

CLAT Current Affairs & GK

Sample Paper – 5

Duration: 30 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 30

Instructions

- This paper contains **30** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer), modelled on the Current Affairs including General Knowledge section of **CLAT** (Common Law Admission Test).
- Each correct answer carries **+1 mark**. There is a **negative marking of 0.25 marks** for every incorrect answer; unattempted questions carry no penalty.
- The paper has **six passages**, each followed by four to six questions. Only **one** option is correct; base your answer on the passage together with the general knowledge it draws upon.
- CLAT is an offline pen-and-paper (OMR) test with no sectional time limit; attempt this practice paper in one timed sitting of about **30 minutes**.
- Use of mobile phones, calculators, dictionaries, or electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited.

Passage I

Directions (Q1–Q6): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Base your answers on the passage and on the general knowledge it refers to.

For most of independent India's history, a trader who moved goods from one state to another had to reckon with a bewildering thicket of levies. Each state charged its own sales tax, the centre added excise and service duties, and check-posts at state borders held up trucks for hours while officials calculated what was owed. The reform that finally swept much of this away merged a long list of central and state indirect taxes into a single levy applied at each stage of value addition, with credit allowed for tax already paid earlier in the chain. Supporters hailed it as the nearest thing the country had to a common national market.

What makes the arrangement unusual is not the tax itself but the body that governs



it. Because both the union and the states had surrendered powers they had guarded jealously since 1950, neither could be allowed to dictate to the other. So a joint forum was created in which the union finance minister sits alongside the finance ministers of every state, and rates, exemptions, and rules are decided together rather than imposed from above. Its recommendations are reached, in practice, by wide consensus, and the design is often held up as a working example of what commentators call cooperative federalism.

The bargain was not costless for the states. By folding their own taxes into the shared pool, they gave up a measure of the fiscal freedom that had let them woo investment or cushion a downturn on their own terms. To ease the loss, the centre promised to make good any shortfall in their revenue for a fixed transition period, a guarantee that became a source of friction when collections dipped and payments fell behind. Debates over who should bear such gaps, and how the shared revenue ought to be divided, have kept centre-state financial relations tense even as the system settled in.

For all the wrangling, the reform changed the texture of doing business. Border check-posts largely vanished, trucks moved faster, and a small shop in one state could now buy from a factory in another without decoding a fresh set of rules. Whether the promise of a truly seamless market is fully kept, economists still argue; that the attempt reshaped how the union and the states share the power to tax, few dispute.

Q1. Which of the following best captures the central idea of the passage?

- (A) The reform abolished all taxes in India and left the states with no revenue at all.
- (B) A single national tax merged many central and state levies and reshaped how the union and states share the power to tax, though tensions remain.
- (C) Border check-posts were the only feature of India's tax system that ever mattered.
- (D) The states alone designed and now fully control the new tax without any role for the centre.

Q2. The “joint forum” described in the passage, in which the union finance minister sits with the finance ministers of the states to decide rates and rules, is the:

- (A) Reserve Bank of India.
- (B) Union Public Service Commission.



- (C) Election Commission of India.
- (D) Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council.

Q3. The reform discussed in the passage, which merged a long list of central and state indirect taxes into a single levy on value addition, is popularly known as the:

- (A) Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- (B) Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT).
- (C) Securities Transaction Tax (STT).
- (D) Tax Deducted at Source (TDS).

Q4. As used in the second paragraph, the phrase “cooperative federalism” most nearly refers to a system in which:

- (A) the states are abolished and replaced by a single central government.
- (B) the centre issues orders that the states must obey without discussion.
- (C) the centre and the states work together and take decisions jointly rather than one dictating to the other.
- (D) each state acts entirely on its own with no coordination of any kind.

Q5. According to the passage, the states found the new arrangement costly mainly because they:

- (A) were forced to raise their own separate border check-posts once again.
- (B) gave up a measure of fiscal freedom by folding their own taxes into a shared pool.
- (C) were required to collect the entire tax on behalf of the centre alone.
- (D) lost the power to hold elections to their state legislatures.

Q6. The author’s overall attitude toward the reform is best described as:

- (A) completely dismissive, treating it as a total failure.



- (B) indifferent, showing no interest in its effects at all.
- (C) convinced that it caused only harm and no benefit whatsoever.
- (D) recognising real gains for business while acknowledging genuine centre-state frictions.

Passage II

Directions (Q7–Q11): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Base your answers on the passage and on the general knowledge it refers to.

The word began as a piece of shorthand coined by an economist who bracketed together four large, fast-growing economies that seemed poised to reshape the balance of the world's wealth. What started as a catchy label for a report soon took on a life of its own. The four countries, spread across three continents, decided that if analysts were going to group them, they might as well meet and speak with one voice. A first summit was held, and within a couple of years a fifth nation from the southern tip of Africa was invited to join, giving the grouping members drawn from South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa alike.

What holds such different states together is less a shared culture than a shared frustration. Each felt that the institutions built after the Second World War, in which a handful of Western capitals still held the loudest voice, gave too little weight to economies that now accounted for a large share of global output and population. Rather than wait to be granted more influence, they resolved to build platforms of their own and to press, from the outside, for a fairer distribution of votes within the older bodies.

The most concrete fruit of that resolve was a bank. Established by the members to finance roads, power plants, and other infrastructure across developing nations, it was designed so that each founding member held an equal share and no single country could dominate its decisions. Headquartered in a major Chinese financial city, it was meant to sit alongside, and gently challenge, the older Western-led lenders that had long set the terms of development finance.

Critics point out that the members quarrel as often as they cooperate. Two of them share a long and sometimes tense border; their economies are rivals as much as partners, and their political systems could hardly be more different. Yet the grouping has endured, held together by the simple fact that a chair at a table one has built oneself is worth more than a polite seat at someone else's. Recent years have even seen the bloc weigh fresh applications for membership, a sign that, for all its internal strains, the pull of speaking together still outweighs the friction of doing so.

Q7. Which of the following best states the main idea of the passage?

- (A) The grouping was formed purely to celebrate a shared culture among its members.



- (B) The members have always agreed on everything and never quarrel among themselves.
- (C) A label for fast-growing economies became a real bloc that, despite internal strains, cooperates to seek greater weight in world affairs and built its own bank.
- (D) The grouping has already replaced every older Western-led financial institution.

Q8. The grouping described in the passage, whose members are drawn from South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa, is:

- (A) BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa).
- (B) the Group of Seven (G7).
- (C) the European Union (EU).
- (D) the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Q9. The bank set up by the members “to finance roads, power plants, and other infrastructure”, headquartered in a major Chinese financial city, is the:

- (A) International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- (B) New Development Bank (NDB).
- (C) Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- (D) Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

Q10. As used in the passage, the phrase “speak with one voice” most nearly means to:

- (A) literally use identical words in a single shared language.
- (B) remain silent at every international meeting.
- (C) allow one member to overrule all the others by force.
- (D) present a common position jointly rather than acting separately.



- Q11.** It can be inferred from the passage that the members stay together despite their quarrels because they:
- (A) value having a forum of their own that gives them greater collective influence.
 - (B) share a single government that commands all of them.
 - (C) have identical economies and political systems.
 - (D) have been ordered to cooperate by the older Western-led institutions.

Passage III

Directions (Q12–Q16): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Base your answers on the passage and on the general knowledge it refers to.

In a country of many tongues, honouring a writer is never a simple matter. A poem beloved by millions in one language may be unknown a few hundred kilometres away, where readers cherish an entirely different canon. India's literary awards have grown up around this challenge, and the most coveted of them tries to rise above the divisions of language by rewarding a lifetime of writing in any of the tongues the constitution recognises. Named after a Sanskrit word for knowledge, it is regarded as the highest literary honour a writer in the country can receive, and it is conferred by a cultural trust rather than by the government.

Alongside it stands the national academy of letters, a body set up in the years after independence to foster writing across the country's many languages. Its remit is broader than any single prize. It publishes translations that carry a story from one language into another, holds gatherings where poets and novelists meet, and gives its own annual awards in each of the languages it recognises, so that a fine book in a less widely spoken tongue is not overlooked simply because few outside its region can read it. Where the lifetime honour crowns a career, the academy's yearly prizes often catch a writer in mid-stride.

The two work in different registers but toward a common end. One is rare, weighty, and retrospective, arriving late as a kind of summing-up; the other is regular, plural, and quicker to notice a rising voice. Together they map a literature that no single reader could ever hold in full, and they insist, against the pull of the market, that a book's worth is not measured only by how many copies it sells or in which language it happens to be written.

Not everyone is satisfied. Some argue that translation still lags, so that a celebrated work in one language reaches others years late, if at all. Others note that the awards, for all their reach, cannot by themselves create readers where schools and libraries are thin. Yet the honours endure because they answer a stubborn hope: that in a land of so many literatures, excellence in any one of them deserves to be seen, named, and remembered



by all.

- Q12.** The passage is centrally concerned with:
- (A) the exact sum of prize money attached to each literary honour.
 - (B) a demand that all Indian literary awards be abolished at once.
 - (C) how India's major literary honours try to recognise excellence across many languages, and the debates around them.
 - (D) the private life of the writer who first won the highest honour.
- Q13.** The "highest literary honour", named after a Sanskrit word for knowledge and conferred by a cultural trust rather than the government, is the:
- (A) Bharat Ratna.
 - (B) Jnanpith Award.
 - (C) Dadasaheb Phalke Award.
 - (D) Arjuna Award.
- Q14.** The "national academy of letters" described in the passage, set up after independence to foster writing across India's languages and to give annual awards in each, is the:
- (A) Lalit Kala Akademi.
 - (B) Sangeet Natak Akademi.
 - (C) Indian Council of Cultural Relations.
 - (D) Sahitya Akademi.
- Q15.** As used in the third paragraph, the word "retrospective" most nearly means:
- (A) looking back over a career or past achievement.
 - (B) paid entirely in advance before any work is done.
 - (C) awarded only to the youngest possible writers.



(D) written in a single, officially chosen language.

Q16. It can be inferred that the passage describes the two honours as complementary because:

(A) both are given by the government for exactly the same reason.

(B) they compete directly and one must eventually replace the other.

(C) one crowns a whole lifetime of work while the other regularly notices rising writers across many languages.

(D) neither of them ever recognises writing in regional languages.

Passage IV

Directions (Q17–Q20): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Base your answers on the passage and on the general knowledge it refers to.

Once every four years, a continent that is home to more than half the world's people turns its attention to a single sporting festival. The gathering brings together athletes from dozens of national teams, from the wealthiest economies to some of the smallest island states, and for a fortnight the ordinary rivalries of politics are set aside for contests on the track, in the pool, and on the mat. The first edition, held in the Indian capital in the early 1950s, drew a modest field; the modern version rivals the world's largest sporting events in scale, spanning both familiar disciplines and sports rooted in the region's own traditions.

The festival is run by a body that brings together the national Olympic committees of the continent, and it is this council that chooses each host city and settles which sports will feature. That last decision matters more than it might seem. Because the programme can include games that are followed passionately in one part of the continent but scarcely known in another, the event becomes a showcase for pursuits that the global sporting calendar often ignores, from martial arts to board games played for high stakes of pride. For a host nation, the stakes reach well beyond sport. Staging the festival means building stadiums, housing thousands of athletes, and inviting the world's cameras, and governments often frame it as proof of a country's arrival on the international stage. The gleaming venues can leave a useful legacy of arenas and transport links; they can also, if the planning falters, leave costs that outlast the closing ceremony and stadiums that struggle to find a use.

For the athletes themselves, the festival carries a particular meaning. Many will never reach the global games that draw the whole planet, and for them a continental title is the summit of a career. A sprinter from a small nation who cannot outrun the very fastest in the world may still, on this stage, stand at the top of a podium before a home crowd.



That, in the end, is the quiet promise of the event: a arena wide enough that excellence, wherever it is born, has somewhere to be seen and celebrated.

- Q17.** Which of the following best states the main idea of the passage?
- (A) The festival is important only to the single country that happens to host it.
 - (B) A four-yearly continental sporting festival unites diverse nations, showcases regional sports, and offers athletes a summit many could not reach on the world stage.
 - (C) The event has been held only once and was never repeated.
 - (D) Only the wealthiest economies are allowed to send athletes to the festival.
- Q18.** According to the passage, the sporting festival is held once every:
- (A) year.
 - (B) two years.
 - (C) three years.
 - (D) four years.
- Q19.** As used in the passage, the word “legacy” (“a useful legacy of arenas and transport links”) most nearly means:
- (A) something lasting that is left behind for the future.
 - (B) a sum of prize money paid to winning athletes.
 - (C) a strict rule that all host cities must obey.
 - (D) an ancient religious ceremony held before the games.
- Q20.** It can be inferred that the passage highlights the continental festival’s programme of lesser-known sports in order to show that the event:
- (A) deliberately excludes all globally popular sports.
 - (B) is identical in every respect to the worldwide games.



- (C) gives a stage to pursuits that the global sporting calendar often overlooks.
- (D) cares only about martial arts and nothing else.

Passage V

Directions (Q21–Q25): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Base your answers on the passage and on the general knowledge it refers to.

A traveller crossing India from north to south can read the country's history in the shape of its temples. In the plains of the north, the classic shrine rises toward a single curving tower that swells outward and then tapers to a point, a form that seems to gather the whole building upward into one soaring gesture. In the deep south, the silhouette is different: a stepped, pyramid-like tower crowns the sanctum, while the boundary walls are pierced by tall, elaborately carved gateways that loom over the surrounding town and can be seen from far across the fields. Scholars have long grouped these two great traditions as the northern and the southern styles.

The differences run deeper than outline. The northern shrine tends to stand alone or in a loose cluster, its ornament flowing over the surface like carved foliage; the southern temple often grew into a walled complex, a small city in itself, with courtyards, pillared halls, and tanks of water enclosed within concentric ramparts. Over centuries the gateway towers of the south grew ever taller, until in some great temples they overshadowed the sanctum they were built to guard, becoming the first thing a pilgrim sees and the emblem of the town itself.

Yet the two styles were never sealed off from one another. Along the broad belt where north met south, builders borrowed freely, mixing a northern tower here with a southern hall there, so that a third, blended manner emerged in the hands of dynasties who ruled the middle of the country. Temple architecture, in other words, was a living language, its grammar stable enough to be recognised at a glance yet supple enough to absorb new words wherever cultures met and mingled.

What did not change was the purpose. Whether crowned by a curving spire or a stepped pyramid, the temple was conceived as a meeting place of the human and the divine, its very proportions thought to echo a hidden order in the cosmos. To study these buildings is thus to study more than stone. It is to trace how, across a thousand years and a thousand miles, generations of anonymous craftsmen turned belief into geometry, and geometry into some of the most enduring art the subcontinent has produced.

Q21. The central idea of the passage is that:

- (A) Indian temples were all built to a single identical design across the whole country.



- (B) India's temple architecture developed two great regional styles, north and south, that differed yet borrowed from each other and expressed a shared purpose.
- (C) temple architecture in India has no connection to religion or belief of any kind.
- (D) only the southern temples are worth studying, while the northern ones are of no value.

Q22. The “two great traditions” of temple architecture that the passage groups as the northern and the southern styles are known respectively as the:

- (A) Mughal and Rajput styles.
- (B) Gothic and Romanesque styles.
- (C) Indo-Saracenic and Colonial styles.
- (D) Nagara and Dravida styles.

Q23. The “tall, elaborately carved gateways” that pierce the boundary walls of the southern temple complex, looming over the surrounding town, are called:

- (A) gopurams.
- (B) minarets.
- (C) stupas.
- (D) ziggurats.

Q24. As used in the third paragraph, the word “supple” most nearly means:

- (A) completely fixed and unable to change.
- (B) extremely ancient and no longer used.
- (C) flexible and able to adapt to new influences.
- (D) hidden away and known only to priests.

Q25. It can be inferred that the passage mentions the “third, blended manner” that emerged in the middle of the country in order to show that:



- (A) the northern and southern styles were completely separate and never influenced each other.
- (B) builders in the region where north met south combined features of both styles rather than keeping them strictly apart.
- (C) only foreign architects were capable of designing Indian temples.
- (D) the temples of the middle of the country were left unfinished and abandoned.

Passage VI

Directions (Q26–Q30): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Base your answers on the passage and on the general knowledge it refers to.

Not long ago, teaching a computer to tell a cat from a dog was a puzzle that defeated the cleverest programmers. The old approach was to write out, rule by rule, every feature that might distinguish the two, and it never worked well, because the world is full of exceptions no list can capture. The breakthrough came from a change of strategy. Instead of being told the rules, a modern system is shown thousands of labelled examples and left to discover the patterns for itself, adjusting its own internal settings until its guesses grow reliable. This ability of a machine to improve at a task by learning from data, rather than from explicit instructions, is what gives the field its name.

Much of what now feels ordinary rests on this quiet shift. The app that suggests the next word as one types, the service that recommends a film, the camera that recognises a face, the voice assistant that answers a spoken question, all lean on systems trained on vast troves of examples. Because the learning happens behind the screen, most people use these tools daily without ever thinking of them as intelligent at all; they are simply features that work, folded so smoothly into everyday life that their novelty has already worn off.

The same power that makes such systems useful also makes them worth watching closely. A model learns whatever patterns lie in the data it is fed, including the unfair ones, so a system trained on biased records may quietly repeat and even magnify old injustices while wearing the mask of neutral mathematics. Others worry about privacy, about the vast harvests of personal information such training demands, and about tools that can now generate text or images so convincing that it grows harder to know what is real.

None of this argues for turning the technology away, its defenders say, only for handling it with open eyes. The task ahead is less to halt these systems than to govern them: to ask what data they learn from, who is accountable when they err, and where a human judgement must remain in the loop. The machines, after all, have no aims of their own. What they will amplify, for good or ill, is whatever we choose to teach them.



- Q26.** Which of the following best states the main idea of the passage?
- (A) Computers can now be programmed only by writing out every rule by hand.
 - (B) The technology has no useful applications in ordinary daily life.
 - (C) These systems are entirely free of bias because they rely on mathematics.
 - (D) Machines that learn from data now power many everyday tools, but their benefits come with real concerns about bias, privacy, and accountability.
- Q27.** The ability described in the passage, by which a machine improves at a task “by learning from data, rather than from explicit instructions”, is known as:
- (A) machine learning.
 - (B) a computer virus.
 - (C) a spreadsheet formula.
 - (D) a printing press.
- Q28.** According to the passage, systems trained on biased records are a concern chiefly because they may:
- (A) refuse to work on any computer at all.
 - (B) run only when a human types every rule by hand.
 - (C) repeat and even magnify old injustices while appearing to be neutral.
 - (D) make the technology far too slow to be useful.
- Q29.** As used in the final paragraph, the word “amplify” most nearly means:
- (A) to hide something completely from view.
 - (B) to increase or strengthen the effect of something.
 - (C) to translate text from one language to another.
 - (D) to switch a machine off entirely.



Q30. The closing statement that the machines “have no aims of their own” and will amplify “whatever we choose to teach them” is best understood to mean that:

- (A) the outcomes of such systems depend on the data and choices humans give them.
- (B) the machines secretly plan their own goals against human wishes.
- (C) the technology can never make any kind of mistake.
- (D) people have no role at all in how these systems behave.



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: The central idea is the single claim the whole passage supports, covering both the reform and its continuing tensions.

Passage support: The passage describes a single tax that “merged a long list of central and state indirect taxes”, reshaped how the union and states “share the power to tax”, and left centre-state relations “tense” over shortfalls and revenue sharing. Option B captures both the merger and the remaining friction.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The reform merged taxes, it did not abolish “all taxes”; the states still receive revenue.
- Option C: Check-posts are one detail, not the passage’s whole point.
- Option D: The tax is decided jointly by the centre and the states, not by the states alone.

Final Answer: A single national tax that reshaped how the union and states share taxing power, with tensions remaining ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q1](#)

Q2.

Solution

Concept — Static GK linked to the passage: The passage describes a “joint forum” where the union finance minister sits with the finance ministers of every state to decide rates, exemptions, and rules by consensus.

Reasoning: In India this body is the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, chaired by the Union Finance Minister with the state finance ministers as members, exactly as the passage describes.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Reserve Bank of India is the central bank and monetary authority, not a tax-rate forum.
- Option B: The Union Public Service Commission conducts recruitment examinations.
- Option C: The Election Commission conducts elections, not tax decisions.



Final Answer: The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council ⇒

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q2](#)

Q3.

Solution

Concept — Static GK linked to the passage: The passage describes a reform that merged many central and state indirect taxes into “a single levy applied at each stage of value addition”, with credit for tax paid earlier.

Reasoning: This is the Goods and Services Tax (GST), a single value-added indirect tax introduced in India that subsumed a web of earlier central and state levies, matching the passage precisely.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The Minimum Alternate Tax is a direct tax on company profits, not a merged indirect tax.
- Option C: The Securities Transaction Tax is a small levy on trades in securities.
- Option D: Tax Deducted at Source is a method of collecting income tax, not a value-added levy.

Final Answer: The Goods and Services Tax (GST) ⇒

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q3](#)

Q4.

Solution

Concept — Phrase in context: Read how the passage uses “cooperative federalism”.

Passage support: The forum was built so that “neither could be allowed to dictate to the other”, and rates and rules “are decided together rather than imposed from above”, which the passage calls a working example of cooperative federalism.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Abolishing the states is the opposite of a system that gives them a joint vote.
- Option B: The whole point is that the centre does not simply issue orders the states must obey.



- Option D: The passage stresses joint decision-making, not each state acting with no coordination.

Final Answer: The centre and states working together and deciding jointly ⇒

[Go Back to Q4](#)

Q5.

Solution

Concept — Detail: Read the stated cost the arrangement imposed on the states.

Passage support: “By folding their own taxes into the shared pool, they gave up a measure of the fiscal freedom that had let them woo investment or cushion a downturn on their own terms.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The reform made check-posts largely vanish, it did not force states to raise new ones.
- Option C: The passage never says the states collect the whole tax for the centre alone.
- Option D: States kept their power to hold elections; this is never mentioned as a cost.

Final Answer: They surrendered fiscal freedom by pooling their own taxes ⇒

[Go Back to Q5](#)

Q6.

Solution

Concept — Author’s attitude: Weigh how the author balances praise and criticism.

Passage support: The author credits real gains — vanished check-posts, faster trucks, easier inter-state buying — yet gives space to “friction”, “tense” centre-state relations, and disputes over revenue. That is appreciation with acknowledged frictions.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Completely dismissive” ignores the clear description of benefits.
- Option B: The detailed, engaged account is far from indifferent.



- Option C: The passage lists concrete benefits, so it does not claim “only harm”.

Final Answer: Recognising real gains while acknowledging genuine centre-state frictions ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q6](#)

Q7.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: Choose the option that spans the whole passage.

Passage support: A label coined by an economist “took on a life of its own”, the countries met and chose to “speak with one voice”, built their own bank, and endured despite quarrels while seeking a fairer share of global influence. Option C captures all of this.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage says what holds them together is “less a shared culture than a shared frustration”.
- Option B: The members “quarrel as often as they cooperate”, so it is false that they never quarrel.
- Option D: The bank was meant to “sit alongside”, not replace, the older lenders.

Final Answer: A label became a real bloc that cooperates for greater weight and built its own bank ⇒ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q7](#)

Q8.

Solution

Concept — Static GK linked to the passage: The passage describes a grouping that began as an economist’s label for four fast-growing economies, later joined by a fifth nation “from the southern tip of Africa”, with members across South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Reasoning: This is BRICS — Brazil, Russia, India, China, and (added later) South Africa — the five members spanning exactly those four continents, as the passage states.



Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The G7 is a bloc of major advanced Western economies, not emerging ones across four continents.
- Option C: The European Union is a bloc of European states only.
- Option D: ASEAN groups Southeast Asian nations only.

Final Answer: BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) ⇒

[Go Back to Q8](#)

Q9.

Solution

Concept — Static GK linked to the passage: The passage describes a bank set up by the members to finance “roads, power plants, and other infrastructure”, with each founding member holding an equal share, “headquartered in a major Chinese financial city”.

Reasoning: This is the New Development Bank, the BRICS bank headquartered in Shanghai, founded with equal shareholding among the members, exactly as the passage describes.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The IMF is an older, Western-led institution, not the bank the members built.
- Option C: The Asian Development Bank is a separate regional lender headquartered in Manila.
- Option D: The Bank for International Settlements, in Basel, serves central banks, not BRICS infrastructure.

Final Answer: The New Development Bank (NDB) ⇒

[Go Back to Q9](#)

Q10.

Solution

Concept — Phrase in context: Substitute each meaning and keep the one that fits.

Passage support: The countries decided that “if analysts were going to group



them, they might as well meet and speak with one voice”, that is, present a common position together rather than acting separately.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: It is a figure of speech, not a demand that they use identical words in one language.
- Option B: Speaking “with one voice” means saying something jointly, not staying silent.
- Option C: The bank was designed so “no single country could dominate”, so it is not one member overruling the rest.

Final Answer: To present a common position jointly rather than acting separately ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q10](#)

Q11.

Solution

Concept — Inference: Find why the passage says the members stay together despite friction.

Passage support: The bloc endures “held together by the simple fact that a chair at a table one has built oneself is worth more than a polite seat at someone else’s”, that is, they value a forum of their own that boosts their collective influence.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: They are separate sovereign states, not one shared government.
- Option C: Their economies and political systems “could hardly be more different”.
- Option D: They act from frustration with the older bodies, not on their orders.

Final Answer: They value a forum of their own that gives greater collective influence ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q11](#)



Q12.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: Identify the passage's overall concern.

Passage support: The passage explains how India's major literary honours "rise above the divisions of language" to reward excellence across many tongues, describes the lifetime honour and the academy's yearly awards, and closes with debates about translation and readership.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Exact prize money is never the focus.
- Option B: The passage says the honours "endure", never demanding abolition.
- Option D: No single writer's private life is discussed.

Final Answer: How India's literary honours recognise excellence across many languages, and the debates around them ⇒ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q12](#)

Q13.

Solution

Concept — Static GK linked to the passage: The passage names an honour "named after a Sanskrit word for knowledge", regarded as the highest literary honour a writer in the country can receive, and "conferred by a cultural trust rather than by the government".

Reasoning: This is the Jnanpith Award ("jnana" meaning knowledge), India's highest literary honour, conferred by the Bharatiya Jnanpith, a cultural trust, exactly as described.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award, not a literary prize given by a trust.
- Option C: The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is for cinema.
- Option D: The Arjuna Award is for sports.

Final Answer: The Jnanpith Award ⇒ B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q13](#)



Q14.

Solution

Concept — Static GK linked to the passage: The passage describes “the national academy of letters”, set up after independence to foster writing across India’s languages, publishing translations and giving annual awards in each recognised language.

Reasoning: This is the Sahitya Akademi, India’s National Academy of Letters, which promotes literature and confers annual awards in the languages it recognises, matching the passage.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Lalit Kala Akademi is the national academy of fine arts.
- Option B: The Sangeet Natak Akademi is the national academy of music, dance, and drama.
- Option C: The Indian Council of Cultural Relations handles cultural diplomacy, not literary awards.

Final Answer: The Sahitya Akademi ⇒

[Go Back to Q14](#)

Q15.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: The passage contrasts the lifetime honour, which is “rare, weighty, and retrospective, arriving late as a kind of summing-up”, with the academy’s quicker yearly prizes.

Reasoning: “Retrospective” means looking back over a career or past achievement, which fits an award that arrives late as a summing-up of a lifetime of work.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: “Paid in advance” is the opposite of an award that comes late.
- Option C: The honour crowns a career, so it is not only for the youngest writers.
- Option D: A single official language is not the meaning of the word.

Final Answer: Looking back over a career or past achievement ⇒

[Go Back to Q15](#)



Q16.

Solution

Concept — Inference: Read how the passage relates the two honours.

Passage support: “Where the lifetime honour crowns a career, the academy’s yearly prizes often catch a writer in mid-stride”, one rare and retrospective, the other regular and plural, “working toward a common end”.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The highest honour is given by a cultural trust, not the government, so they are not identical.
- Option B: They “work toward a common end”, not in direct competition to replace each other.
- Option D: The academy gives awards in each recognised language, so both do reach regional languages.

Final Answer: One crowns a lifetime while the other regularly notices rising writers across many languages ⇒ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q16](#)

Q17.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: Select the option that unites the whole passage.

Passage support: The passage calls the festival a four-yearly gathering that unites diverse national teams, showcases regional sports the world often ignores, tests host cities, and offers athletes “the summit of a career”. Option B holds all of these together.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The event matters to athletes and nations across the continent, not only the host.
- Option C: The festival is held “once every four years”, repeatedly, not just once.
- Option D: Teams range “from the wealthiest economies to some of the smallest island states”.

Final Answer: A four-yearly continental festival that unites nations, showcases regional sports, and offers athletes a summit ⇒ B



Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q17](#)

Q18.

Solution

Concept — Detail / static GK: Read the stated frequency of the festival.

Passage support: “Once every four years, a continent that is home to more than half the world’s people turns its attention to a single sporting festival.” This matches the well-known four-year cycle of the Asian Games.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Year” contradicts “once every four years”.
- Option B: A two-year gap is nowhere stated.
- Option C: “Three years” is not supported by the passage.

Final Answer: Once every four years ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q18](#)

Q19.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: Fit the meaning to “a useful legacy of arenas and transport links”.

Passage support: The venues “can leave a useful legacy of arenas and transport links” but also costs “that outlast the closing ceremony”. A legacy here is something lasting left behind for the future.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Prize money is not what “arenas and transport links” describes.
- Option C: A strict rule is unrelated to the sense of the word.
- Option D: A religious ceremony does not fit “arenas and transport links”.

Final Answer: Something lasting that is left behind for the future ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q19](#)



Q20.

Solution

Concept — Inference: Read why the passage stresses the lesser-known sports on the programme.

Passage support: Because the programme can include games “followed passionately in one part of the continent but scarcely known in another”, the event becomes “a showcase for pursuits that the global sporting calendar often ignores”.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The festival also spans “familiar disciplines”, so it does not exclude popular sports.
- Option B: The passage contrasts it with the worldwide games, not calling it identical.
- Option D: Martial arts are one example among several, not the only concern.

Final Answer: It gives a stage to pursuits the global sporting calendar often overlooks ⇒ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q20](#)

Q21.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: Pick the option that covers the whole passage.

Passage support: The passage traces two great regional traditions, the northern curving tower and the southern stepped pyramid with tall gateways, notes that “the two styles were never sealed off from one another”, and says both served the same purpose of joining the human and the divine.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage describes clearly different northern and southern designs, not one identical design.
- Option C: The temple is called “a meeting place of the human and the divine”, so belief is central.
- Option D: Both traditions are treated as valuable; the north is not dismissed.

Final Answer: Two great regional styles that differed yet borrowed from each other and shared one purpose ⇒ B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q21](#)



Q22.

Solution

Concept — Static GK linked to the passage: The passage groups the “two great traditions” of Indian temple building as the northern and the southern styles, one with a single curving tower, the other with a stepped pyramidal tower and tall gateways.

Reasoning: These are the Nagara (northern) and Dravida (southern) styles of Indian temple architecture, the standard names for exactly the two forms described.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Mughal and Rajput describe later Indo-Islamic and palace architecture, not these temple styles.
- Option B: Gothic and Romanesque are European medieval church styles.
- Option C: Indo-Saracenic and Colonial are much later, largely British-era styles.

Final Answer: The Nagara and Dravida styles ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q22](#)

Q23.

Solution

Concept — Static GK linked to the passage: The passage describes “tall, elaborately carved gateways” piercing the boundary walls of the southern temple complex, looming over the town and often overshadowing the sanctum.

Reasoning: In Dravidian temple architecture these monumental gateway towers are called gopurams, exactly the towering, carved gateways the passage describes.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: A minaret is a tower attached to a mosque, not a temple gateway.
- Option C: A stupa is a Buddhist dome-shaped relic mound, not a gateway.
- Option D: A ziggurat is an ancient Mesopotamian stepped temple platform, unrelated to Indian temples.

Final Answer: Gopurams ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q23](#)



Q24.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: The passage calls temple architecture “a living language, its grammar stable enough to be recognised at a glance yet supple enough to absorb new words wherever cultures met”.

Reasoning: Set against “stable”, “supple” here means flexible and able to adapt, since the style could absorb new influences where cultures mingled.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Completely fixed” is the opposite of supple.
- Option B: “Ancient and no longer used” is not the meaning; the style was living.
- Option D: “Hidden away and known only to priests” does not fit “absorb new words”.

Final Answer: Flexible and able to adapt to new influences ⇒ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q24](#)

Q25.

Solution

Concept — Inference: Read why the passage mentions the “third, blended manner”.

Passage support: Along the belt “where north met south, builders borrowed freely, mixing a northern tower here with a southern hall there, so that a third, blended manner emerged”, showing the two styles influenced each other.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The blended manner proves the styles were not completely separate.
- Option C: The craftsmen are called “anonymous” local builders, not foreign architects.
- Option D: Nothing says these temples were left unfinished or abandoned.

Final Answer: Builders where north met south combined features of both styles ⇒ B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q25](#)



Q26.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: Choose the option that spans the whole passage.

Passage support: The passage explains the shift from hand-written rules to systems that learn from examples, lists everyday tools built on that shift, then weighs concerns about bias, privacy, and accountability, closing that the technology should be governed, not turned away.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage says the rule-by-rule approach “never worked well” and was replaced.
- Option B: It lists many everyday applications, so it is not useless in daily life.
- Option C: The passage warns such systems can “repeat and even magnify” bias, so they are not free of it.

Final Answer: Machines that learn from data power everyday tools but raise real concerns about bias, privacy, and accountability ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q26](#)

Q27.

Solution

Concept — Static GK linked to the passage: The passage defines an ability by which a system is “shown thousands of labelled examples” and improves at a task “by learning from data, rather than from explicit instructions”.

Reasoning: This is machine learning, the branch of artificial intelligence in which systems learn patterns from data instead of following hand-coded rules, exactly as the passage states.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: A computer virus is malicious software, not a learning method.
- Option C: A spreadsheet formula follows fixed instructions; it does not learn from data.
- Option D: A printing press is a mechanical device for reproducing text, unrelated to learning.

Final Answer: Machine learning ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q27](#)



Q28.

Solution

Concept — Detail: Read the stated concern about systems trained on biased records.

Passage support: “A system trained on biased records may quietly repeat and even magnify old injustices while wearing the mask of neutral mathematics.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Refusing to run on any computer is never claimed.
- Option B: These systems learn from data rather than needing a human to type every rule.
- Option D: The worry is unfairness, not that the technology becomes too slow.

Final Answer: They may repeat and even magnify old injustices while appearing neutral ⇒

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q28](#)

Q29.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: Fit the meaning to “what they will amplify, for good or ill”.

Passage support: The machines “will amplify, for good or ill, whatever we choose to teach them”, that is, they increase or strengthen the effect of whatever is put into them.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Hide from view” is the opposite of amplifying an effect.
- Option C: Translating text is unrelated to the sense of the word.
- Option D: “Switch off entirely” contradicts strengthening an effect.

Final Answer: To increase or strengthen the effect of something ⇒

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q29](#)



Q30.

Solution

Concept — Inference: Interpret the closing statement.

Passage support: The machines “have no aims of their own” and amplify “whatever we choose to teach them”, while the task is to ask “what data they learn from” and where human judgement must stay in the loop. So outcomes depend on human data and choices.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The passage says the machines have no aims of their own, not that they secretly plot.
- Option C: It warns such systems can err and repeat bias, so they can make mistakes.
- Option D: It insists humans choose the data and stay “in the loop”, so people do have a role.

Final Answer: The outcomes depend on the data and choices humans give the systems ⇒

[Go Back to Q30](#)



Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	B	2	D	3	A	4	C	5	B
6	D	7	C	8	A	9	B	10	D
11	A	12	C	13	B	14	D	15	A
16	C	17	B	18	D	19	A	20	C
21	B	22	D	23	A	24	C	25	B
26	D	27	A	28	C	29	B	30	A

