs10,000)

r = Annual interest rate (10% or 0.10)

n = Number of times interest is compounded per year (annually, so n=1)

t = Number of years (2)

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

Substitute the given values into the formula:

$$A = 10000 \left(1 + \frac{0.10}{1}\right)^{1 \times 2}$$

$$A = 10000(1 + 0.10)^2$$

$$A = 10000(1.1)^2$$

$$A = 10000 \times 1.21$$

$$A = 12100$$

The total amount after 2 years will be Rs12,100.

Alternatively, we can calculate year by year:

- **Interest for Year 1:** 10% of Rs10,000 = Rs1,000.

Amount at the end of Year 1 = Rs10,000 + Rs1,000 = Rs11,000.

- **Interest for Year 2:** 10% of Rs11,000 = Rs1,100.
Amount at the end of Year 2 = Rs11,000 + Rs1,100 = Rs12,100.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The total amount after 2 years is Rs12,100.

💡 Quick Tip

For simple numbers and short time periods (like 2 or 3 years), calculating year-by-year can sometimes be faster and less error-prone than using the full formula.

Year 1: $P + (P \times r) = \text{New Principal}$

Year 2: $\text{New Principal} + (\text{New Principal} \times r) = \text{Final Amount}$

For 10% interest, you can quickly calculate:

$10,000 \rightarrow (+1,000) \rightarrow 11,000 \rightarrow (+1,100) \rightarrow 12,100.$

14. In a bar graph representing sales data, what does the height of the rectangular bars typically represent?

- (A) The time period of sales
- (B) The number of products displayed
- (C) The magnitude or value of the sales data
- (D) The color coding of the graph

Correct Answer: (C) The magnitude or value of the sales data

Solution:

A bar graph (or bar chart) is a common tool for data visualization used to represent categorical data with rectangular bars.

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks about the meaning of the height of the bars in a bar graph, specifically when it is used to represent sales data.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In a standard vertical bar graph:

- The **horizontal axis (x-axis)** typically represents the categories being compared (e.g., months, years, products, regions).
- The **vertical axis (y-axis)** represents a numerical value or frequency.

- The **height of each rectangular bar** is proportional to the value it represents.

When representing sales data, the categories on the x-axis might be 'Months' (Jan, Feb, Mar) and the height of the bar for each month would represent the **magnitude of sales** (e.g., in rupees or number of units sold) for that month.

Analyzing the options:

- (A) The time period is usually a category on one of the axes, not what the height represents.
- (B) The number of products would be a category, not a value represented by height.
- (C) This is correct. The height of the bar directly corresponds to the quantity or value of the data.
- (D) Color coding is used to differentiate categories, not to represent value.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The height of the bars represents the magnitude or value of the sales data.

💡 Quick Tip

Key elements of a Bar Graph:

- **X-axis:** Categories (What you are comparing).
- **Y-axis:** Values (The measurement scale).
- **Bar Height/Length:** The magnitude of the value for each category.
- **Title & Labels:** Explain what the graph is about.

The taller the bar, the larger the value.

15. Which fundamental right in the Indian Constitution was amended to include the 'Right to Education'?

- (A) Article 14
- (B) Article 19
- (C) Article 21
- (D) Article 32

Correct Answer: (C) Article 21

Solution:

The 'Right to Education' was made a fundamental right through a constitutional amendment. It is crucial to understand how and where this right was incorporated into the Constitution.

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks which existing fundamental right was conceptually and structurally amended to formally include the 'Right to Education'.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The **86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002** was a landmark amendment for education in India. It did the following:

- It inserted a new article, **Article 21A**, into the Constitution. This article explicitly states: "The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years..."

While a new article (21A) was added, its placement is significant. It was placed immediately after **Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty)**. This was done because the Supreme Court of India, in earlier judgments (like the Unni Krishnan case, 1993), had interpreted the Right to Education as an integral and inseparable part of the Right to Life. The court held that the right to life would be meaningless without the right to education. The 86th Amendment gave this judicial interpretation a formal constitutional status. Therefore, the Right to Education is an expansion and explicit articulation of the Right to Life under Article 21.

Let's look at the other options:

- **Article 14:** Right to Equality.
- **Article 19:** Right to Freedom (of speech, etc.).
- **Article 32:** Right to Constitutional Remedies.

The amendment is structurally and philosophically linked to Article 21.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The 'Right to Education' was included as an extension of the fundamental right guaranteed under Article 21.

💡 Quick Tip

Remember the connection:

- **Article 21:** Right to Life and Personal Liberty.
- **Supreme Court Interpretation:** Right to Life includes the Right to Education.
- **86th Amendment (2002):** Added **Article 21A** to make this explicit.

So, the root of the Right to Education as a fundamental right lies in Article 21.