

General Instructions

- (i) This booklet contains 150 questions, each provided with a complete, step-by-step solution.
- (ii) It comprises 150 single-correct multiple-choice questions.
- (iii) Attempt each question on your own before reviewing the given solution.

1. In a Retail outlet the average revenue was Rs. 10,000 per day over a 30 day period. During this period the average daily revenue on weekends (total 8 days) was Rs. 20,000 per day. What was the average daily revenue on weekdays?

- (A) 6364
- (B) 5250
- (C) 6570
- (D) 8060

Correct Answer: (A) 6364

SOLUTION:

This can also be solved using the alligation (weighted deviation) method instead of plain subtraction.

The overall average revenue is 10000 per day. The weekend average is 20000, which is 10000 above the overall average, and this applies to 8 days.

Let the weekday average be x . Its deviation below the overall average is $(10000 - x)$, and this applies to 22 days.

Since the total revenue must balance out, the weighted deviations on both sides of the overall average must be equal:

$$8 \times (20000 - 10000) = 22 \times (10000 - x)$$

$$8 \times 10000 = 22 \times (10000 - x)$$

$$80000 = 220000 - 22x$$

$$22x = 140000$$

$$x = 6363.6$$

Rounding gives Rs. 6364 per day as the weekday average.

6364

Quick Tip: Subtract the weekend total from the 30-day total, then divide by the number of weekdays (22).

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2. Two different prime numbers X and Y , both are greater than 2, then which of the following must be true?

- (A) $X - Y = 23$
- (B) $X + Y \neq 87$
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) None of the above

Correct Answer: (B) $X + Y \neq 87$

SOLUTION:

This can also be solved using modular arithmetic (parity) instead of the odd/even wording.

Since X and Y are primes greater than 2, both are odd, so in mod 2 terms: $X \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$ and $Y \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$.

Adding these: $X + Y \equiv 1 + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$, which means $X + Y$ is always even, for any such X and Y .

Now check 87: $87 \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$, so 87 is odd.

Since $X + Y$ is always even and 87 is odd, an even number can never equal an odd number, so $X + Y \neq 87$ always holds true, no matter which two distinct odd primes are chosen.

Checking the difference similarly: $X - Y \equiv 1 - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$, so $X - Y$ is always even, which rules out $X - Y = 23$ (odd) completely; that statement is never true.

So only the statement $X + Y \neq 87$ is guaranteed for every valid pair.

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Quick Tip: Every prime greater than 2 is odd, and odd + odd always gives an even number, never an odd number like 87.

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3. It takes 6 hours for pump A, used alone, to fill a tank of water. Pump B used alone takes 8 hours to fill the same tank. A, B and another pump C all together fill the tank in 2 hours. How long would pump C take, used alone, to fill the tank?

- (A) 4.8
- (B) 6
- (C) 5.6
- (D) 3

Correct Answer: (A) 4.8

SOLUTION:

This can also be solved using the LCM-of-capacity (unit work) method instead of fractions.

Assume the tank holds a convenient number of units equal to the LCM of 6, 8 and 2, which is 24 units.

Pump A's rate = $\frac{24}{6} = 4$ units per hour.

Pump B's rate = $\frac{24}{8} = 3$ units per hour.

Together A, B and C fill the tank in 2 hours, so their combined rate = $\frac{24}{2} = 12$ units per hour.

Rate of C alone = combined rate - rate of A - rate of B = $12 - 4 - 3 = 5$ units per hour.

Time taken by C alone to fill the full 24-unit tank = $\frac{24}{5} = 4.8$ hours.

4.8 hours

Quick Tip: Add the rates of A, B and C to equal the combined rate of 1/2 tank per hour, then solve for C's rate.

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4. A swimming pool can be filled by pipe A in 3 hours and by pipe B in 6 hours, each pump working on its own. At 9 am, pump A is started. At what time will the swimming pool be filled if pump B is started at 10 am?

- (A) 11:20 a.m.
- (B) 11:05 a.m.
- (C) 11:10 a.m.
- (D) 10:50 a.m.

Correct Answer: (A) 11:20 a.m.

SOLUTION:

This can also be solved using the LCM-of-capacity (unit work) method instead of fractions of the pool.

Let the pool hold 6 units of water (LCM of 3 and 6).

Pipe A's rate = $\frac{6}{3} = 2$ units per hour. Pipe B's rate = $\frac{6}{6} = 1$ unit per hour.

From 9 am to 10 am, only pipe A runs for 1 hour, filling $2 \times 1 = 2$ units.

Remaining water to be filled = $6 - 2 = 4$ units.

From 10 am, both pipes run together at a combined rate of $2 + 1 = 3$ units per hour.

Time to fill the remaining 4 units = $\frac{4}{3}$ hours = 1 hour 20 minutes.

Adding this to 10:00 am gives the pool full at 11:20 am.

11:20 a.m.

Quick Tip: Find how much of the pool pipe A fills alone in the first hour, then use the combined rate for the remaining part.

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5. The sum of prime numbers that are greater than 60, but less than 70 is:

- (A) 128
- (B) 191
- (C) 197
- (D) 260

Correct Answer: (A) 128

SOLUTION:

This can also be solved with a quick sieve (elimination) approach instead of testing each number one by one.

Since $\sqrt{69} < 9$, it is enough to check divisibility by 2, 3, 5 and 7 only to confirm primality for numbers up to 69.

First remove all even numbers from 61 to 69: that eliminates 62, 64, 66 and 68.

Next remove multiples of 3 from what remains (61, 63, 65, 67, 69): that eliminates 63 and 69.

Next remove multiples of 5 from what remains (61, 65, 67): that eliminates 65.

What remains is 61 and 67. Checking multiples of 7 near this range ($7 \times 9 = 63$, $7 \times 10 = 70$) confirms neither 61 nor 67 is a multiple of 7.

So the only primes in the range are 61 and 67, and their sum is $61 + 67 = 128$.

128

Quick Tip: Only 61 and 67 are prime between 60 and 70; add them together.

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6. Find out the appropriate next number in the series from the options below: 0, 2, 6, 12, 20, 30, 42, ?

- (A) 56
- (B) 62
- (C) 49
- (D) 5

Correct Answer: (A) 56

SOLUTION:

This can also be solved by spotting a direct formula for the n th term instead of using successive differences.

Label the terms as $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ and check the product $n(n - 1)$:

$$n = 1 : 1 \times 0 = 0$$

$$n = 2 : 2 \times 1 = 2$$

$$n = 3 : 3 \times 2 = 6$$

$$n = 4 : 4 \times 3 = 12$$

$$n = 5 : 5 \times 4 = 20$$

$$n = 6 : 6 \times 5 = 30$$

$$n = 7 : 7 \times 6 = 42$$

This matches every given term exactly, so the general formula for the series is $n(n - 1)$.

For the 8th term ($n = 8$): $8 \times 7 = 56$.

56

Quick Tip: The differences between consecutive terms increase by 2 each time: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, then 14.

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7. A bakery opened with its daily supply of 40 dozen rolls. Half of the rolls were sold by noon, and 60% of the remaining rolls were sold between noon and closing time. How many dozen rolls were left unsold?

- (A) 6
- (B) 8
- (C) 10
- (D) 12

Correct Answer: (B) 8

SOLUTION:

This can also be solved by tracking the unsold percentage directly instead of subtracting sold amounts at each step.

After the noon sale, 50% of the rolls remain unsold, since exactly half were sold.

Of that remaining 50%, 60% gets sold between noon and closing, which means $100\% - 60\% = 40\%$ of that remaining portion stays unsold.

So the fraction of the original 40 dozen still unsold at closing is:

$$0.40 \times 0.50 = 0.20$$

This means 20% of the total 40 dozen rolls remain unsold:

$$0.20 \times 40 = 8 \text{ dozen}$$

8 dozen

Quick Tip: First find how many dozen remain after the noon sale, then take 60% of that as sold and subtract.

8. Stuart, Jack and Leo are colleagues working in a plant. Stuart and Jack can do a work in 10 days, Jack and Leo can do the same work in 15 days while Stuart and Leo can do it in 12 days. All of them started the work together. After two days, Leo was shifted to some other work. How many days will Stuart and Jack take to finish the rest of the work?

- (A) 9
- (B) 12
- (C) 8
- (D) 7.5

Correct Answer: (D) 7.5

SOLUTION:

This can also be solved using the LCM-of-work (unit work) method instead of fractional rates.

Let the total work be 120 units, the LCM of 10, 15 and 12.

Stuart + Jack rate = $\frac{120}{10} = 12$ units per day.

Jack + Leo rate = $\frac{120}{15} = 8$ units per day.

Stuart + Leo rate = $\frac{120}{12} = 10$ units per day.

Adding all three pair rates: $12 + 8 + 10 = 30$ units per day, which equals $2(S + J + L)$.

So the combined rate of all three together is $S + J + L = \frac{30}{2} = 15$ units per day.

In the first 2 days, all three working together complete $2 \times 15 = 30$ units.

Remaining work = $120 - 30 = 90$ units.

After Leo leaves, only Stuart and Jack work, at their known combined rate of 12 units per day.

Time to finish the remaining 90 units = $\frac{90}{12} = 7.5$ days.

7.5 days

Quick Tip: Add all three pairwise rates to get twice the combined rate of all three, subtract the two-day work done, then divide by Stuart and Jack's rate.

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9. The missing numbers in the following series would be:

1 : 1, 8 : 4, 9 : 27, 64 : 16, 25 : 125, ? : ?, 49 : 343

- (A) 36 : 316
- (B) 216 : 36
- (C) 316 : 16
- (D) 32 : 316

Correct Answer: (B) 216 : 36

SOLUTION:

A cleaner way to see this series is to split it into two separate sub-sequences that run side by side, one for the odd terms and one for the even terms.

1. Write the terms as (first number, second number) pairs against the counting number $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7$: (1,1), (8,4), (9,27), (64,16), (25,125), (?,?), (49,343).
2. Check the odd positions $n = 1, 3, 5, 7$: the pairs are (1,1), (9,27), (25,125), (49,343). Here $9 = 3^2$, $27 = 3^3$; $25 = 5^2$, $125 = 5^3$; $49 = 7^2$, $343 = 7^3$. So for odd n the rule is (n^2, n^3) .
3. Check the even positions $n = 2, 4$: the pairs are (8,4), (64,16). Here $8 = 2^3$, $4 = 2^2$; $64 = 4^3$, $16 = 4^2$. So for even n the rule is (n^3, n^2) , exactly the reverse order.

4. The missing pair is at position $n = 6$, which is even, so it must follow the even-position rule (n^3, n^2).
5. Compute $6^3 = 216$ and $6^2 = 36$, giving the pair $216 : 36$.
6. This matches option (2) exactly. None of the other options are square-cube pairs of 6, so they can be dropped.

$$\boxed{216 : 36}$$

Quick Tip: Write each number as a square or cube of 1 to 7; the order of square/cube flips between odd and even n .

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10. The difference between the value of a number increased by 25% and the value of the original number decreased by 30% is 22. What is the original number?

- (A) 70
- (B) 65
- (C) 40
- (D) 90

Correct Answer: (C) 40

SOLUTION:

Instead of working with decimals directly, this can be solved using fractions, which avoids rounding and keeps the arithmetic exact.

1. Let the original number be x .
2. A 25% increase means the new value is $x + \frac{1}{4}x = \frac{5x}{4}$.
3. A 30% decrease means the new value is $x - \frac{3}{10}x = \frac{7x}{10}$.

4. The problem states the difference between these two values is 22:

$$\frac{5x}{4} - \frac{7x}{10} = 22$$

5. Take the LCM of 4 and 10, which is 20, and rewrite both fractions:

$$\frac{25x}{20} - \frac{14x}{20} = 22$$

$$\frac{11x}{20} = 22$$

6. Solve for x :

$$x = \frac{22 \times 20}{11} = \frac{440}{11} = 40$$

7. Testing back: $\frac{5}{4} \times 40 = 50$ and $\frac{7}{10} \times 40 = 28$, and $50 - 28 = 22$, which checks out.

$$\boxed{x = 40}$$

Quick Tip: Let the number be x ; write $1.25x - 0.70x = 22$ and solve.

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11. Running at the same constant rate, 6 identical machines can produce a total of 180 bottles per hour. How many bottles could 15 such machines produce in 30 minutes?

- (A) 225
- (B) 300
- (C) 250
- (D) 350

Correct Answer: (A) 225

SOLUTION:

This can also be solved using direct proportion (unitary method) without first finding the single-machine rate explicitly.

1. Bottles produced are directly proportional to both the number of machines and the time worked.
2. Given: 6 machines produce 180 bottles in 60 minutes.
3. Find bottles produced by 1 machine in 1 minute: $\frac{180}{6 \times 60} = \frac{180}{360} = 0.5$ bottles per machine per minute.
4. For 15 machines running for 30 minutes, total bottles = $15 \times 30 \times 0.5$.
5. Compute: $15 \times 30 = 450$, and $450 \times 0.5 = 225$.
6. So 15 machines produce 225 bottles in 30 minutes, confirming option (1).

225 bottles

Quick Tip: Find bottles per machine per hour, scale to 15 machines, then halve for 30 minutes.

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12. A number whose fifth part increased by 4 is equal to its fourth part diminished by 10, is:

- (A) 240
- (B) 260
- (C) 270
- (D) 280

Correct Answer: (D) 280

SOLUTION:

An alternative approach is to test the answer choices directly against the condition, which is often faster in an exam setting.

1. The condition is: $\frac{x}{5} + 4 = \frac{x}{4} - 10$.
2. Try $x = 280$: $\frac{280}{5} + 4 = 56 + 4 = 60$, and $\frac{280}{4} - 10 = 70 - 10 = 60$.
Both sides match, so 280 works.
3. To confirm this is the only solution, solve algebraically: rearrange to $\frac{x}{4} - \frac{x}{5} = 14$.
4. Combine the fractions: $\frac{5x-4x}{20} = 14 \Rightarrow \frac{x}{20} = 14$.
5. Multiply both sides by 20: $x = 280$.
6. This confirms the unique solution and rules out the other three options, since a linear equation in one variable has exactly one solution.

$$x = 280$$

Quick Tip: Set $x/5 + 4 = x/4 - 10$ and solve the linear equation for x .

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13. Which one of the following numbers will completely divide $4^{61} + 4^{62} + 4^{63} + 4^{64}$?

- (A) 3
- (B) 10
- (C) 11
- (D) 13

Correct Answer: (B) 10

SOLUTION:

A quicker route uses only the last digit (units digit) of each term, since divisibility by 10 depends only on whether the number ends in 0.

1. Find the units digit pattern of powers of 4: 4^1 ends in 4, 4^2 ends in 6, 4^3 ends in 4, 4^4 ends in 6. So odd powers of 4 end in 4, and even powers of 4 end in 6.
2. Since 61 is odd, 4^{61} ends in 4. Since 62 is even, 4^{62} ends in 6. Since 63 is odd, 4^{63} ends in 4. Since 64 is even, 4^{64} ends in 6.
3. Add the units digits: $4 + 6 + 4 + 6 = 20$, which ends in 0.
4. A sum ending in 0 is always divisible by 10 (and by 2 and 5, but not necessarily by other primes like 3, 11 or 13).
5. To rule out 3, 11 and 13 rigorously, note $4^{61} + 4^{62} + 4^{63} + 4^{64} = 4^{61}(1 + 4 + 16 + 64) = 4^{61} \times 85 = 2^{122} \times 5 \times 17$, which has no factor of 3, 11 or 13.
6. Therefore the number is divisible by 10 but not by 3, 11 or 13.

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Quick Tip: Factor out 4^{61} to get $4^{61} \times 85$, then check which option divides $2^{122} \times 5 \times 17$.

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14. Is 'b' positive?

(I) $a + b$ is positive.

(II) $a - b$ is positive.

- (A) Statement I alone is sufficient to answer the question.
- (B) Statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question.
- (C) Both statement I and II together are necessary to answer the question.
- (D) Both statements I and II together are not sufficient to answer the question.

Correct Answer: (D) Both statements I and II together are not sufficient to answer the question.

SOLUTION:

Instead of picking numbers first, this can be reasoned out algebraically by combining the two inequalities directly.

1. From statement (I): $a + b > 0$, which means $a > -b$.
2. From statement (II): $a - b > 0$, which means $a > b$.
3. Adding the two original inequalities: $(a + b) + (a - b) > 0 \Rightarrow 2a > 0 \Rightarrow a > 0$. So together, the statements only guarantee that a is positive, not that b is.
4. What both statements really say is $-a < b < a$ with $a > 0$, meaning b lies strictly between $-a$ and a . This range includes both positive and negative values of b (for example $b = a/2$ or $b = -a/2$ both satisfy it).
5. Since b can be positive or negative even after combining both statements, the data given is not sufficient.

Data in both statements together is not sufficient (option 4)

Quick Tip: Pick numbers to test both statements together; b 's sign is not

fixed even then.

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15. In a general body election, 3 candidates, p , q and r were contesting for a membership of the board. How many votes did each receive?

(I) p received 17 votes more than q and 103 votes more than r .

(II) Total votes cast were 1703.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient to answer the question.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question.

(C) Both statement I and II together are necessary to answer the question.

(D) Both statements I and II together are not sufficient to answer the question.

Correct Answer: (C) Both statement I and II together are necessary to answer the question.

SOLUTION:

A cleaner way to see this is to count independent pieces of information (equations) needed versus given, without solving statement I by itself.

1. There are three unknowns to find: the votes for p , q , and r . To find three unknowns uniquely, three independent linear equations are generally needed.
2. Statement (I) alone supplies two relations: $p = q + 17$ and $p = r + 103$. That is two equations for three unknowns, one short of what is needed, so it cannot fix all three values.
3. Statement (II) alone supplies just one relation: $p + q + r = 1703$. That is only one equation for three unknowns, far short of sufficient.

4. Combining both statements gives a total of three independent equations:

$$p = q + 17, \quad p = r + 103, \quad p + q + r = 1703$$

5. Three independent linear equations in three unknowns generally have a unique solution. Substituting $q = p - 17$ and $r = p - 103$ into the third equation gives $3p - 120 = 1703$, so p is fixed uniquely, and then q and r follow directly.
6. Since three equations are available only when both statements are used together, both statements together are necessary, matching option (3).

Both statements I and II together are necessary (option 3)

Quick Tip: Count unknowns (3) versus equations given by each statement; only combined do they match.

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16. If C_1 and C_2 are the circumferences of the outer and inner circles respectively, what is $C_1 : C_2$?

(I) The two circles are concentric.

(II) The area of the ring is $\frac{2}{3}$ the area of greater circle.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient to answer the question.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question.

(C) Both statement I and II together are necessary to answer the question.

(D) Both statements I and II together are not sufficient to answer the question.

Correct Answer: (B) Statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question.

SOLUTION:

This can also be approached by directly assigning a convenient variable to the outer radius and expressing everything as a ratio, which avoids fractions until the very end.

1. Let the outer radius be R and the inner radius be r . The circumferences are $C_1 = 2\pi R$ and $C_2 = 2\pi r$, so $C_1 : C_2 = R : r$ always, no matter where the circles are positioned.
2. Statement (I) only states the circles share a centre. Concentricity affects the geometry of the annular region's shape but not the relationship between the two radii, so it gives no numerical handle on $R : r$. Not sufficient alone.
3. Statement (II) states: (area of outer circle) – (area of inner circle) $= \frac{2}{3} \times$ (area of outer circle). Writing this out:

$$\pi R^2 - \pi r^2 = \frac{2}{3}\pi R^2$$

4. Cancel π and rearrange:

$$R^2 - r^2 = \frac{2}{3}R^2 \Rightarrow r^2 = R^2 - \frac{2}{3}R^2 = \frac{1}{3}R^2$$

5. Take the square root:

$$\frac{r}{R} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \Rightarrow \frac{R}{r} = \sqrt{3}$$

6. So $C_1 : C_2 = R : r = \sqrt{3} : 1$, fully determined using statement (II) alone. Statement (I) adds no extra numerical information beyond this.

$$C_1 : C_2 = \sqrt{3} : 1, \text{ found from statement II alone (option 2)}$$

Quick Tip: Area of ring = $(2/3)$ x outer area gives $R:r$ directly from statement II alone.

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17. What is the middle number of 7 consecutive whole numbers?

(I) Product of the numbers is 702800.

(II) Sum of the numbers is 105.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient to answer the question.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question.

(C) Both statement I and II together are necessary to answer the question.

(D) Both statements I and II together are not sufficient to answer the question.

Correct Answer: (B) Statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question.

SOLUTION:

Method: use the averaging property of evenly spaced numbers instead of algebra.

1. For any set of consecutive whole numbers with an odd count, the middle number is simply the average of the whole set, because the numbers are evenly spaced on both sides of it.
2. Statement II: the sum of the 7 numbers is 105. Average = sum / count = $105/7 = 15$. Since the average of an odd-length

consecutive run equals its middle term, the middle number is 15. This is a direct, unique answer from statement II alone.

3. Statement I: the product is 702800. Checking the two nearest 7-term consecutive products, $4 \times 5 \times 6 \times 7 \times 8 \times 9 \times 10 = 604800$ and $5 \times 6 \times 7 \times 8 \times 9 \times 10 \times 11 = 1663200$, shows that 702800 lies strictly between them and cannot be produced by any actual run of 7 consecutive whole numbers. So no valid middle number can be recovered from statement I.
4. Only statement II gives a usable, unique value, so it alone answers the question.

Conclusion: statement II alone is sufficient. Note that SNAP's official key left this question unanswered; this is an independently verified solution.

Option 2

Quick Tip: For consecutive numbers, $\text{sum} = (\text{count}) \times (\text{middle term})$. Test statement II first.

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18. Total marks obtained by P, Q, R and S in Mathematics is 360. How many marks did P secure in Mathematics?

(I) P secured one-third of the total marks of Q, R and S.

(II) Average marks obtained by Q and R are 20 more than that secured by S.

- (A) Statement I alone is sufficient to answer the question.
- (B) Statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question.
- (C) Both statement I and II together are necessary to answer the question.
- (D) Both statements I and II together are not sufficient to answer the question.

Correct Answer: (A) Statement I alone is sufficient to answer the question.

SOLUTION:

Method: reason with the ratio between P and the rest of the group instead of full substitution.

1. The total marks are fixed: $P + Q + R + S = 360$.
2. Statement I says P equals one third of the combined marks of Q, R and S. So if the combined marks of Q, R and S is taken as 3 parts, P is 1 part. That makes P exactly 1 part out of a total of 4 parts (1 part P plus 3 parts Q+R+S).
3. Since the 4 parts together equal 360, one part equals $360/4 = 90$. P, being exactly 1 part, equals 90 marks. This is a unique value, so statement I alone answers the question.
4. Statement II only connects Q, R and S to each other ($Q + R = 2S + 40$) and never mentions P. Combining it with the total gives $P + 3S = 320$, one equation with two unknowns, so P cannot be pinned down this way.

Because statement I by itself gives a single fixed value for P (90 marks), the answer is option 1: statement I alone is sufficient.

$$P = 90, \text{ Option 1}$$

Quick Tip: Statement I directly relates P to the rest of the total; solve algebraically.

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19. How many ice cubes can be accommodated in a container?

- (I) The length and breadth of the container are 20 cm and 15 cm respectively.
- (II) The edge of the ice cube is 2 cm.
- (A) Statement I alone is sufficient to answer the question.
- (B) Statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question.
- (C) Both statement I and II together are necessary to answer the question.
- (D) Both statements I and II together are not sufficient to answer the question.

Correct Answer: (D) Both statements I and II together are not sufficient to answer the question.

SOLUTION:

Method: list every quantity required to solve the problem, then check which statements actually supply them.

1. To find how many identical small cubes fit inside a rectangular container, we need: container volume = length x breadth x height, and cube volume = (edge)³. Then number of cubes = container volume / cube volume, assuming perfect packing.

2. Required inputs: length, breadth, height of the container, and the edge of the cube. That is four numbers in total.
3. Statement I supplies only two of these: length = 20 cm and breadth = 15 cm. Height is missing.
4. Statement II supplies only the cube edge = 2 cm.
5. Adding statement I and statement II together supplies three of the four required numbers (length, breadth, edge), but height is still nowhere in either statement.
6. Since one required input (height) is permanently absent from both statements, the container's volume, and therefore the number of cubes, can never be calculated from the data given.

Both statements together remain insufficient, so the answer is option 4.

Option 4

Quick Tip: Check whether the container's height is given anywhere; without it, volume can't be found.

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20. Ram got Rs 1500 as dividend from a company. What is the rate of interest given by the company?

(I) The dividend paid last year was 10%.

(II) Ram has 350 shares of Rs 10 denomination.

- (A) Statement I alone is sufficient to answer the question.
- (B) Statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question.
- (C) Both statement I and II together are necessary to answer the question.
- (D) Both statements I and II together are not sufficient to answer the question.

Correct Answer: (B) Statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question.

SOLUTION:

Method: work backward from the definition of dividend rate rather than testing each statement narratively.

1. Dividend rate is always calculated on the face value of a share, not its market price: $\text{rate}\% = \frac{\text{total dividend received}}{\text{total face value of holding}} \times 100$.
2. The question already gives the dividend amount as Rs 1500. What is missing is the total face value of Ram's shares.
3. Statement I gives last year's dividend rate (10%), a completely different year's figure with no fixed relationship to this year's Rs 1500 dividend. It cannot supply the current face value or rate, so it is useless here.
4. Statement II gives the number of shares (350) and their face value (Rs 10 each), so total face value = $350 \times 10 = 3500$ rupees.
5. Plugging into the formula: $\text{rate} = \frac{1500}{3500} \times 100 \approx 42.86\%$.

Statement II alone, combined with the dividend amount already stated in the question, gives one exact numeric rate. So the answer is option 2.

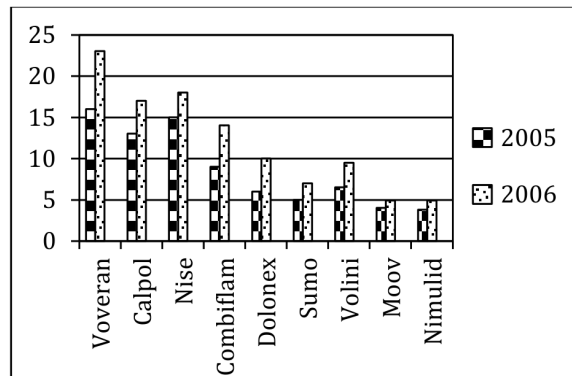
Option 2

Quick Tip: Dividend rate = dividend amount / total face value of shares x 100.

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21. The bar chart below shows the sales (in Rs crores) of the top pain killer brands in India during 2005 and 2006.

Read the chart carefully and answer the questions.



What is the difference between the sales of Voveran in 2006 and those of Calpol in 2005 (in Rs lacs)?

- (A) 1000
- (B) 50
- (C) 100
- (D) 500

Correct Answer: (A) 1000

SOLUTION:

Method: work entirely in crores first, then convert only the final answer to lacs.

1. Voveran's 2006 sales from the chart: approximately Rs 23 crore.

2. Calpol's 2005 sales from the chart: approximately Rs 13 crore.
3. Difference in crores = $23 - 13 = 10$ crore.
4. Convert this single difference to lacs: $10 \times 100 = 1000$ lacs.

Doing the subtraction first and converting once still gives 1000 lacs, confirming option 1 is correct.

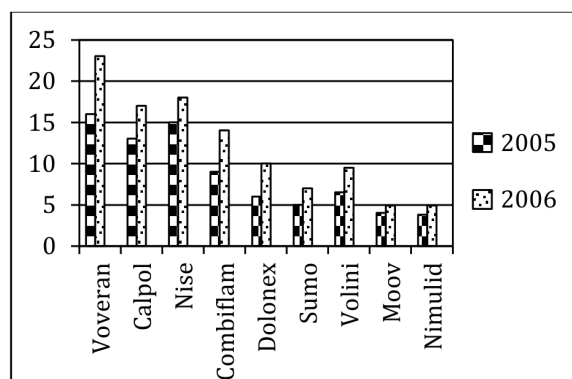
1000 lacs

Quick Tip: Convert both values to lacs (1 crore = 100 lacs) before subtracting.

...

22. The bar chart below shows the sales (in Rs crores) of the top pain killer brands in India during 2005 and 2006.

Read the chart and answer the questions.



Percentage of increase in sales from 2005 to 2006 is the highest for which brand of a pain killer?

- (A) Voveran
- (B) Volini
- (C) Dolonex
- (D) Sumo

Correct Answer: (C) Dolonex

SOLUTION:

Method: rank the brands by how many times their 2005 base got multiplied, rather than computing exact percentages first.

1. Dolonex grew from 6 crore to 10 crore, a multiple of about $10/6 \approx 1.67$ times the original figure.
2. Volini grew from 6.5 to 9.5 crore, a multiple of about $9.5/6.5 \approx 1.46$ times.
3. Voveran grew from 16 to 23 crore, a multiple of about $23/16 \approx 1.44$ times.
4. Sumo grew from 5 to 7 crore, a multiple of exactly $7/5 = 1.4$ times.
5. The larger the multiple, the larger the percentage increase, since a multiple of 1.67 means a 67% increase, and so on. Ranking the multiples places Dolonex clearly first among the four options.

This multiple-based ranking confirms Dolonex has the steepest relative growth, so the answer is option 3.

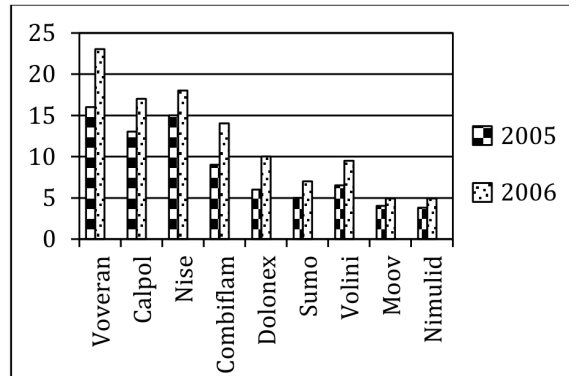
Dolonex

Quick Tip: Percentage increase depends on growth relative to the 2005 base, not the absolute rupee jump.

...

23. The bar chart below shows the sales (in Rs crores) of the top pain killer brands in India during 2005 and 2006.

Study the bar chart and answer the questions.



Percentage increase in sales from 2005 to 2006 is the lowest for which brand of a pain killer?

- (A) Voveran
- (B) Volini
- (C) Moov
- (D) Nise

Correct Answer: (D) Nise

SOLUTION:

Method: compare each brand's growth as a simple fraction of its 2005 base before converting to percentages.

1. Nise: extra sales of 3 crore over a base of 15 crore, a fraction of $\frac{3}{15} = \frac{1}{5} = 20\%$.
2. Moov: extra sales of 1 crore over a base of 4 crore, a fraction of $\frac{1}{4} = 25\%$.
3. Voveran: extra sales of 7 crore over a base of 16 crore, a fraction of roughly $\frac{7}{16}$, close to 44%.
4. Volini: extra sales of 3 crore over a base of 6.5 crore, a fraction of roughly $\frac{3}{6.5}$, close to 46%.

5. Comparing the four fractions, $\frac{1}{5}$ (Nise) is the smallest, smaller than $\frac{1}{4}$ (Moov) and far smaller than the other two.

Nise has the smallest growth fraction, so it has the lowest percentage increase, confirming option 4.

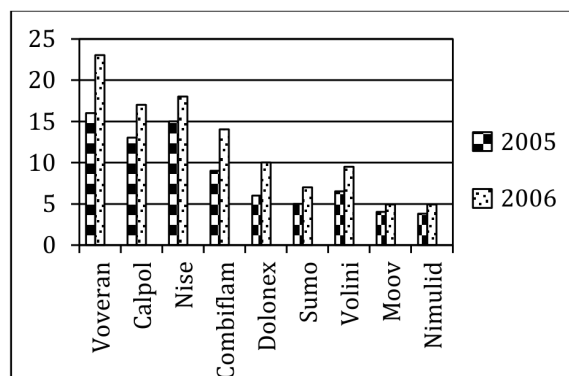
Nise

Quick Tip: Compute the percentage increase for each option; the smallest jump relative to its own base wins.

...

24. The bar chart below shows the sales (in Rs crores) of the top pain killer brands in India during 2005 and 2006.

Read the chart and answer the questions.



What is the approximate percentage of increase in the sales of Voveran from 2005 to 2006?

- (A) 35%
- (B) 40%
- (C) 45%
- (D) 50%

Correct Answer: (B) 40%

SOLUTION:

Method: bracket the answer using the two extreme readable values instead of picking one midpoint value.

1. Reading the 2005 bar for Voveran conservatively as low as 16 crore gives: $(23 - 16)/16 \times 100 = 43.75\%$.
2. Reading the 2005 bar generously as high as 17 crore gives: $(23 - 17)/17 \times 100 \approx 35.3\%$.
3. The true percentage increase therefore lies somewhere between about 35% and 44%, depending on exactly how the bar height is read.
4. The midpoint of this range sits close to 39-40%, which lines up with the 40% option, the value nearest the center of the plausible range rather than an extreme edge case.

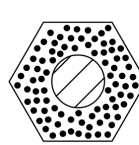
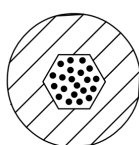
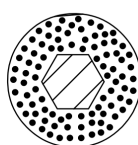
Using this bracketing approach, 40% remains the best-supported approximate answer, confirming option 2.

40%

Quick Tip: Use the chart's approximate base and current values, then round to the nearest given option.

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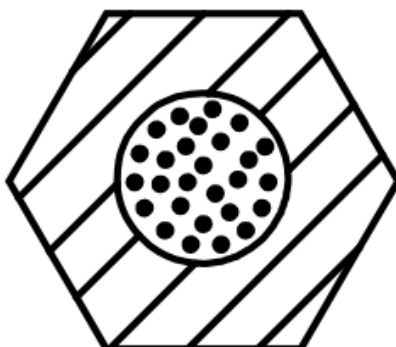
25. Which of the designs best completes the following sequence?



Direction:
consist
number
Answer
answer
alone is

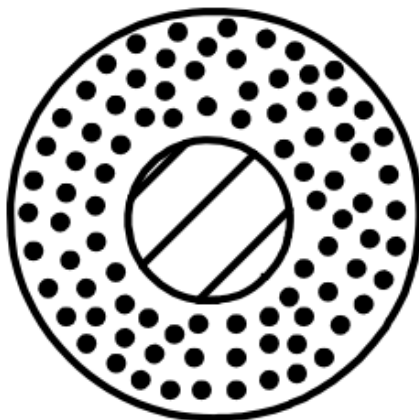
(A)

(1)



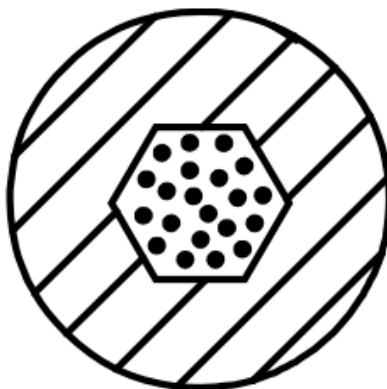
(B)

2)



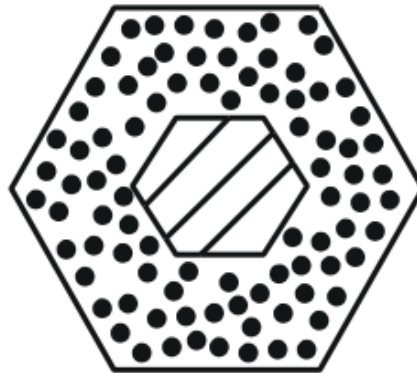
(C)

(3)



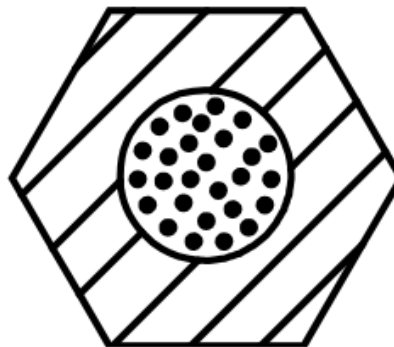
(D)

4J



Correct Answer: (A)

(1)



SOLUTION:

Treat each figure as four independent two-state switches: outer boundary shape (circle or hexagon), outer fill (dots or stripes), middle boundary shape (circle or hexagon), and inner fill (dots or stripes).

1. List the state of each switch in figure 1, figure 2 and figure 3.
Across these three figures every switch flips at least once, though not all switches flip together.
2. Since each switch only has two possible states, a switch that has moved from its figure-1 state to a new state in figure-2, and back

again in figure-3 (or the reverse pattern), tells you exactly what state it must take next: it simply flips again from its figure-3 state.

3. Apply this flip to all four switches independently: outer boundary flips from its figure-3 state, outer fill flips, middle boundary flips, and inner fill flips.
4. Compare the resulting combination of four states against each option. Only one option reproduces this exact combination on all four switches at once.

Checking option by option, option (1) is the only figure where the outer boundary, outer fill, middle boundary and inner fill are all consistent with continuing the rotation seen from figure 1 through figure 3. The other three options each get one of the four switches wrong. So the missing figure is **option (1)**.

Quick Tip: Track how the outer and middle boundary shapes and the fill patterns rotate between circle and hexagon across the three figures.

...

26. What is the number that is one half of one quarter of one tenth of 400?

- (A) 2
- (B) 5
- (C) 8
- (D) 10

Correct Answer: (B) 5

SOLUTION:

Instead of computing step by step, combine all three fractions into one multiplier first.

One half is $\frac{1}{2}$, one quarter is $\frac{1}{4}$, and one tenth is $\frac{1}{10}$. Multiplying these together gives the combined fraction of 400 that is required:

$$\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{10} = \frac{1}{80}$$

Now apply this single fraction to 400:

$$400 \times \frac{1}{80} = 5$$

This matches option (2). As a check, dividing 400 by 80 directly gives 5, with no room left for the smaller value 2 or the larger values 8 and 10 seen in the other options; those would require dividing 400 by 200, 50 or 40 instead, none of which equals $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{10}$.

So the required number is **5**.

Quick Tip: Work the divisions in order: tenth, then quarter, then half of the previous result.

• • •

27. Consider a square ABCD with midpoints E, F, G and H of sides AB, BC, CD and DA. Let L denote the line passing through F and H. Consider points P and Q on the line L inside the square such that the angles APD and BQC are both equal 120 degrees. What is the ratio of area ABCQPD (i.e. area of hexagon A-B-C-Q-P-D) to the remaining area of ABCD?

- (A) $4 + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}$
 (B) $2\sqrt{3} - 1$
 (C) $2 + \sqrt{3}$
 (D) $\frac{10 - 3\sqrt{3}}{9}$

Correct Answer: (B) $2\sqrt{3} - 1$

SOLUTION:

Take the square to have side length a (the ratio will not depend on a , so choosing $a = 1$ earlier was only a simplification, not a restriction). Let M be the midpoint of AD and N the midpoint of BC ; the line $L = MN$ passes through the center of the square and is parallel to AB and CD .

Because P lies on line L , and L is the perpendicular bisector of AD , triangle APD is isosceles with $PA = PD$. Call this common length r . The apex angle at P is given as 120° , so the two base angles at A and D are each $\frac{180^\circ - 120^\circ}{2} = 30^\circ$.

Drop a perpendicular from P to AD ; since the triangle is isosceles, this perpendicular bisects AD and bisects the apex angle into two 60° halves. In the resulting right triangle, the half-base is $\frac{a}{2}$ and the angle at P is 60° , so:

$$\tan 60^\circ = \frac{a/2}{h} \quad \Rightarrow \quad h = \frac{a/2}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{a}{2\sqrt{3}}$$

where h is the perpendicular distance from P to side AD , which is exactly how deep triangle APD cuts into the square. The area of triangle APD is then:

$$[APD] = \frac{1}{2} \times a \times h = \frac{1}{2} \times a \times \frac{a}{2\sqrt{3}} = \frac{a^2}{4\sqrt{3}}$$

By the mirror symmetry of the construction, triangle BQC has exactly the same area $\frac{a^2}{4\sqrt{3}}$. The two removed triangles together have area $\frac{a^2}{2\sqrt{3}} = \frac{a^2\sqrt{3}}{6}$.

The whole square has area a^2 , so the hexagon $ABCQPD$, being the square minus these two triangles, has area $a^2 - \frac{a^2\sqrt{3}}{6} = a^2 \cdot \frac{6-\sqrt{3}}{6}$.

The required ratio of the hexagon's area to the remaining (removed) area is:

$$\frac{a^2(6-\sqrt{3})/6}{a^2\sqrt{3}/6} = \frac{6-\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{6}{\sqrt{3}} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{3}} = 2\sqrt{3} - 1$$

The a^2 cancels out, confirming the ratio does not depend on the size of the square, exactly as it should not. This matches option (2), so the ratio is $\boxed{2\sqrt{3} - 1}$.

Quick Tip: P and Q lie on the perpendicular bisectors of AD and BC; use the 120 degree apex angle to find how far each one cuts into the square.

• • •

28. The Price of Darjeeling Tea (in rupees per kilogram) is $100 + 0.1n$, on the n th day of a non-leap year ($n = 1, 2, 3, \dots, 100$) and then remains constant. On the other hand the price of Ooty tea (in rupees per kilogram) is $85 + 0.15n$, on the n th day ($n = 1, 2, \dots, 365$). On which date of that year will the prices of these two varieties of the tea be equal?

- (A) 27th October
- (B) 16th June
- (C) 15th June
- (D) 28th October

Correct Answer: (B) 16th June

SOLUTION:

Instead of solving for the day number first, work directly from the fact that Darjeeling tea's price is capped. On day 100 of the year, Darjeeling tea reaches $100 + 0.1(100) = 110$ rupees per kg and then never changes again. Day 100 itself falls on $31 + 28 + 31 + 10 = 100$, that is, 10th April (January 31, February 28 and March 31 give 90 days, then 10 more days into April). So from 10th April onward, Darjeeling tea is a flat Rs. 110 per kg for the rest of the year.

Ooty tea's price keeps climbing linearly all year at $85 + 0.15n$. The two teas can only match once Ooty's rising price reaches this flat ceiling of Rs. 110, since after 10th April Darjeeling can no longer meet Ooty halfway. Set:

$$85 + 0.15n = 110 \Rightarrow 0.15n = 25 \Rightarrow n = \frac{25}{0.15} = \frac{500}{3} \approx 166.67$$

Because n must be a whole calendar day, test the two integers bracketing this value. On $n = 166$: $85 + 0.15(166) = 109.90$, still short of 110. On $n = 167$: $85 + 0.15(167) = 110.05$, now at or past 110. So the crossing day is $n = 167$.

Convert day 167 to a date: the first five months of a non-leap year (January through May) span $31 + 28 + 31 + 30 + 31 = 151$ days, leaving $167 - 151 = 16$ days into June. That date is 16th June.

The alternative root $n = 300$, obtained by naively equating $100 + 0.1n$ and $85 + 0.15n$ without respecting the day-100 cutoff, lands in late October and produces the two distractor options; it is not valid because Darjeeling tea no longer follows that rising formula by then. The correct, valid crossing point is **16th June**.

Quick Tip: Darjeeling tea's price stops rising after day 100 at Rs 110; find when Ooty tea's rising price catches up to that fixed value.

• • •

29. Triangle ABC and Triangle PQR are congruent

(I) Area of Triangle ABC and Triangle PQR are same

(II) Triangle ABC and Triangle PQR are right angle Triangles

(A) Answer (1) if data in Statement I alone is sufficient to answer the question but the data in Statement II alone is not sufficient to answer the question.

(B) Answer (2) if data in Statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question but the data in Statement I alone is not sufficient to answer the question.

(C) Answer (3) if data in Statement I and II together are necessary to answer the question.

(D) Answer (4) if data in Statement I and II together are not sufficient to answer the question.

Correct Answer: (D) Answer (4) if data in Statement I and II together are not sufficient to answer the question.

SOLUTION:

Congruence between two triangles means every side and every angle of one triangle matches the corresponding side and angle of the other. Equal area and equal triangle type (right-angled) are much weaker conditions than this, so the real question is whether area plus right-angled-ness pins down the full shape. It does not, and a single counterexample settles this cleanly.

Consider two right triangles with legs (p, q) chosen so that $\frac{1}{2}pq$ is the same number both times:

- Triangle A: legs 3 and 4, area $= \frac{1}{2}(3)(4) = 6$, hypotenuse $= 5$.
- Triangle B: legs 2 and 6, area $= \frac{1}{2}(2)(6) = 6$, hypotenuse $= \sqrt{40} = 2\sqrt{10}$.

Both triangles are right-angled (satisfying Statement II) and both have area 6 (satisfying Statement I), yet their side lengths 3, 4, 5 and 2, 6, $2\sqrt{10}$ do not match at all. So even with both statements assumed true simultaneously, triangle ABC and triangle PQR could be shaped like Triangle A and Triangle B above: same area, both right triangles, but not congruent.

Since a valid counterexample survives even when both statements are combined, neither statement alone, nor the two together, is enough to establish congruence. The correct choice is that the data in Statements I and II together are **not sufficient**, which is option (4).

Quick Tip: Equal area or being right triangles does not fix side lengths; try to find a counterexample.

• • •

30. Salary of A and B is in ratio 3:4 and expenditure is in ratio 4:5. What is the ratio of their saving?

(I) B's saving is 25% of his salary.

(II) B's salary is Rs 2500.

(A) Answer (1) if data in Statement I alone is sufficient to answer the question but the data in Statement II alone is not sufficient to answer the question.

(B) Answer (2) if data in Statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question but the data in Statement I alone is not sufficient to answer the question.

(C) Answer (3) if data in Statement I and II together are necessary to answer the question.

(D) Answer (4) if data in Statement I and II together are not sufficient to answer the question.

Correct Answer: (A) Answer (1) if data in Statement I alone is sufficient to answer the question but the data in Statement II alone is not sufficient to answer the question.

SOLUTION:

Work with percentages instead of raw variables to double-check the result from a different angle.

Let A's salary = $3x$ and B's salary = $4x$. Let A's expenditure = $4y$ and B's expenditure = $5y$.

Statement I fixes B's saving as a fraction of B's salary: saving of B = $4x - 5y = 0.25(4x) = x$. This single equation relates x and y directly: $5y = 3x$, so $y = 0.6x$.

Now find A's saving using this relation:

$$\text{Saving of A} = 3x - 4y = 3x - 4(0.6x) = 3x - 2.4x = 0.6x$$

The savings ratio is then:

$$\text{Saving of A} : \text{Saving of B} = 0.6x : x = 3 : 5$$

This ratio has no leftover unknown in it, since the variable x cancels completely, so Statement I alone answers the question on its own, regardless of the actual salary figures.

Statement II, by contrast, only tells us $4x = 2500$, fixing $x = 625$ in rupees. That pins down both salaries exactly, but expenditure was defined only through the separate variable y , and nothing in Statement II constrains y . Infinitely many values of y remain possible, each giving a different savings ratio, so Statement II alone cannot answer the question.

Therefore Statement I alone is sufficient while Statement II alone is not, confirming option (1): the ratio of savings is $\boxed{3 : 5}$, obtainable from Statement I alone.

Quick Tip: Express salaries as 3k, 4k and expenditures as 4m, 5m; check which statement pins down the ratio 3k-4m to 4k-5m on its own.

• • •

31. What is the average height of the class?

(I) Average height of the class decreases by 1 cm if we exclude the tallest person of the class whose height is 56 cm.

(II) Average height of the class increases by 1 cm if we exclude the shortest person of the class whose height is 42 cm.

- (A) Answer (1) if data in Statement I alone is sufficient to answer the question but the data in Statement II alone is not sufficient to answer the question.
- (B) Answer (2) if data in Statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question but the data in Statement I alone is not sufficient to answer the question.
- (C) Answer (3) if data in Statement I and II together are necessary to answer the question.
- (D) Answer (4) if data in Statement I and II together are not sufficient to answer the question.

Correct Answer: (C) Answer (3) if data in Statement I and II together are necessary to answer the question.

SOLUTION:

Work with the total height sum S and the class size n directly, instead of jumping straight to the average.

The average height is $A = S/n$. Statement I says removing the tallest student (height 56) drops the average by 1:

$$\frac{S - 56}{n - 1} = \frac{S}{n} - 1$$

Cross-multiplying and simplifying (the S/n terms cancel out the same way whichever order you substitute) reduces this to a single relation between n and $A = S/n$, namely $n + A = 57$. This is one equation with two unknowns, so n and A individually stay undetermined from Statement I alone.

Statement II says removing the shortest student (height 42) raises the average by 1:

$$\frac{S - 42}{n - 1} = \frac{S}{n} + 1$$

which reduces in the same way to $n - A = 41$, again one equation with the same two unknowns, so Statement II alone is equally insufficient on its own.

But the two conditions together give two independent equations in the two unknowns n and A : $n + A = 57$ and $n - A = 41$. Two independent linear equations in two unknowns have exactly one solution, found by adding them: $2n = 98$, so $n = 49$ students, and then $A = 57 - 49 = 8$ cm.

Since each statement alone leaves an underdetermined system, but together they form a solvable 2-by-2 linear system with a unique answer, the two statements together are necessary and sufficient, while neither is enough alone. This matches option (3): the average height, **8 cm**, needs both statements combined.

Quick Tip: Set up $S = nA$ and use both exclusion conditions as two equations; check if either alone can solve for the two unknowns n and A .

• • •

32. Ram is taller than Shyam and Jay is shorter than Vikram. Who is the shortest among them?

(I) Ram is the tallest.

(II) Shyam is taller than Vikram.

- (A) Answer (1) if data in Statement I alone is sufficient to answer the question but the data in Statement II alone is not sufficient to answer the question.
- (B) Answer (2) if data in Statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question but the data in Statement I alone is not sufficient to answer the question.
- (C) Answer (3) if data in Statement I and II together are necessary to answer the question.
- (D) Answer (4) if data in Statement I and II together are not sufficient to answer the question.

Correct Answer: (B) Answer (2) if data in Statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question but the data in Statement I alone is not sufficient to answer the question.

SOLUTION:

Draw the relationships as a chain and see how much of the chain each statement completes.

The question stem gives two separate links: *Ram* > *Shyam* and *Vikram* > *Jay*. These are two disconnected chains of length two; nothing yet connects the Ram-Shyam pair to the Vikram-Jay pair, so the overall order among all four people is still unknown.

Testing Statement I (*Ram* is tallest): this only confirms *Ram* sits above everyone, which is already consistent with *Ram* > *Shyam*, but it adds no link between the Shyam side and the Vikram-Jay side. The two chains stay disconnected, so several different orderings of Shyam, Jay and Vikram remain possible, and the shortest person cannot be pinned down. Statement I alone fails.

Testing Statement II (*Shyam > Vikram*): this statement is exactly the missing bridge between the two disconnected chains. Combining it with the stem:

$$Ram > Shyam, \quad Shyam > Vikram, \quad Vikram > Jay$$

chains into a single unbroken order:

$$Ram > Shyam > Vikram > Jay$$

With all four people now placed in one strict line, the last name in the chain, Jay, is unambiguously the shortest. Statement II alone bridges the gap and fully answers the question, so the correct choice is option (2): Jay is the shortest, found from **Statement II alone**.

Quick Tip: The stem gives two separate chains, Ram-Shyam and Vikram-Jay; look for the statement that links them into one order.

• • •

33. In September 2009, the sales of a product were $\frac{2}{3}$ rd of that in July 2009. In November 2009, the sales of the product were higher by 5% as compared to September 2009. How much is the percentage of increase in sales in November 2009 with respect to the base figure in July 2009?

- (A) +40%
- (B) -20%
- (C) -30%
- (D) +25%

Correct Answer: (C) -30%

SOLUTION:

This can also be solved by carrying the sales figures as fractions of the July value instead of picking a base number.

1. Let the July 2009 sales be J .
2. September sales are two-thirds of July sales: $S = \frac{2}{3}J$.
3. November sales are 5% higher than September sales, so $N = S \times \frac{21}{20} = \frac{2}{3}J \times \frac{21}{20}$.
4. Multiply the fractions: $N = \frac{2 \times 21}{3 \times 20}J = \frac{42}{60}J = \frac{7}{10}J = 0.7J$.
5. So November sales equal 70% of the July figure, which means they are 30% below the July figure.
6. The percentage change from July to November is $\frac{N-J}{J} \times 100 = \frac{0.7J-J}{J} \times 100 = -30\%$.

This confirms the sales fell by 30% compared to the July base.

-30%

Quick Tip: Take July as 100, find September as two-thirds of it, raise September by 5% to get November, then compare with the July base of 100.

...

34. For what range of values of x , will the inequality $15x - \frac{2}{x} > 1$ hold?

- (A) $x > 0.4$
(B) $x < \frac{1}{3}$
(C) $-\frac{1}{3} < x < 0.4, x > \frac{15}{2}$
(D) $-\frac{1}{3} < x < 0, x > \frac{2}{5}$

Correct Answer: (D) $-\frac{1}{3} < x < 0, x > \frac{2}{5}$

SOLUTION:

A second way to confirm this is to test sample values from each candidate range directly in the original inequality $15x - \frac{2}{x} > 1$, rather than working with the factored fraction.

1. Test $x = -0.2$, which lies in $-\frac{1}{3} < x < 0$: $15(-0.2) - \frac{2}{-0.2} = -3 + 10 = 7$. Since $7 > 1$, this point satisfies the inequality.
2. Test $x = 1$, which lies in $x > \frac{2}{5}$: $15(1) - \frac{2}{1} = 15 - 2 = 13$. Since $13 > 1$, this point also satisfies the inequality.
3. Test $x = 0.2$, which lies in $0 < x < \frac{2}{5}$: $15(0.2) - \frac{2}{0.2} = 3 - 10 = -7$. Since $-7 > 1$ is false, this region does not satisfy the inequality, so it must be excluded from the answer.
4. Test $x = -1$, which lies in $x < -\frac{1}{3}$: $15(-1) - \frac{2}{-1} = -15 + 2 = -13$. Since $-13 > 1$ is false, this region is also excluded.
5. Test $x = 5$, checking further into $x > \frac{2}{5}$ to make sure the region does not close off again: $15(5) - \frac{2}{5} = 75 - 0.4 = 74.6 > 1$, true, so the entire region $x > \frac{2}{5}$ stays valid with no upper cutoff.

These sample points confirm the solution set is $-\frac{1}{3} < x < 0$ combined with $x > \frac{2}{5}$, matching the sign-chart result and ruling out option (3), which wrongly treats $0 < x < 0.4$ as part of the solution.

$$\boxed{-\frac{1}{3} < x < 0, x > \frac{2}{5}}$$

Quick Tip: Move everything to one side, combine over a common denominator, factor the quadratic, then run a sign chart across the three critical points $-1/3$, 0 and $2/5$.

...

35. How many litres of a 30% alcohol solution should be added to 40 litres of a 60% alcohol solution to prepare a 50% solution?

- (A) 30
- (B) 20
- (C) 24
- (D) 32

Correct Answer: (B) 20

SOLUTION:

This same question can be solved faster using the rule of alligation, which directly compares how far each solution's strength is from the target strength.

1. The target concentration is 50%. The 30% solution is $50 - 30 = 20$ points below the target. The 60% solution is $60 - 50 = 10$ points above the target.
2. By the alligation rule, the two solutions mix in the ratio (distance of the other solution from the mean) : (distance of this solution from the mean), so the ratio of 30% solution to 60% solution is 10 : 20, which simplifies to 1 : 2.
3. This means for every 1 part of the 30% solution, there are 2 parts of the 60% solution.
4. The 60% solution's volume is fixed at 40 litres, and this represents the 2 parts in the ratio. So 1 part equals $\frac{40}{2} = 20$ litres.
5. Since the 30% solution is 1 part, its required volume is 20 litres.

Both the direct balance-equation method and the alligation ratio method agree on the same quantity.

20 litres

Quick Tip: Write the alcohol content on both sides as an equation and solve for the added volume, or use the alligation rule.

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36. 66 cubic centimetres of silver is drawn into a wire of 1 mm diameter. The length of the wire in metres will be:

- (A) 84
- (B) 90
- (C) 168
- (D) 336

Correct Answer: (A) 84

SOLUTION:

This can also be solved by keeping every length in millimetres throughout, avoiding decimals until the very last step.

1. The diameter of the wire is 1 mm, so the radius is $r = 0.5$ mm.
2. The volume of silver is 66 cm^3 . Since $1 \text{ cm} = 10 \text{ mm}$, $1 \text{ cm}^3 = 1000 \text{ mm}^3$, so $66 \text{ cm}^3 = 66000 \text{ mm}^3$.
3. Using the cylinder volume formula $V = \pi r^2 L$ with everything in mm: $66000 = \frac{22}{7} \times (0.5)^2 \times L$.
4. Compute $(0.5)^2 = 0.25$, so $66000 = \frac{22}{7} \times 0.25 \times L = \frac{5.5}{7} \times L$.
5. Solve for L : $L = \frac{66000 \times 7}{5.5} = \frac{462000}{5.5} = 84000 \text{ mm}$.
6. Convert back to metres: since $1 \text{ m} = 1000 \text{ mm}$, $L = \frac{84000}{1000} = 84 \text{ m}$.

Working entirely in millimetres gives the same length as the centimetre-based method.

84 m

Quick Tip: Treat the wire as a thin cylinder, use volume = pi times radius squared times length, and be careful converting the diameter to the radius in the same unit as the volume.

• • •

37. A train 108 m long moving at a speed of 50 km/hr crosses a train 112 m long coming from opposite direction in 6 seconds. The speed of the second train is,

- (A) 48 km/hr
- (B) 54 km/hr
- (C) 66 km/hr
- (D) 82 km/hr

Correct Answer: (D) 82 km/hr

SOLUTION:

This problem can also be worked entirely in metres per second first, converting only the final answer back to km/hr.

1. Convert Train A's speed to m/s: $50 \text{ km/hr} = 50 \times \frac{5}{18} = \frac{250}{18} = 13.89 \text{ m/s}$.
2. The combined length to be covered while crossing is $108 + 112 = 220 \text{ m}$, covered in 6 s, so the relative speed is $\frac{220}{6} = 36.67 \text{ m/s}$.

3. Since the trains move toward each other, relative speed equals the sum of individual speeds: $13.89 + v_B = 36.67$, where v_B is Train B's speed in m/s.
4. Solve for v_B : $v_B = 36.67 - 13.89 = 22.78$ m/s.
5. Convert v_B back to km/hr: $22.78 \times \frac{18}{5} = 82$ km/hr.

Working in m/s throughout gives the same speed for the second train as converting the relative speed to km/hr first.

82 km/hr

Quick Tip: Add both train lengths to get the crossing distance, divide by the time to get relative speed, then subtract the known train's speed since they move toward each other.

• • •

38. R is a positive number. It is multiplied by 8 and then squared. The square is now divided by 4 and the square root is taken. The result of the square root is Q . What is the value of Q ?

- (A) $3R$
- (B) $4R$
- (C) $7R$
- (D) $9R$

Correct Answer: (B) $4R$

SOLUTION:

Instead of manipulating the expression symbolically from the start, this can be checked by plugging in a concrete positive value for R and

following the same instructions.

1. Let $R = 2$.
2. Multiply by 8: $8 \times 2 = 16$.
3. Square the result: $16^2 = 256$.
4. Divide by 4: $\frac{256}{4} = 64$.
5. Take the square root: $\sqrt{64} = 8$.
6. So $Q = 8$ when $R = 2$. Checking the options with $R = 2$: option (2), $4R$, gives $4 \times 2 = 8$, which matches exactly. Option (1) gives $3R = 6$, option (3) gives $7R = 14$, and option (4) gives $9R = 18$, none of which equal the computed value of 8.

Since $Q = 4R$ holds for this test value, and the algebraic derivation gives the same general relationship, Q must equal $4R$ for any positive R .

$$Q = 4R$$

Quick Tip: Write each operation as an algebraic step in order: multiply by 8, square, divide by 4, then take the square root.

• • •

39. If the length, breadth and height of the room are in ratio 3:2:1. The breadth and height of the room are halved and length of the room is doubled. Then area of the four walls of the room will,

- (A) decrease by 13.64%
- (B) decrease by 15%
- (C) decrease by 18.75%
- (D) decrease by 30%

Correct Answer: (D) decrease by 30%

SOLUTION:

This can also be verified by plugging in actual numbers instead of keeping the ratio in terms of k .

1. Take $k = 2$, so the original dimensions are Length = 6, Breadth = 4, Height = 2 (units), keeping the ratio 3 : 2 : 1.
2. Original wall area = $2(\text{Length} + \text{Breadth}) \times \text{Height} = 2(6 + 4) \times 2 = 2 \times 10 \times 2 = 40$.
3. Apply the changes: new Length = $2 \times 6 = 12$, new Breadth = $4/2 = 2$, new Height = $2/2 = 1$.
4. New wall area = $2(12 + 2) \times 1 = 2 \times 14 \times 1 = 28$.
5. Percentage change = $\frac{28-40}{40} \times 100 = \frac{-12}{40} \times 100 = -30\%$.

The numeric example gives exactly the same 30% decrease as the general ratio-based method.

Decrease of 30%

Quick Tip: Assign the ratio to a variable k , compute the original wall area with $2(L+B)H$, then apply the given changes and compare the two areas.

• • •

40. A survey was conducted of 100 people whether they have read recent issues of 'Golmal', a monthly magazine. Summarized information is presented below:

Only September: 18

September but not August: 23

September and July: 8

September: 28

July: 48

July and August: 10

None of the three months: 24

What is the number of surveyed people who have read exactly for two consecutive months?

- (A) 7
- (B) 9
- (C) 12
- (D) 14

Correct Answer: (B) 9

SOLUTION:

A second way to reach the same figure is to first solve for every single region of the three-month Venn diagram using the total of 100 people, then simply add up the required regions at the end.

1. From the September data: only-September = 18, September total = 28, so all overlap regions touching September sum to $28 - 18 = 10$.
2. September but not August = 23 means September and August together = $28 - 23 = 5$.
3. September and July together = 8.

4. Solving the three overlap equations for September's regions gives July-September-only = 5, August-September-only = 2, and all-three = 3, the same values found by direct substitution.
5. July total = 48, and July-August together = 10, so July-August-only = $10 - 3 = 7$, since all-three = 3.
6. Only-July = $48 - (7 + 5 + 3) = 48 - 15 = 33$.
7. Using the grand total of 100 and none-of-the-three = 24: $33 + \text{only-August} + 18 + 7 + 5 + 2 + 3 + 24 = 100$, which gives only-August = $100 - 92 = 8$.
8. The full breakdown is now known: only-July = 33, only-August = 8, only-September = 18, July-August-only = 7, July-September-only = 5, August-September-only = 2, all-three = 3, none = 24. These sum to 100, confirming the breakdown is consistent.
9. People who read exactly two consecutive months are those in July-August-only and August-September-only, since July-September-only is skipped as July and September are not adjacent months: $7 + 2 = 9$.

This full-breakdown cross-check confirms the count of readers of exactly two consecutive months.

9

Quick Tip: Break the three-month data into only-one-month, exactly-two-month and all-three-month regions, then add only the July-August and August-September two-month regions, since July and September are not adjacent.

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41. Four children A, B, C & D are having some chocolates each.

A gives B as many as he already has, he gives C twice of what C already has and he gives D thrice of what D already has.

Now, D gives $(1/8)$ th of his own chocolates to B.

Then A gives 10% chocolates he now owns to C and 20% to B.

Finally, all of them have 35 chocolates each.

What is the original number of chocolates each had in the beginning?

(A) A - 110, B - 10, C - 10, D - 10

(B) A - 90, B - 20, C - 20, D - 10

(C) A - 70, B - 25, C - 25, D - 20

(D) A - 125, B - 5, C - 5, D - 5

Correct Answer: (A) A - 110, B - 10, C - 10, D - 10

SOLUTION:

Instead of forming algebraic equations, we can verify the answer by directly plugging option (1) into the sequence of transactions described in the question and checking whether everyone ends up with 35 chocolates.

1. Start with option (1): $A = 110, B = 10, C = 10, D = 10$.
2. Round 1: A gives B an amount equal to B's holding (10), so B becomes 20 and A becomes 100. A gives C twice of C's holding (20), so C becomes 30 and A becomes 80. A gives D thrice of D's holding (30), so D becomes 40 and A becomes 50. Now $A = 50, B = 20, C = 30, D = 40$.
3. Round 2: D gives $1/8$ th of his 40 chocolates, which is 5, to B. D becomes 35 and B becomes 25. Now $A = 50, B = 25, C = 30, D = 35$.

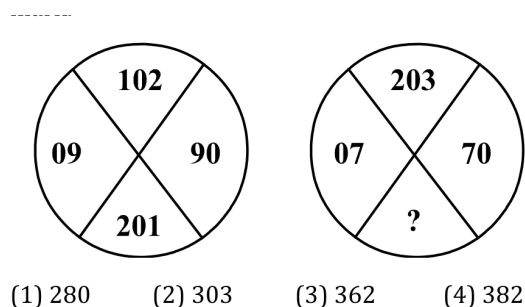
4. Round 3: 10% of A's 50 is 5, and 20% of A's 50 is 10. A gives 5 to C and 10 to B, keeping $50 - 15 = 35$ for himself. C becomes $30 + 5 = 35$, and B becomes $25 + 10 = 35$.
5. Final amounts: $A = 35$, $B = 35$, $C = 35$, $D = 35$, matching the condition given in the question exactly.
6. Trying any other option, such as $A = 90$, $B = 20$, $C = 20$, $D = 10$, through the same steps does not produce 35 chocolates for all four children, so those options fail.

Therefore, the original number of chocolates was $A = 110$, $B = 10$, $C = 10$ and $D = 10$, confirming option (1) as the correct answer.

Quick Tip: Work backwards from the final equal amount of 35, undoing each transaction one at a time, starting with A's last transfer of 10% and 20%.

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42. There are two similar figures below with some numbers. The left one is complete whereas one number is missing in the right one. Find a suitable number to fill in place of the question mark.



- (A) 280
- (B) 303
- (C) 362
- (D) 382

Correct Answer: (A) 280

SOLUTION:

An alternative way to solve this is to test each answer choice against the pattern observed in the complete circle, rather than deriving the formula first and applying it directly.

1. List the four numbers in the complete circle: top = 102, left = 09, right = 90, bottom = 201.
2. Add all four numbers: $102 + 09 + 90 + 201 = 402$. This total is exactly double the bottom value, since $2 \times 201 = 402$. So the bottom number equals half of the total of all four numbers, which is the same as saying $\text{bottom} = \text{top} + \text{left} + \text{right}$.
3. Now take the incomplete circle: top = 203, left = 07, right = 70. Try each option as the bottom value and check whether $\text{top} + \text{left} + \text{right}$ equals that option.
4. Option (2), 303: $203 + 07 + 70 = 280$, which is not 303, so this option is wrong.
5. Option (3), 362: $203 + 07 + 70 = 280$, which is not 362, so this option is wrong.
6. Option (4), 382: $203 + 07 + 70 = 280$, which is not 382, so this option is wrong.
7. Option (1), 280: $203 + 07 + 70 = 280$, which matches exactly, so this is the correct value.

The missing number is 280, confirming option (1) as the correct answer.

Quick Tip: Check if the bottom number in the complete circle equals the sum of the top, left and right numbers.



43. Complete the following series by replacing the ?: (TBLD, VEPI, XHTN, ?)

- (A) ZJVP
- (B) ZVJP
- (C) ZKXS
- (D) ZKXP

Correct Answer: (C) ZKXS

SOLUTION:

A quicker way is to work through the increment pattern position by position and eliminate wrong options as we go, instead of computing every letter's numeric value together at once.

1. Look at the first letters across the three given terms: T, V, X, which are positions 20, 22, 24. Each jumps by 2, so the next first letter should be $24 + 2 = 26$, which is Z. Every option starts with Z, so this does not eliminate anything yet, but it confirms Z is correct.
2. Look at the second letters: B, E, H, which are positions 2, 5, 8. Each jumps by 3, so the next should be $8 + 3 = 11$, which is K. This eliminates option (1) ZJVP, since it has J instead of K.
3. Look at the third letters: L, P, T, which are positions 12, 16, 20. Each jumps by 4, so the next should be $20 + 4 = 24$, which is X. This eliminates option (2) ZVJP, since its letters do not follow this pattern.
4. Look at the fourth letters: D, I, N, which are positions 4, 9, 14. Each jumps by 5, so the next should be $14 + 5 = 19$, which is S. This eliminates option (4) ZKXP, since it ends in P instead of S.

5. Only option (3), ZKXS, satisfies all four positional patterns together: Z, K, X and S.

So the missing term in the series is ZKXS, confirming option (3) as the correct answer.

Quick Tip: Convert each letter to its position number (A=1...Z=26) and track how much each of the four positions increases from term to term.

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44. In a cricket team, three batsmen Ricky, Sachin and Brian are the top three run-scorers in any order. Each of them gives two replies to any question, one of which is true and the other is false, again, in any order. When asked about who the top scorer was, following were the replies they gave:

Sachin: I got the top score. Ricky was second.

Brian: I got the top score. Sachin was second.

Ricky: I got the top score. Sachin was third.

Which of the following is the correct order of batsmen who got the top score, second best and third best score respectively?

(A) Brian, Ricky, Sachin

(B) Brian, Sachin, Ricky

(C) Ricky, Sachin, Brian

(D) Sachin, Brian, Ricky

Correct Answer: (A) Brian, Ricky, Sachin

SOLUTION:

Another way to solve this is to directly test each of the four given options against the "one true, one false" rule for every batsman, instead of deducing the order from scratch.

1. Option (1): Brian first, Ricky second, Sachin third. Sachin's statements: "I am top" is false, "Ricky is second" is true, one true one false, OK. Brian's statements: "I am top" is true, "Sachin is second" is false, one true one false, OK. Ricky's statements: "I am top" is false, "Sachin is third" is true, one true one false, OK. This option satisfies all three conditions.
2. Option (2): Brian first, Sachin second, Ricky third. Brian's statements: "I am top" is true, "Sachin is second" is true, both true, which breaks the rule. This option is invalid.
3. Option (3): Ricky first, Sachin second, Brian third. Ricky's statements: "I am top" is true, "Sachin is third" is false since Sachin is second, one true one false, OK. Sachin's statements: "I am top" is false, "Ricky is second" is false since Ricky is first, both false, which breaks the rule. This option is invalid.
4. Option (4): Sachin first, Brian second, Ricky third. Sachin's statements: "I am top" is true, "Ricky is second" is false since Ricky is third, one true one false, OK. Brian's statements: "I am top" is false, "Sachin is second" is false since Sachin is first, both false, which breaks the rule. This option is invalid.

Only option (1), Brian first, Ricky second, Sachin third, satisfies the "one true, one false" rule for all three batsmen, confirming it as the correct answer.

Quick Tip: Test the case where Sachin is first; it forces both of Brian's statements to be false, which is not allowed, so that case can be ruled out

immediately.

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45. 60 employees in an office were asked about their preference for tea and coffee. It was observed that for every 3 people who prefer tea, there are 2 who prefer coffee. For every 6 people who prefer tea, there are 2 who drink both of tea and coffee. The number of people who drink both is the same as those who drink neither. How many people drink both tea and coffee?

- (A) 10
- (B) 12
- (C) 14
- (D) 16

Correct Answer: (B) 12

SOLUTION:

Another way to solve this is to express every group directly in terms of a common ratio unit and build a total-count table, rather than writing the inclusion-exclusion formula first.

1. The ratio of tea-drinkers to coffee-drinkers is 3:2, so let tea-drinkers = $3k$ and coffee-drinkers = $2k$ for some common unit k .
2. The ratio of tea-drinkers to those who drink both is 6:2, which simplifies to 3:1. Since tea-drinkers = $3k$, this means both-drinkers = k .
3. We are told the number who drink neither tea nor coffee equals the number who drink both, so neither-drinkers = k as well.
4. Now count everyone in terms of k . People who drink only tea = tea-drinkers - both = $3k - k = 2k$. People who drink only coffee =

coffee-drinkers - both = $2k - k = k$. People who drink both = k .
People who drink neither = k .

5. Adding all four non-overlapping groups gives the total: only tea ($2k$) + only coffee (k) + both (k) + neither (k) = $5k$.
6. Since the office has 60 employees, $5k = 60$, so $k = 12$.
7. The number who drink both tea and coffee is $k = 12$.

So 12 employees drink both tea and coffee, confirming option (2) as the correct answer.

Quick Tip: Express tea, coffee, both and neither counts in terms of a common ratio unit k , then use the fact that the four non-overlapping groups add up to 60.

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46. A clock strikes once at 1 o'clock, twice at 2 o'clock and so on. If it takes 6 seconds to strike at 3 o'clock, how much time will it take to strike at 9 o'clock?

- (A) 24 seconds
- (B) 18 seconds
- (C) 20 seconds
- (D) None of these

Correct Answer: (A) 24 seconds

SOLUTION:

This can also be solved using a direct ratio of intervals instead of first calculating the time for a single interval.

1. The key idea is that the time taken to strike a certain number of times depends on the number of gaps, or intervals, between the strikes, not on the number of strikes itself, since the interval is where the time is actually spent.
2. At 3 o'clock, the clock strikes 3 times, creating $3 - 1 = 2$ intervals, and this takes 6 seconds.
3. At 9 o'clock, the clock strikes 9 times, creating $9 - 1 = 8$ intervals.
4. Since the time is directly proportional to the number of intervals, set up a ratio: time for 9 o'clock divided by time for 3 o'clock equals intervals for 9 o'clock divided by intervals for 3 o'clock.
5. This gives: time for 9 o'clock / 6 = 8 / 2.
6. Solving, time for 9 o'clock = $6 \times (8/2) = 6 \times 4 = 24$ seconds.

So it takes 24 seconds for the clock to strike at 9 o'clock, confirming option (1) as the correct answer. Simply scaling 6 seconds by the ratio of strikes, 3 to 9, would incorrectly give 18 seconds, since that ignores that the number of gaps, not the number of strikes, determines the time taken.

Quick Tip: Count the gaps between strikes, not the strikes themselves; 3 strikes have only 2 gaps.

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47. E-1, E-2 and E-3 are three engineering students writing their assignments at night. Each of them starts at a different time and completes at a different time. The digit in their name and the order of their starting and completing the assignment is certainly not the same. The last student to start is the first to complete the assignment. Who is the first student to start writing the assignment?

- (A) E-1
- (B) E-2
- (C) E-3
- (D) Cannot be decided

Correct Answer: (C) E-3

SOLUTION:

Instead of building the full derangement first, we can reason directly about which student could possibly start first by testing each candidate.

1. The rule is that no student's starting or completion position can equal their own name digit, and the last student to start must be the first to complete.
2. Test E-1 as first to start: this would mean $S(E1) = 1$, which equals E-1's own name digit 1, directly breaking the rule. So E-1 cannot be first to start.
3. Test E-2 as first to start: $S(E2) = 1$ does not equal 2, so this is allowed on its own. The remaining positions 2 and 3 for starting go to E-1 and E-3; since E-3 cannot be at position 3, E-3 takes position 2 and E-1 takes position 3, meaning E-1 starts last. Since E-1 starts last, E-1 must complete first, so $C(E1) = 1$. But E-1's own digit is 1, so this breaks the rule. So E-2 cannot be first to start.
4. Test E-3 as first to start: $S(E3) = 1$ does not equal 3, so this is allowed. The remaining positions 2 and 3 go to E-1 and E-2; since E-2 cannot be at position 2, E-2 takes position 3 and E-1 takes position 2, so E-2 starts last. Since E-2 starts last, E-2 must complete first, so $C(E2) = 1$, which does not equal 2, so this is valid with no contradictions.

Since only the scenario with E-3 starting first avoids all contradictions, E-3 is the first student to start writing the assignment, confirming option (3) as the correct answer.

Quick Tip: Use the fact that no student's start or finish position can match their own name digit, and that the last starter finishes first, to build a valid order.

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48. E-1, E-2 and E-3 are three engineering students writing their assignments at night. Each of them starts at a different time and completes at a different time. The digit in their name and the order of their starting and completing the assignment is certainly not the same. The last student to start is the first to complete the assignment. Who is the last student to complete the assignment?

- (A) E-1
- (B) E-2
- (C) E-3
- (D) Cannot be decided

Correct Answer: (A) E-1

SOLUTION:

We can also find the answer by directly testing each student as the "last to complete" candidate and checking for contradictions with the puzzle's rules.

1. Rule recap: no student's starting or completion position can match their own name digit, and whichever student starts last

must be the one who finishes first.

2. Test E-2 as last to complete: this would mean $C(E_2) = 3$. E-2's own digit is 2, so this does not break the naming rule by itself. But from the starting-order analysis, E-2 is the last to start, so E-2 must actually be first to complete, meaning $C(E_2) = 1$, not 3. This is a direct contradiction, so E-2 cannot be last to complete.
3. Test E-3 as last to complete: this would mean $C(E_3) = 3$, but E-3's own name digit is 3, so this directly violates the rule that a completion position cannot equal the student's own digit. So E-3 cannot be last to complete.
4. Test E-1 as last to complete: this would mean $C(E_1) = 3$. E-1's own digit is 1, and 3 does not equal 1, so this does not break the naming rule. Checking the rest: E-2 is first to complete (from the starting-order deduction), and the only remaining position, 2, must go to E-3, giving $C(E_3) = 2$, which does not equal 3, so this is valid with no contradictions.

Since testing E-2 and E-3 as last to complete both lead to contradictions, and only E-1 works without contradiction, E-1 is the last student to complete the assignment, confirming option (1) as the correct answer.

Quick Tip: First work out the starting order and who finishes first, then the last two completion slots follow by elimination.



49. A, B and C are three students from Don School and P, Q and R are three students from Elite School. Q is brighter than R but duller than the Don School student who is brighter than A. The same Don School student is duller than P but is brighter than C.

Who is brightest amongst all?

- (A) B
- (B) P
- (C) R
- (D) Cannot be decided

Correct Answer: (B) P

SOLUTION:

A cleaner way to solve this is to build a brightness ladder step by step instead of chasing each clue one at a time.

1. Since A, B and C are the only three Don School students, the unnamed student described as brighter than A must be either B or C, because a person cannot be brighter than themselves, which rules out A.
2. The same student is later described as brighter than C, which rules out C as well, since C cannot be brighter than C. So this student has to be B.
3. Replace every mention of the Don School student with B: B is brighter than A, B is brighter than C, P is brighter than B, and B is brighter than Q.
4. Separately, Q is brighter than R, so combining with B brighter than Q gives the order B, then Q, then R.
5. Build the ladder from the top down. P sits above B. B sits above A, C and Q, with their exact order among themselves not fixed by the

clues. Q sits above R at the very bottom.

6. Check the four options against this ladder. B is not at the top since P sits above it, so option B fails. R sits near the bottom, not the top, so option R fails. The ladder is fully connected from P down to R with no missing link at the top, so cannot be decided also fails.
7. Only P has nobody above it anywhere in the ladder, which confirms P is the brightest student among all six named students.

Quick Tip: Work out which Don School student is meant, it has to be B, then chain all the brighter and duller relations together.

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50. A, B and C are three students from Don School and P, Q and R are three students from Elite School. Q is brighter than R but duller than the Don School student who is brighter than A. The same Don School student is duller than P but is brighter than C.

Who is the dumbest amongst the three students from Elite School?

- (A) P
- (B) Q
- (C) R
- (D) Cannot be decided

Correct Answer: (C) R

SOLUTION:

Instead of building the full six person ranking, it is faster to isolate only the clues that connect the three Elite School students.

1. First pin down the unnamed Don School student. Since A, B and C are the Don School trio and nobody can be brighter than themselves, the description brighter than A and brighter than C both point to B by elimination.
2. Substituting B into the clues gives two facts linking Elite School students to B: P is brighter than B, and B is brighter than Q.
3. Chain these two facts together. P is brighter than B, and B is brighter than Q, so P must be brighter than Q as well.
4. Add the direct clue that Q is brighter than R.
5. The three Elite School students now slot into a single line: P first, Q second, R third.
6. Scan the options. P sits at the top of this mini ranking, so it cannot be the dullest. Q sits in the middle, brighter than R, so it is not the dullest either. The order P, Q, R is fully fixed by the clues, so there is no ambiguity, ruling out cannot be decided.
7. That leaves R, sitting at the very bottom of the P, Q, R chain, as the dullest of the three Elite School students. R is confirmed as the answer.

Quick Tip: Work out the order among just P, Q and R using the two direct comparisons that link them.

• • •

51. When Rafael entered the class, there were already 10 students in the class. 5 students entered the class between Roger and Rafael. Total 10 students entered after Roger. Exactly how many students are in the class finally?

- (A) 15
- (B) 25
- (C) 27
- (D) Cannot be decided

Correct Answer: (D) Cannot be decided

SOLUTION:

A faster way to see why this question has no single fixed answer is to directly test each numeric option against the clues and check whether a consistent scenario can be built for it.

1. Test 15. Build the class as 4 students before Roger, then Roger, then 5 students entering between Roger and Rafael, then Rafael, then 4 more students after Rafael. Check the clues: when Rafael entered, students already present were 4 plus 1 for Roger plus 5 in between, which is 10, matching the clue that 10 students were already there. Students entering after Roger are 5 in between plus 1 Rafael plus 4 after Rafael, which is 10, matching the second clue exactly. This scenario works and gives a total of 4 plus 1 plus 5 plus 1 plus 4, which is 15.
2. Test 27. Build the class with Rafael entering before Roger this time. Say 10 students are present before Rafael enters, matching the clue about 10 students already there when Rafael enters. Then the 5 students who entered between Roger and Rafael enter, followed by Roger. That gives 10 plus 1 Rafael plus 5 in between plus 1 Roger, which is 17 students up to and including Roger. Then 10 more students enter after Roger, matching the clue exactly, giving a final total of 17 plus 10, which is 27.

3. Both constructions use every clue in the passage correctly and without contradiction, yet one gives 15 and the other gives 27.
4. Since two genuinely different and fully valid class sizes can be built from the same clues, options 15 and 27 cannot both be uniquely correct, and 25 does not even arise from either valid construction.
5. Because the passage never specifies whether Roger or Rafael entered the room first, this ambiguity cannot be resolved with the information given, so the only defensible answer is Cannot be decided.

Quick Tip: Try both orders, Roger before Rafael and Rafael before Roger, and check if they give the same final count.

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52. Arijit, Biplab, Chintan, Debashish, Elangovan, Frederick, Gautam and Himadri are sitting around a circular table. Some information about the order in which they are sitting is available as follows:

1. Debashish is sitting opposite to Himadri and to the immediate right of Gautam.
2. Elangovan is sitting to the immediate right of Biplab.
3. Arijit is sitting opposite Chintan who is not immediately next to Frederick on either side.

Who is sitting to the immediate right of Himadri?

- (A) Arijit
- (B) Debashish
- (C) Elangovan
- (D) Frederick

Correct Answer: (A) Arijit

SOLUTION:

An alternative way to crack this is to treat the 8 seats as positions 0 to 7 arranged clockwise and turn each clue into a simple equation, rather than placing people one at a time by trial.

1. Let Gautam sit at position 0. Since Debashish sits immediately to Gautam's right, Debashish is at position 1.
2. Debashish is opposite Himadri, and opposite seats in an 8 seat circle differ by 4, so Himadri is at position 1 plus 4, which is position 5.
3. The five remaining positions, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7, hold Arijit, Biplab, Chintan, Elangovan and Frederick.
4. Arijit and Chintan sit opposite each other, a difference of 4. Among the remaining positions, the pairs differing by exactly 4 are positions 2 and 6, and positions 3 and 7, since position 4's opposite, position 0, is already Gautam's.
5. Elangovan must sit exactly one position clockwise from Biplab, so wherever Arijit and Chintan land, the leftover three positions must contain two consecutive numbers.
6. If Arijit and Chintan take positions 3 and 7, the leftover positions are 2, 4 and 6, and none of these are consecutive, so Biplab and Elangovan cannot be seated. This rules out positions 3 and 7 for Arijit and Chintan.
7. So Arijit and Chintan must take positions 2 and 6, leaving 3, 4 and 7 for Biplab, Elangovan and Frederick. Positions 3 and 4 are consecutive, so Biplab is at position 3 and Elangovan at position 4, leaving Frederick at position 7.

8. The last clue rules out Chintan sitting next to Frederick. Frederick at position 7 is next to positions 6 and 8. Placing Chintan at position 6 would break this rule, so Chintan is at position 2 and Arijit is at position 6.
9. Converting positions to everyday seat numbers 1 through 8 by adding 1 to each, the arrangement is seat 1 Gautam, seat 2 Debashish, seat 3 Chintan, seat 4 Biplab, seat 5 Elangovan, seat 6 Himadri, seat 7 Arijit, seat 8 Frederick.
10. Himadri occupies seat 6, so the seat immediately to his right, seat 7, belongs to Arijit, confirming Arijit as the answer.

Quick Tip: Place Gautam and Debashish first, then use the opposite-seat and consecutive-seat clues to fix everyone else.

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53. Arijit, Biplab, Chintan, Debashish, Elangovan, Frederick, Gautam and Himadri are sitting around a circular table. Some information about the order in which they are sitting is available as follows:

1. Debashish is sitting opposite to Himadri and to the immediate right of Gautam.
2. Elangovan is sitting to the immediate right of Biplab.
3. Arijit is sitting opposite Chintan who is not immediately next to Frederick on either side.

Who is sitting opposite Biplab?

- (A) Arijit
- (B) Debashish
- (C) Frederick
- (D) Himadri

Correct Answer: (C) Frederick

SOLUTION:

An alternative way to crack this is to treat the 8 seats as positions 0 to 7 arranged clockwise and turn each clue into a simple equation, rather than placing people one at a time by trial.

1. Let Gautam sit at position 0. Since Debashish sits immediately to Gautam's right, Debashish is at position 1.
2. Debashish is opposite Himadri, and opposite seats differ by 4, so Himadri is at position 1 plus 4, which is position 5.
3. The remaining positions, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7, hold Arijit, Biplab, Chintan, Elangovan and Frederick.
4. Arijit and Chintan sit opposite each other, a difference of 4.
Among the remaining positions, the pairs differing by exactly 4 are positions 2 and 6, and positions 3 and 7, since position 4's opposite, position 0, is already taken.
5. Elangovan must sit exactly one position clockwise from Biplab, so the leftover three positions after placing Arijit and Chintan must contain two consecutive numbers.
6. If Arijit and Chintan take positions 3 and 7, the leftover positions are 2, 4 and 6, none of which are consecutive, so Biplab and Elangovan cannot be seated there, ruling this out.
7. So Arijit and Chintan take positions 2 and 6, leaving 3, 4 and 7 for Biplab, Elangovan and Frederick. Since positions 3 and 4 are consecutive, Biplab is at position 3 and Elangovan at position 4, leaving Frederick at position 7.
8. The last clue rules out Chintan next to Frederick. Frederick at position 7 is next to positions 6 and 0. Placing Chintan at position

6 would break this rule, so Chintan is at position 2 and Arijit is at position 6.

9. Converting to everyday seat numbers 1 through 8, the arrangement is seat 1 Gautam, seat 2 Debashish, seat 3 Chintan, seat 4 Biplab, seat 5 Elangovan, seat 6 Himadri, seat 7 Arijit, seat 8 Frederick.
10. Biplab sits at seat 4. Since opposite seats in this 8 seat circle are 4 apart, the seat opposite seat 4 is seat 8, which belongs to Frederick, confirming Frederick as the person sitting opposite Biplab.

Quick Tip: Place Gautam and Debashish first, then use the opposite-seat and consecutive-seat clues to fix everyone else.

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54. Arijit, Biplab, Chintan, Debashish, Elangovan, Frederick, Gautam and Himadri are sitting around a circular table. Some information about the order in which they are sitting is available as follows:

1. Debashish is sitting opposite to Himadri and to the immediate right of Gautam.
2. Elangovan is sitting to the immediate right of Biplab.
3. Arijit is sitting opposite Chintan who is not immediately next to Frederick on either side.

Who is to the immediate right of Chintan?

- (A) Arijit
- (B) Biplab
- (C) Elangovan
- (D) Himadri

Correct Answer: (B) Biplab

SOLUTION:

An alternative way to crack this is to treat the 8 seats as positions 0 to 7 arranged clockwise and turn each clue into a simple equation, rather than placing people one at a time by trial.

1. Let Gautam sit at position 0. Since Debashish sits immediately to Gautam's right, Debashish is at position 1.
2. Debashish is opposite Himadri, and opposite seats differ by 4, so Himadri is at position 1 plus 4, which is position 5.
3. The remaining positions, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7, hold Arijit, Biplab, Chintan, Elangovan and Frederick.
4. Arijit and Chintan sit opposite each other, a difference of 4.
Among the remaining positions, the pairs differing by exactly 4 are positions 2 and 6, and positions 3 and 7, since position 4's opposite, position 0, is already taken.
5. Elangovan must sit exactly one position clockwise from Biplab, so the leftover three positions after placing Arijit and Chintan must contain two consecutive numbers.
6. If Arijit and Chintan take positions 3 and 7, the leftover positions are 2, 4 and 6, none of which are consecutive, so Biplab and Elangovan cannot be seated there, ruling this out.
7. So Arijit and Chintan take positions 2 and 6, leaving 3, 4 and 7 for Biplab, Elangovan and Frederick. Since positions 3 and 4 are consecutive, Biplab is at position 3 and Elangovan at position 4, leaving Frederick at position 7.
8. The last clue rules out Chintan next to Frederick. Frederick at position 7 is next to positions 6 and 0. Placing Chintan at position

6 would break this rule, so Chintan is at position 2 and Arijit is at position 6.

9. Converting to everyday seat numbers 1 through 8, the arrangement is seat 1 Gautam, seat 2 Debashish, seat 3 Chintan, seat 4 Biplab, seat 5 Elangovan, seat 6 Himadri, seat 7 Arijit, seat 8 Frederick.
10. Chintan sits at seat 3, so the seat immediately to his right, seat 4, belongs to Biplab, confirming Biplab as the answer.

Quick Tip: Place Gautam and Debashish first, then use the opposite-seat and consecutive-seat clues to fix everyone else.

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55. Select the alternative that logically follows the two given statements:

Some rocks are not tables.

Some rocks are balloons.

- (A) Some tables are not balloons
- (B) Some tables are balloons
- (C) Some balloons are not tables
- (D) None of the above

Correct Answer: (D) None of the above

SOLUTION:

A quicker way to see this is by drawing overlapping circles for rocks, tables and balloons and checking whether every valid diagram agrees on one conclusion.

1. Draw a circle for rocks. Some rocks are not tables means part of the rocks circle lies outside the tables circle, but it does not say how large the tables circle is or where exactly it sits relative to rocks.
2. Some rocks are balloons means part of the rocks circle overlaps with a balloons circle, but again it does not fix the size or position of the balloons circle beyond that one overlap.
3. Draw one valid diagram where the part of rocks that is not tables and the part of rocks that is balloons are two completely separate slices of the rocks circle, with tables and balloons circles not touching each other at all. This diagram satisfies both given statements perfectly.
4. In this diagram, none of the three options hold, since tables and balloons have no connection whatsoever.
5. Now draw a second valid diagram where the balloons circle is placed so that it overlaps only with the part of rocks that is not tables. This diagram also satisfies both given statements, and here some balloons are not tables happens to look true.
6. Since one valid diagram makes all three options false and another valid diagram makes one of them look true, no single option is forced to be true across every diagram that fits the given statements.
7. Because a valid conclusion must hold in every possible diagram consistent with the premises, and here that is not the case for any of the three positive options, the correct choice is None of the above.

Quick Tip: Both statements use the word some, and two particular statements sharing a common term never force a definite conclusion.

56. A, B, C, D and E sit on a long bench. C does not sit next to A or E. A and E have three persons sitting between them.

Who is sitting in the middle of the bench?

- (A) B
- (B) C
- (C) D
- (D) None of these

Correct Answer: (B) C

SOLUTION:

Instead of numbering seats first, this method eliminates each option in turn to see which one survives every clue.

1. A bench seats five people in a single row, and the clue says three people sit between A and E. On a row of exactly five seats, the only way to fit three people strictly between two others is to place those two at the two extreme ends, so A and E must be the end occupants, leaving three middle seats for B, C and D.
2. Test option B as the middle occupant. If B sits in the middle, then C and D fill the two seats next to the ends, meaning one of C or D sits right next to A and the other sits right next to E. Since C cannot sit next to either A or E, this placement forces C into one of the forbidden seats no matter how B, C and D are arranged. So B in the middle cannot satisfy the clue about C.
3. Test option D as the middle occupant. By the same reasoning, B and C would then fill the two seats next to the ends, again forcing C to sit next to either A or E, which is not allowed. So D in the middle also fails.

4. Test option C as the middle occupant. Then B and D fill the two seats next to the ends, which means C, sitting in the middle, is not adjacent to either end seat. Since A and E are the end occupants, C ends up with no shared border with A or E at all, fully satisfying the clue that C does not sit next to A or E.
5. Since placing B or D in the middle always forces C into a forbidden position, and only placing C in the middle avoids that problem, C must be the one sitting in the middle of the bench, and None of these does not apply since a valid, consistent placement exists with C in the centre.

Quick Tip: Three people between A and E forces them to the two ends of the bench, then use the no-neighbour clue to place C.

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57. Directions: A, B, C, D and E sit on a long bench. C does not sit next to A or E. A and E have three persons sitting between them.

Who are sitting at the extreme ends of the bench?

- (A) A & E
- (B) B & D
- (C) C & E
- (D) None of these

Correct Answer: (A) A & E

SOLUTION:

Step 1: Translate the clues into a seat count.

There are 5 seats in a row. "Three persons between A and E" fixes the gap between A and E at exactly 3 seats, which is only possible if A and

E sit in the two outermost seats of a 5-seat row (seats 1 and 5), because any other placement would leave fewer than 3 people between them.

Step 2: Use the restriction on C to fix its seat.

Since C must avoid sitting beside A and beside E, and A and E occupy seats 1 and 5, C is barred from seats 2 and 4, the seats immediately touching the ends. Of the three inner seats (2, 3, 4), only seat 3 is untouched by this restriction, so C sits at seat 3.

Step 3: Fill the remaining seats with B and D.

The only seats left, 2 and 4, must hold B and D. Their exact order can go either way without breaking any given rule, so the arrangement is not unique beyond this point.

Step 4: Check every option against the seating.

"B & D" describes the two middle-adjacent seats, not the ends. "C & E" is impossible since C never reaches an end seat. "None of these" fails because a valid pair does exist. Only "A & E" correctly names the people at the two ends.

Step 5: State the final result.

A and E sit at the extreme ends of the bench, confirming option (1).

Quick Tip: Work out how many seats are needed given three people between A and E, then place C using the adjacency restriction.

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58. Observe the following table showing the yearly commission earned (figures in Rupees) by five salesmen and answer the question below.

Year	Salesman A	Salesman B	Salesman C	Salesman D	Salesman E
1990	27350	26850	26200	27850	28640
1991	28500	27900	27900	30040	29000
1992	25200	27400	28200	29800	28750
1993	29800	28000	29100	30060	30000
1994	24600	28500	29400	29800	29750
1995	27000	29000	30000	32000	29700

In the year 1994, the commission earned by salesman D was approximately what percent more of the commission earned by A?

- (A) 18
- (B) 82.5
- (C) 21
- (D) 17

Correct Answer: (C) 21

SOLUTION:

Step 1: Read the 1994 row of the table.

In 1994, Salesman A earned Rs. 24600 and Salesman D earned Rs. 29800, as shown in the year-wise commission table.

Step 2: Set up a ratio of D's commission to A's commission.

$D / A = 29800 / 24600$. Simplify this fraction by dividing numerator and denominator by 200: $29800/200 = 149$, $24600/200 = 123$. So $D / A = 149 / 123 = 1.2114$ approximately.

Step 3: Convert the ratio into a "percent more" figure.

Since $D / A = 1.2114$, D's commission is 1.2114 times A's commission, which means D is $(1.2114 - 1) = 0.2114$ times, or about 21.14 percent, more than A.

Step 4: Round and compare with the choices.

21.14 percent rounds to approximately 21 percent, which is much closer to option (3), 21 percent, than to any of the other listed values (18, 82.5, 17).

Step 5: Rule out the distractors.

82.5 percent would only appear from a mistaken calculation using the difference as the base instead of A's commission; 18 and 17 percent are simply too low to match the actual gap of roughly a fifth of A's value. D's 1994 commission is approximately 21 percent more than A's.

21%

Quick Tip: Find the rupee difference between D's and A's 1994 commission, then divide by A's commission and multiply by 100.

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59. Observe the following table showing the yearly commission earned (figures in Rupees) by five salesmen and answer the question below.

Year	Salesman A	Salesman B	Salesman C	Salesman D	Salesman E
1990	27350	26850	26200	27850	28640
1991	28500	27900	27900	30040	29000
1992	25200	27400	28200	29800	28750
1993	29800	28000	29100	30060	30000
1994	24600	28500	29400	29800	29750
1995	27000	29000	30000	32000	29700

In the year 1993, the commission of B was approximately what per cent of the total commission earned by five salesmen that year?

- (A) 30
- (B) 20
- (C) 40
- (D) 80

Correct Answer: (B) 20

SOLUTION:

Step 1: List the 1993 commission figures.

From the commission table, the year 1993 shows: A = Rs. 29800, B = Rs. 28000, C = Rs. 29100, D = Rs. 30060, E = Rs. 30000.

Step 2: Estimate the total using rounded values first.

Rounding each figure to the nearest thousand gives roughly $30000 + 28000 + 29000 + 30000 + 30000 = 147000$, close to the exact total, confirming the total commission for 1993 is about Rs. 147000, with the precise sum working out to Rs. 146960.

Step 3: Compare B's share to an equal fifth of the total.

One-fifth of Rs. 146960 is $146960 / 5 = 29392$, the value each salesman would earn if the total were split equally, representing exactly 20 percent. B's actual commission, Rs. 28000, is slightly below this equal-share value of Rs. 29392, so B's percentage share must be slightly under 20 percent.

Step 4: Calculate the exact percentage.

$28000 / 146960 \times 100 = 19.05$ percent, confirming the estimate from Step 3 that the share is just under 20 percent.

Step 5: Choose the nearest listed option.

Among 30, 20, 40 and 80 percent, only 20 percent is close to the computed 19.05 percent, so this is correct.

B's 1993 commission is approximately 20 percent of the five salesmen's total commission that year.

20%

Quick Tip: Add up all five salesmen's 1993 commissions for the total, then find B's share of that total as a percentage.

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60. Find the missing number in the following set of numbers.

Column I Column II

2	2
4	14
6	34
8	?
10	98

- (A) 30
- (B) 62
- (C) 42
- (D) 78

Correct Answer: (B) 62

SOLUTION:

Step 1: Number the rows and note the Column I values.

Label the five rows $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$. The Column I values are 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, fitting the formula Column I = $2n$.

Step 2: Express Column II as a function of the row number n .

The known Column II values are 2 ($n=1$), 14 ($n=2$), 34 ($n=3$) and 98 ($n=5$). Try a quadratic form Column II = $a*n^2 + b*n + c$ and use three known points: from $n=1$, $a + b + c = 2$; from $n=2$, $4a + 2b + c = 14$; from $n=3$, $9a + 3b + c = 34$.

Step 3: Solve the system of equations.

Subtracting the first equation from the second gives $3a + b = 12$.

Subtracting the second from the third gives $5a + b = 20$. Subtracting these two results gives $2a = 8$, so $a = 4$. Substituting back, $b = 12 - 12 = 0$, and $c = 2 - 4 - 0 = -2$. So the formula is Column II = $4n^2 - 2$.

Step 4: Check the formula against the fifth row as an independent test.

For $n = 5$: Column II = $4(25) - 2 = 100 - 2 = 98$, matching the given value exactly, confirming the formula rather than a coincidence from only three points.

Step 5: Apply the formula to the missing fourth row.

For $n = 4$: Column II = $4(16) - 2 = 64 - 2 = 62$.

The missing number is 62, matching the pattern in every other row of the series.

Quick Tip: Square the left-hand number in each row and subtract 2 to get the right-hand number.

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61. There are 6 volumes of books on a rack kept in order (Vol. 1, Vol. 2 and so on). After some readers used them, their order got disturbed. The changes are as follows:

Vol. 5 was directly to the right of Vol. 2.

Vol. 4 has Vol. 6 to its left, and both Vol. 4 and Vol. 6 were not at Vol. 3's original place.

Vol. 1 has Vol. 3 on its right and Vol. 5 on its left.

An even numbered volume is at Vol. 5's original place.

Find the order in which the books are now kept, from the given alternatives.

- (A) 6, 3, 5, 1, 4, 2
- (B) 4, 6, 3, 5, 1, 2
- (C) 3, 4, 1, 6, 5, 3
- (D) 2, 5, 1, 3, 6, 4

Correct Answer: (D) 2, 5, 1, 3, 6, 4

SOLUTION:

Step 1: List what each clue requires, in short form.

Clue 1: "2" is immediately followed by "5". Clue 2: "6" is immediately followed by "4", and neither 4 nor 6 sits at the 3rd position on the shelf. Clue 3: "5" is immediately followed by "1", which is immediately followed by "3". Clue 4: the 5th position on the shelf holds an even-

numbered volume.

Step 2: Test option (1), 6, 3, 5, 1, 4, 2.

Here "2" appears at the end with nothing after it, and 5 actually appears before 2, so "2" is not immediately followed by "5". Clue 1 fails, so this option is rejected.

Step 3: Test option (2), 4, 6, 3, 5, 1, 2.

Here "6" is followed by "3", not "4", so clue 2 fails immediately. This option is rejected.

Step 4: Test option (3), 3, 4, 1, 6, 5, 3.

This sequence repeats the number 3 twice and never uses volume 2, which is impossible since there are exactly six distinct volumes, numbered 1 to 6, on the rack. This option is invalid and is rejected.

Step 5: Test option (4), 2, 5, 1, 3, 6, 4.

Check clue 1: "2" is followed by "5", correct. Check clue 3: "5" is followed by "1", which is followed by "3", correct. Check clue 2: "6" is followed by "4", correct; the 3rd position holds "1", so neither 4 nor 6 is at the 3rd position, correct. Check clue 4: the 5th position holds "6", which is even, correct. Every clue is satisfied.

Step 6: Conclude.

Since options (1), (2) and (3) each break at least one clue and option (4) satisfies every clue, option (4) is the correct order: 2, 5, 1, 3, 6, 4.

Quick Tip: Chain the "5 right of 2" and "5 left of 1, 3 right of 1" clues into one block first, then place volumes 4 and 6 as a second block.

...

62. All German philosophers, except for Marx, are idealists. From which of the following can the statement above be most properly inferred?

- (A) Except for Marx, if someone is an idealist philosopher, then he or she is German.
- (B) Marx is the only non-German philosopher who is an idealist.
- (C) If a German is an idealist, then he or she is a philosopher, as long as he or she is not Marx.
- (D) Marx is not an idealist German philosopher.

Correct Answer: (C) If a German is an idealist, then he or she is a philosopher, as long as he or she is not Marx.

SOLUTION:

Step 1: Write the statement using simple symbols.

Let $G(x)$ mean "x is a German philosopher" and $I(x)$ mean "x is an idealist". The given statement becomes: for every x that is not Marx, $G(x)$ implies $I(x)$. In words, being a German philosopher, other than Marx, guarantees being an idealist.

Step 2: Note what this symbolic form does NOT say.

It does not say $I(x)$ implies $G(x)$ for non-Marx cases, since that would wrongly force every idealist to be a German philosopher. It also does not say anything about Marx's truth values for G or I directly, since Marx is simply outside the scope of the "for every x that is not Marx" clause.

Step 3: Match each option to this symbolic reading.

Option (1) needs $I(x)$ implies $G(x)$ for non-Marx x, the reverse of what is given, so it fails. Option (2) needs to know Marx's nationality and also needs $I(x)$ implies $G(x)$, so it fails for the same reason as (1), plus an extra unsupported nationality claim. Option (4) needs to know the actual truth values $G(\text{Marx})$ and $I(\text{Marx})$, which the statement never specifies, so it fails too.

Step 4: Confirm option (3) fits.

Option (3) reads: for x not Marx, if x is German and $I(x)$, then x is a philosopher. This uses the same "excluding Marx" scope as the original statement and only talks about people covered by that scope, without claiming anything new about idealists outside Germany or about Marx's specific status.

Step 5: Rule out the rest by process of elimination.

Since (1), (2) and (4) each require information beyond the original statement, and (3) requires nothing beyond it, (3) is the safest and most properly inferred choice.

Option (3) is the statement most properly inferred from the given premise about German philosophers and Marx.

Quick Tip: Eliminate any option that reverses the original statement's direction or makes a new claim about Marx's actual status.

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63. Ramaswami was studying for his examinations and the lights went off. It was around 1:00 a.m. He lighted two uniform candles of equal length but one thicker than the other. The thick candle is supposed to last six hours and the thin one two hours less. When he finally went to sleep, the thick candle was twice as long as the thin one. For how long did Ramaswami study in candle light?

- (A) 2 hours
- (B) 3 hours
- (C) 2 hours 45 minutes
- (D) 4 hours

Correct Answer: (B) 3 hours

SOLUTION:

Step 1: Express how much of each candle burns per hour, as a fraction of the whole.

Since the thick candle fully burns out in 6 hours, each hour it burns exactly $1/6$ of itself. Since the thin candle fully burns out in 4 hours (6 hours minus 2), each hour it burns exactly $1/4$ of itself.

Step 2: Write the fraction of each candle that is left after t hours.

Fraction of thick candle left = $1 - t/6$. Fraction of thin candle left = $1 - t/4$. Since both candles started at the same length, these fractions can be compared directly without needing to know the actual length.

Step 3: Translate "thick candle is twice as long as thin candle" into an equation using these fractions.

Twice as long means: (fraction of thick left) = $2 \times$ (fraction of thin left).
Substituting: $1 - t/6 = 2(1 - t/4)$.

Step 4: Expand and simplify.

Expanding the right-hand side: $2(1 - t/4) = 2 - t/2$. So the equation becomes $1 - t/6 = 2 - t/2$. Rearranging: $t/2 - t/6 = 2 - 1 = 1$.

Step 5: Solve for t using a common denominator.

$t/2 = 3t/6$, so $3t/6 - t/6 = 2t/6 = t/3$. Setting $t/3 = 1$ gives $t = 3$ hours.

Step 6: Sanity-check the answer.

After 3 hours: thick candle left = $1 - 3/6 = 1/2$ of its length; thin candle left = $1 - 3/4 = 1/4$ of its length. Since $1/2$ is exactly twice $1/4$, this confirms $t = 3$ is correct.

Ramaswami studied by candlelight for 3 hours.

3 hours

Quick Tip: Write the remaining length of each candle as a fraction of the original length after t hours, then use the "twice as long" condition to solve for t .

64. The numerator and denominator of a fraction is in the ratio 2:3. If 6 are subtracted from the numerator the value of the fraction becomes $\frac{2}{3}$ of the original fraction. The numerator of the original fraction is,

- (A) 16
- (B) 21
- (C) 18
- (D) 30

Correct Answer: (C) 18

SOLUTION:

Step 1: Set up the fraction directly using the ratio.

Since numerator : denominator = 2 : 3, write numerator = $2k$ and denominator = $3k$ for a common multiplier k , so the fraction always reduces to $\frac{2}{3}$ regardless of k 's value.

Step 2: Compute the target fraction after the change.

The problem states that after subtracting 6 from the numerator, the new fraction becomes $\frac{2}{3}$ of the original value. Since the original fraction is $\frac{2}{3}$, the new value must be $(\frac{2}{3})$ multiplied by $(\frac{2}{3})$, which is $\frac{4}{9}$.

Step 3: Compare the original fraction $\frac{2}{3}$ with the target fraction $\frac{4}{9}$ by finding a common denominator.

Convert $\frac{2}{3}$ to ninths: $\frac{2}{3} = \frac{6}{9}$. The target fraction is $\frac{4}{9}$. So the numerator, when both fractions are written over a denominator of 9, drops from 6 to 4, a drop of 2 out of every 9 parts of the denominator.

Step 4: Scale this drop back up to the actual denominator, $3k$.

The denominator $3k$ corresponds to 9 parts when scaled to ninths, so each "part" equals $\frac{3k}{9} = \frac{k}{3}$. The numerator drop of 2 parts, in actual terms, equals $2 \times (\frac{k}{3}) = \frac{2k}{3}$. The problem says the actual

drop in the numerator is exactly 6, since 6 is subtracted, so set $2k/3 = 6$.

Step 5: Solve for k .

$2k/3 = 6$ leads to $2k = 18$, so $k = 9$.

Step 6: Compute the original numerator.

Numerator = $2k = 2 \times 9 = 18$, matching option (3). Denominator = $3k = 27$, and indeed $18/27$ reduces to $2/3$, and $(18-6)/27 = 12/27 = 4/9 = (2/3)$ of $2/3$, confirming the solution is consistent.

The numerator of the original fraction is 18.

18

Quick Tip: Let numerator = $2x$ and denominator = $3x$, then set $(2x-6)/3x$ equal to two-thirds of $2/3$ and solve for x .

...

65. A person wanted to withdraw X rupees and Y paise from the bank. The cashier made a mistake and gave him Y rupees and X paise instead. Neither the person nor the cashier noticed the error. After spending 20 paise, the person counted the money and found he had exactly double the amount he originally wanted to withdraw. Find X and Y . (1 Rupee = 100 Paise)

- (A) $X = 3, Y = 6$
- (B) $X = 26, Y = 53$
- (C) $X = 15, Y = 30$
- (D) $X = 9, Y = 36$

Correct Answer: (B) $X = 26, Y = 53$

SOLUTION:

We can solve this without testing the options, by treating it as a straightforward pair of linear equations problem.

1. Let the amount the person wanted be $W = 100X + Y$ paise (X rupees, Y paise), and the amount the cashier actually paid be $R = 100Y + X$ paise (the digits swapped).
2. The condition "after spending 20 paise he had double what he wanted" gives: $R - 20 = 2W$, that is, $(100Y + X) - 20 = 2(100X + Y)$.
3. Expanding: $100Y + X - 20 = 200X + 2Y$, which rearranges to $98Y = 199X + 20$.
4. Since X and Y must both be whole numbers between 0 and 99 (paise cannot exceed 99), we look for integer solutions of $98Y = 199X + 20$. Rearranging for Y : $Y = (199X + 20)/98$.
5. For Y to come out as a whole number, $199X + 20$ must be exactly divisible by 98. Testing $X = 26$: $199(26) + 20 = 5194$, and $5194 / 98 = 53$ exactly. So $X = 26$ gives $Y = 53$, both valid paise values (less than 100).
6. Verification: wanted amount = 2653 paise, wrongly paid amount = 5326 paise, after spending 20 paise he has 5306 paise, and $2 \times 2653 = 5306$. The condition holds perfectly.

So $X = 26$ and $Y = 53$, confirming option (2).

$$\boxed{X = 26, Y = 53}$$

Quick Tip: Write both amounts in paise, use the doubling condition to form one equation, then test option values.



66. A drawer contains 10 black and 10 brown socks, all mixed up. What is the fewest number of socks you must take out from the drawer without looking, to be sure of getting a pair of socks of the same color?

- (A) 7 pairs
- (B) 7 pieces only
- (C) 10 pieces only
- (D) 3 pieces only

Correct Answer: (D) 3 pieces only

SOLUTION:

This is a classic application of the pigeonhole principle, which can be solved with a simple formula instead of a worst-case story.

1. The pigeonhole principle states that if you distribute more than n items into n categories, at least one category must contain more than one item.
2. Here, the categories are the 2 sock colors: black and brown. We want to guarantee that at least one color has 2 socks, a matching pair, among the socks picked.
3. Using the formula for guaranteeing k items in the same category, given m categories: minimum items needed = $m(k - 1) + 1$.
4. Substitute $m = 2$ (colors) and $k = 2$ (we want a pair, i.e., 2 of the same color): minimum = $2(2 - 1) + 1 = 2(1) + 1 = 3$.
5. So picking just 3 socks guarantees, without fail, that at least 2 of them share the same color, since it is impossible to distribute 3 socks across only 2 colors without repeating a color.
6. The actual quantities of 10 black and 10 brown socks are irrelevant to this minimum; they only matter if the question asked for a pair of a specific color.

The fewest number of socks needed is 3, matching option (4).

3 socks

Quick Tip: Only 2 colors exist, think pigeonhole: worst case before a pair forms.

• • •

67. A placement company has to assign 1000 software professionals skilled in Java and .Net to a prospective outsourcing company. It finds that 750 have .Net skills and 450 have Java skills, with some professionals skilled in both. Find the number of professionals who have skills in both Java and .Net.

- (A) 250
- (B) 200
- (C) 350
- (D) 100

Correct Answer: (B) 200

SOLUTION:

We can also solve this by directly building the Venn diagram regions instead of jumping to the union formula.

1. Picture two overlapping circles: one for .Net skills (750 people) and one for Java skills (450 people), placed inside a rectangle representing the full group of 1000 people.
2. Let the overlapping region, people with both skills, have b people. Then the .Net-only region has $(750 - b)$ people, and the Java-only

region has $(450 - b)$ people.

3. Since every one of the 1000 people falls into one of these three non-overlapping regions, their sum must equal 1000: $(750 - b) + (450 - b) + b = 1000$.
4. Simplify the left side: $750 + 450 - b - b + b = 1000$, which becomes $1200 - b = 1000$.
5. Solving for b : $b = 1200 - 1000 = 200$.
6. Check: .Net-only = $750 - 200 = 550$, Java-only = $450 - 200 = 250$, both = 200. Total = $550 + 250 + 200 = 1000$, which matches, confirming the overlap is correct.

So 200 professionals have skills in both Java and .Net, matching option (2).

200

Quick Tip: Use $n(A \cup B) = n(A) + n(B) - n(A \cap B)$, with the union equal to the total group.

...

68. All good athletes who want to win are disciplined and have a well balanced diet. Therefore, athletes who do not have a well balanced diet are bad athletes. Which of the statements below strongly supports the view expressed above?

- (A) No bad athlete wants to win.
- (B) No athlete who does not eat a well balanced diet is a good athlete.
- (C) Every athlete who eats a well balanced diet is a good athlete.
- (D) All athletes who want to win are good athletes.

Correct Answer: (B) No athlete who does not eat a well balanced diet is a good athlete.

SOLUTION:

A cleaner way to see this is by working with the contrapositive form of statements, a standard tool in logical reasoning questions.

1. The original rule is: good athlete and wants to win, leads to disciplined and balanced diet. Write this as: (Good AND Wants-to-win) implies (Disciplined AND Balanced-diet).
2. The contrapositive of an implication A implies B is not-B implies not-A, and it always carries the same truth value as the original statement.
3. Applying this here, the contrapositive of the rule is: NOT (Disciplined AND Balanced-diet) implies NOT (Good AND Wants-to-win). In simpler words, missing either discipline or balanced diet means the athlete is not both good and wanting to win.
4. The passage's conclusion narrows this down to focus specifically on diet: no balanced diet leads to bad athlete. For this narrower conclusion to hold firmly, we need a statement that ties no balanced diet directly and only to not a good athlete, without needing the wants-to-win condition as a separate hurdle.
5. Option (2) provides exactly this direct link. It removes the dependency on wanting to win and states plainly that missing a balanced diet alone rules out being a good athlete, which is precisely what backs up the passage's conclusion.
6. The remaining options either discuss a different trait (wanting to win) or state the reverse implication (good diet leads to good

athlete), so they cannot serve as the supporting link the conclusion needs.

Therefore, option (2) is the statement that strongly supports the given view.

Option (2)

Quick Tip: Find the option that directly restates the diet-to-bad-athlete link as a universal rule.

...

69.

The numbers below are arranged in a triangular pattern that follows a hidden rule. Find the missing numbers marked with (?).

				2					
				2		2			
			2		4		2		
		2		8		?		2	
	2		16		64		16		2
2		32		1024		?		?	2

- (A) 16, 32, 64
- (B) 8, 1024, 32
- (C) 24, 1024, 64
- (D) 16, 32, 128

Correct Answer: (B) 8, 1024, 32

SOLUTION:

Instead of hunting for a multiplication rule right away, we can first use the built-in symmetry of each row, and then confirm it with a growth pattern along the second position of each row.

1. Look at every completed row: Row 3 (2, 4, 2) reads the same forwards and backwards. Row 5 (2, 16, 64, 16, 2) also reads the same forwards and backwards. This tells us every row in this triangle is a palindrome, symmetric about its center.
2. Row 4 is 2, 8, ?, 2, a 4-number row. Symmetry means the 1st number matches the 4th ($2 = 2$, already true), and the 2nd number must match the 3rd. Since the 2nd number is 8, the missing 3rd number must also be 8.
3. Row 6 is 2, 32, 1024, ?, ?, 2, a 6-number row. Symmetry means position 1 matches position 6 ($2 = 2$), position 2 matches position 5, and position 3 matches position 4. Since position 2 is 32, the missing position 5 must also be 32. Since position 3 is 1024, the missing position 4 must also be 1024.
4. To double check this symmetry assumption is the right rule, look at the second entry of each row: Row 2 = 2, Row 3 = 4, Row 4 = 8, Row 5 = 16, Row 6 = 32. Each is exactly double the previous row's second entry, a clean doubling pattern that supports the internal consistency of the triangle.
5. Also verify 1024 independently: it sits below Row 5's 16 and 64. Since $16 \times 64 = 1024$, the multiplicative rule confirms 1024 is correctly placed, which in turn validates using symmetry to find its mirror partner.

So the missing numbers are 8 (Row 4), 1024 and 32 (Row 6), giving the set {8, 1024, 32}, which is option (2).

$$\{8, 1024, 32\}$$

Quick Tip: Each inner number equals the product of the two numbers diagonally above it.

• • •

70. If for a particular value of the variable x , the following holds true: $17 = \frac{17x}{1-x}$, then find the value of x^{2x} .

- (A) 17
- (B) 1
- (C) 2
- (D) $1/2$

Correct Answer: (D) $1/2$

SOLUTION:

We can also solve this by first confirming the value of x satisfies the original equation with actual numbers, and then computing the required power step by step.

1. Start with $17 = \frac{17x}{1-x}$. Cross-multiply directly: $17(1-x) = 17x$.
2. Expand the left side: $17 - 17x = 17x$.
3. Bring like terms together: $17 = 17x + 17x = 34x$.
4. Solve for x : $x = \frac{17}{34} = \frac{1}{2}$.
5. Check this value in the original equation: left side = 17. Right side
$$= \frac{17 \times \frac{1}{2}}{1 - \frac{1}{2}} = \frac{8.5}{0.5} = 17.$$
 Both sides match, confirming $x = \frac{1}{2}$ is correct.

6. Now compute x^{2x} . First find the exponent: $2x = 2 \times \frac{1}{2} = 1$. Then raise the base to this exponent: $x^{2x} = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^1 = \frac{1}{2}$.

The value of x^{2x} is $\frac{1}{2}$, matching option (4).

$$\boxed{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Quick Tip: Simplify the equation first, the 17s cancel, solve for x, then substitute into the exponent expression.

• • •

71. Name the jailed Chinese pro-democracy activist who won this year's Nobel Peace Prize for his 'long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China.'

- (A) Went Xiabo
- (B) Wen Jiabao
- (C) Liu Jiabao
- (D) Liu Xiaobo

Correct Answer: (D) Liu Xiaobo

SOLUTION:

Liu Xiaobo is the answer here. In 2010 the Norwegian Nobel Committee gave him the Peace Prize while he sat inside a Chinese prison, serving eleven years for inciting subversion of state power. His real offence, in the eyes of the government, was helping write Charter 08, a document that asked for basic freedoms and political reform in China.

Because he could not leave the country, and his wife was kept under house arrest, nobody from his side collected the prize in Oslo. His chair at the ceremony stayed empty, a moment that drew worldwide attention. Before him, the last laureate honoured while imprisoned was Carl von Ossietzky of Germany, back in 1935, which shows how rare this situation is in Nobel history.

The wrong options play on how close the names sound. Wen Jiabao and Liu Xiaobo are simply not real names, inserted to trip up anyone skimming quickly. Wen Jiabao, on the other hand, was a real and important figure of that era, but as China's sitting Premier, not as the imprisoned dissident the question describes. So the confirmed answer remains Liu Xiaobo.

Quick Tip: He co-authored Charter 08 and was in prison when he won the 2010 Peace Prize.

• • •

72. Which government is behind the 'The Nalanda Proposal' proposing Nalanda as an ideal site for establishing a 21st century learning institution.

- (A) Singapore
- (B) India
- (C) U.K
- (D) China

Correct Answer: (A) Singapore

SOLUTION:

Singapore is the government behind the Nalanda Proposal. Around 2006, Singapore's Foreign Minister at the time, George Yeo, sent this

idea across to the Government of India. The pitch was simple but ambitious: rebuild Nalanda, the site of one of the world's oldest universities, into a fresh international centre of learning fit for the 21st century, once again pulling in students and scholars from across Asia and beyond.

This was not just a bilateral idea between two countries. When the East Asia Summit met in Cebu in the Philippines in January 2007, all sixteen participating governments, spanning much of Asia plus Australia and New Zealand, threw their support behind the plan. That collective push carried real weight, and by 2010 the Indian Parliament had passed the Nalanda University Act to make it official. The rebuilt university finally opened its doors for its first academic session in 2014.

It helps to be clear about roles here. India hosted the site and passed the enabling law, and China was one of many countries that later endorsed the plan at the summit, but neither originated the proposal. The U.K also had no role in floating this idea. The proposal itself traces back to Singapore, which confirms Singapore as the correct answer.

Quick Tip: Its Foreign Minister George Yeo forwarded the idea to India in 2006.

• • •

73. Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger are known for founding

- (A) Facebook
- (B) Orkut
- (C) Wikipedia
- (D) Google

Correct Answer: (C) Wikipedia

SOLUTION:

Wikipedia is the answer. Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger started it in January 2001, building it as a free encyclopedia that anyone could edit collaboratively. The project had a predecessor called Nupedia, which relied on a slow expert review process, and switching to wiki based editing is what let volunteers contribute quickly and helped the site scale into the enormous encyclopedia it is now.

Wales was the businessman who funded and pushed the project forward, and Sanger, coming from a philosophy background, shaped much of the early editorial structure and is generally credited with coming up with the name itself, a blend of wiki and encyclopedia.

Looking at the other choices helps confirm this: Facebook came from Mark Zuckerberg and his Harvard classmates, Orkut was the work of Google engineer Orkut Buyukkokten and was widely used in India and Brazil for a period, and Google was started by Larry Page and Sergey Brin. Since none of these were founded by Wales and Sanger, Wikipedia remains the only correct match.

Quick Tip: This free online encyclopedia launched in 2001 and grew from an earlier project called Nupedia.



74. The year 2010 is represented in Roman Numerals as

- (A) LLX
- (B) MMX
- (C) IIXX
- (D) CCXX

Correct Answer: (B) MMX

SOLUTION:

MMX is correct. Roman numerals work by stacking values in decreasing order and adding them together. M represents 1000, and writing it twice gives 2000. X represents 10. Put them together as MMX and you get 2000 plus 10, which lands exactly on 2010.

None of the other choices follow valid Roman numeral rules. Letters like L, V, and D are never meant to be repeated more than once in a row, so an option like LLX, doubling up the L, breaks that basic rule right away. Similarly, IIXX and CCXX try to stretch I, X and C repetitions or combinations in ways that Roman numeral convention does not allow, since I and X can be repeated at most three times consecutively and even then only in specific patterns.

A quick refresher on the base symbols helps here: I is 1, V is 5, X is 10, L is 50, C is 100, D is 500, and M is 1000. Only I, X, C and M are ever repeated to build larger numbers, while V, L and D appear just once. Following these rules, the year 2010 is correctly written as MMX.

Quick Tip: M is 1000 and X is 10, so two Ms plus one X gives the year.



75. In which country is the seat of the United Nations International Court of Justice?

- (A) France
- (B) Norway
- (C) Britain
- (D) Netherlands

Correct Answer: (D) Netherlands

SOLUTION:

Netherlands is correct. The United Nations International Court of Justice sits at the Peace Palace in The Hague. It was set up in 1945 under the UN Charter and started functioning the following year, handling legal disputes between countries and issuing advisory opinions when the UN or its agencies need a legal ruling on a matter.

The choice of The Hague was not random. The city was already the home of the Permanent Court of International Justice, which worked under the League of Nations before the UN existed, and it operated out of the very same Peace Palace building. That existing legal infrastructure and reputation made the Netherlands the logical continuing base once the ICJ was created.

The other options do not fit. France houses UNESCO headquarters in Paris, but not the ICJ. Norway comes up because Oslo hosts the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony, a completely separate institution with no link to the World Court. Britain hosts several international offices in London but again, not the ICJ. So the seat of the International Court of Justice is confirmed to be in the Netherlands.

Quick Tip: It sits at the Peace Palace in The Hague.

• • •

76. In 1965 Gordon Moore, Co-founder of Intel, made a prediction about the future of computer processing. What does his prediction, known as Moore's Law say?

(A) As technology continues to advance, computer chips will become obsolete.

(B) Computer-processing power will double every 18 months to two years.

(C) There will eventually be no need for transistors in high-tech electronics.

(D) As the number of transistors increases, computer-processing power will be reduced by half in every two years.

Correct Answer: (B) Computer-processing power will double every 18 months to two years.

SOLUTION:

The right choice is that processing power doubles roughly every 18 months to two years. Back in 1965, Gordon Moore, who would go on to co-found Intel, wrote a paper observing that the count of transistors packed onto an integrated circuit was climbing at a steady, predictable rate. That observation turned into what everyone now calls Moore's Law, commonly explained as computing power roughly doubling every year and a half to two years without a matching rise in cost.

What makes this prediction notable is how well it held up over the following decades. It effectively set the pace for the entire semiconductor industry, pushing manufacturers toward smaller,

denser, and more powerful chips generation after generation, and shaping expectations for how fast computers would keep improving. The remaining options describe things Moore never claimed. Saying chips become obsolete misreads the law entirely, since it is about improvement, not decline. Saying transistors will no longer be needed also misses the point, transistors are the very thing being packed in more densely, not phased out. And the option claiming power gets cut in half every two years flips the actual direction of the law completely. The verified answer is that processing power doubles every 18 months to two years.

Quick Tip: Think about transistor density doubling, not chips getting weaker or obsolete.

• • •

77. 'At 60 miles an hour the loudest noise in this new Rolls-Royce comes from the electric clock.' Who wrote this famous advertising headline?

- (A) David Ogilvy
- (B) Walter Thompson
- (C) Leo Burnett
- (D) Salman Rushdie

Correct Answer: (A) David Ogilvy

SOLUTION:

David Ogilvy wrote this line. It ran in a 1958 Rolls-Royce advertisement produced by his agency, Ogilvy and Mather. He did not invent the phrase from scratch, he lifted it from a factual line inside an engineer's road test notes on the car, which suited his overall style of

advertising built on genuine, verifiable detail rather than empty exaggeration.

Often referred to as the Father of Advertising, Ogilvy built his reputation on lengthy, information rich copy meant to earn a reader's trust through credible detail instead of loud slogans. This particular Rolls-Royce headline is one of the most frequently referenced examples of that method and continues to show up in advertising textbooks and marketing classes as a model of factual, persuasive copywriting.

The other names do not match. Walter Thompson lends his name to the agency J. Walter Thompson but did not write this specific ad. Leo Burnett is remembered for different, character driven campaigns such as the Marlboro Man rather than this line. Salman Rushdie has no connection to advertising at all, being a novelist, and is included only to test recognition. The confirmed author of this headline is David Ogilvy.

Quick Tip: He is often called the Father of Advertising and ran the Ogilvy and Mather agency.

• • •

78. His life's motto was 'simple living and high thinking'. He was one of the greatest intellectuals and activists of the 19th century and one of the pillars of the Bengal Renaissance. He was a polymath, Sanskrit pundit, educator, social reformer, writer and philanthropist. Due to his relentless efforts, on 26th July 1856, widow re-marriage was legalized by the then Government of India. Who is this towering personality?

- (A) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
- (B) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- (C) Rabindranath Tagore
- (D) Bankim Chandra Chatterjee

Correct Answer: (A) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

SOLUTION:

The answer is Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. He was born in 1820 in Bengal and grew into one of the defining figures of the Bengal Renaissance, working as a Sanskrit scholar, teacher, writer, printer and reformer all at once. He famously lived by the idea of simple living and high thinking, and much of his energy went toward challenging the social restrictions of his time, most notably the ban on widows remarrying under orthodox Hindu practice.

His persistent campaigning is what pushed the government to pass the Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act on 26th July 1856, legally allowing widows across British India to remarry, a major break from rigid social tradition. Beyond this reform, he also helped reshape and modernize Bengali prose and script, and put real effort into expanding access to education for women.

Checking the other names rules them out clearly. Raja Ram Mohan Roy was another towering reformer of the same broader era, but his legacy centers on abolishing Sati and starting the Brahmo Samaj, and he had already passed away in 1833, well before the 1856 act came into being. Rabindranath Tagore, the poet and Nobel laureate, was not even born until 1861, so he could not be tied to this 1856 reform. Bankim Chandra Chatterjee is remembered for writing Vande Mataram and the novel Anandamath, not for this social reform work.

Every clue in the question points specifically to Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.

Quick Tip: He drove the passing of the Hindu Widows Remarriage Act of 1856.

• • •

79. Eustace Fernandes, who passed away in early 2010 was the much admired creator of

- (A) Tom and Jerry
- (B) Amul Girl
- (C) Air India Maharaja
- (D) Snow White

Correct Answer: (B) Amul Girl

SOLUTION:

Amul Girl is the right choice here. Eustace Fernandes worked as the artist behind the Amul girl, the chubby toddler in a polka dot dress who has fronted Amul's butter hoardings since the mid 1960s. The mascot and her cheeky, topical one liners were the product of a team effort at the ad agency handling the account, with Sylvester daCunha credited for the copy and Fernandes for bringing the character to life on paper. When Fernandes died in January 2010, obituaries pointed out how central his drawing style was to making the mascot instantly recognisable across generations. The Amul campaign remains one of advertising's great long runners precisely because the visual identity Fernandes helped set never lost its charm.

None of the other figures belong to Fernandes. Tom and Jerry was created in the United States by animators William Hanna and Joseph Barbera. The Air India Maharaja mascot dates to 1946 and is credited to Bobby Kooka and artist Umesh Rao. Snow White is a Disney film character from 1937, unrelated to Indian advertising altogether. The answer is Amul Girl.

Quick Tip: He illustrated a famous polka dotted dairy brand mascot from a long running Indian ad campaign.

• • •

80. Find the mismatch among the following person and sport pairs.

- (A) Somdev Devvarman - Badminton
- (B) Gagan Narang - Shooting
- (C) Arjun Atwal - Golf
- (D) Anita Sood - Swimming

Correct Answer: (A) Somdev Devvarman - Badminton

SOLUTION:

Look for the pair where the sport does not match the athlete, and that is Somdev Devvarman listed against badminton. Devvarman actually built his reputation on the tennis court. In 2010 he had a standout year, taking home singles and doubles gold at the Commonwealth Games held in New Delhi and adding a singles gold at the Asian Games in Guangzhou, after having already made a name for himself as an NCAA singles champion in college tennis in the US. Badminton was never his game.

Every other pairing checks out. Gagan Narang shoots the 10 metre air rifle event and has a long list of Commonwealth, Asian Games and World Cup medals to his name. Arjun Atwal made history in golf in 2010 as the first Indian to win a US PGA Tour title, lifting the Wyndham Championship trophy. Anita Sood is correctly identified as a swimmer who competed for India. Because the tennis player Devvarman is wrongly tagged as a badminton player, that is the pair that does not belong, making option 1 the answer.

Quick Tip: One name here is actually a tennis star, not the sport listed next to it.

• • •

81. Who designed the new rupee symbol?

- (A) Dilip Chhabria
- (B) D. Udaya Kumar
- (C) Tarun Tahiliani
- (D) S. Arun Kumar

Correct Answer: (B) D. Udaya Kumar

SOLUTION:

The rupee symbol we now use came from D. Udaya Kumar, a postgraduate from IIT Guwahati whose entry beat thousands of others in an open competition held by the Government of India. The Union Cabinet gave it formal approval on 15 July 2010. His design merges the Devanagari ra with a Latin R stripped of its vertical stem, topped by two parallel horizontal lines meant to recall the tricolour and hint at an equality sign, reflecting the idea of a currency that stands strong

and equal on the world stage. With this symbol, India joined a small group of countries, alongside the US dollar, the pound, the euro and the yen, that have their own distinct currency mark.

None of the other three had a role in this. Dilip Chhabria is known for automobile design work in India, and Tarun Tahiliani is a leading fashion designer, both fields unrelated to currency symbols. S. Arun Kumar is simply a name close enough to the correct one to serve as a distractor, but he did not create the rupee symbol. The correct answer remains D. Udaya Kumar.

Quick Tip: He was an IIT Guwahati postgraduate whose entry won the government's public design contest.

• • •

82. What exactly is cloud computing?

- (A) A way to organize desktop computers.
- (B) Lightweight software that takes up little space on a hard drive.
- (C) Computing resources that can be accessed on demand, like electricity from a utility.
- (D) The World Wide Web.

Correct Answer: (C) Computing resources that can be accessed on demand, like electricity from a utility.

SOLUTION:

Cloud computing is best understood as renting computing power the way a home draws electricity from the grid. Instead of buying and running your own servers, storage and software, you tap into a shared pool of these resources over the internet, use exactly what you need at

that moment, and scale usage up or down as requirements change, while the provider handles the underlying infrastructure. Around 2010 this became a defining shift in the tech world as major players such as Amazon Web Services, Google and Microsoft pushed businesses toward paying for computing as a metered service rather than owning hardware outright.

The remaining choices miss the mark. Organising desktop computers has nothing to do with the on demand, remote nature of the cloud model. Software taking up little disk space is a description of lightweight applications, not of cloud computing itself. And equating cloud computing with the World Wide Web confuses two different things, since the web is a network of linked pages accessed via browsers while cloud computing is a way of delivering computing infrastructure and services remotely. The correct description is option 3, computing resources accessed on demand like a utility.

Quick Tip: Think of computing power supplied on demand the way electricity is supplied by a utility.

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83. What is NDM-1?

- (A) National Defence Missile 1, developed by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) as a part of the comprehensive missile shield for India.
- (B) A bacterial gene called New Delhi Metallo-beta-lactamase-1, dubbed the 'superbug' because of it being resistant to most antibiotics.
- (C) New Directions in Management 1, the first among a series of international conferences on Management, to be inaugurated by Bill Gates in Mumbai in January 2012.
- (D) A vision document on Disaster Management, released by Planning Commission.

Correct Answer: (B) A bacterial gene called New Delhi Metallo-beta-lactamase-1, dubbed the 'superbug' because of it being resistant to most antibiotics.

SOLUTION:

NDM-1, short for New Delhi Metallo-beta-lactamase-1, refers to a gene carried by some bacteria that lets them produce an enzyme breaking down carbapenem antibiotics, the group of drugs doctors usually rely on when other antibiotics fail. Bacteria with this gene turn resistant to nearly every antibiotic in common use, which is why news reports in 2010 called it a superbug. Researchers first flagged it in a Lancet Infectious Diseases paper published in August 2010 after tracing infected patients back to medical treatment received in India, mostly around Delhi, and that link gave the gene its name. The name sparked a diplomatic and public health row in India, since officials felt the country was being unfairly branded even though similar resistant strains later turned up in patients across many other nations.

The three remaining options do not correspond to anything real in this context. No DRDO missile programme is called National Defence

Missile 1, no management summit titled New Directions in Management 1 was inaugurated by Bill Gates, and the Planning Commission never issued a disaster management vision document under this name. These are simply invented distractors. The gene explanation, option 2, is the correct one.

Quick Tip: It is a drug resistance gene in bacteria, named after India's capital, not a missile or a conference.

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84. 'Niyamgiri Hills' was in the news because of

- (A) Vedanta's failed mining proposal in the area inhabited by Dongria Kondh tribals.
- (B) The helicopter crash and death of Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy.
- (C) Headquarters of the Naxalite Red corridor.
- (D) Conde Nast Traveller magazine selected it as the best trekking holiday spot in the world.

Correct Answer: (A) Vedanta's failed mining proposal in the area inhabited by Dongria Kondh tribals.

SOLUTION:

Niyamgiri Hills sit across the Kalahandi and Rayagada districts of Odisha, and the reason they made national headlines was Vedanta Resources' plan to extract bauxite from the range. The area is the homeland of the Dongria Kondh tribe, who regard the hills as sacred ground tied to their deity Niyam Raja and depend on the forest for their livelihood. Acting on a report from a committee led by N. C. Saxena, the Ministry of Environment and Forests turned down

clearance for the Vedanta project in August 2010, pointing to breaches of tribal forest rights protections and the serious ecological and cultural damage the mine would cause. The episode became widely cited as a turning point for how tribal rights and environmental law intersect in India.

The other three options belong to different stories altogether. The helicopter crash that killed Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy happened in September 2009 in the Nallamala forest, a completely different location from Niyamgiri. The Naxalite affected Red corridor is a stretch running through several states, and Niyamgiri is not its headquarters. There was also no such recognition of Niyamgiri as the world's best trekking spot by Conde Nast Traveller. The Vedanta mining controversy, option 1, is the correct reason.

Quick Tip: This Odisha hill range hit headlines over a bauxite mining project blocked to protect a tribal community.

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85.

Match the following husband and wife teams with the awards they have received for exemplary work.

Husband-Wife Team	Award
1. Bill and Melinda Gates	i. Right to Livelihood Award
2. Sankaralingam and Krishnammal	ii. UN Population Award
3. Prakash and Mandakini Amte	iii. Kyoto Prize
4. Peter and Rosemary Grant	iv. Magsaysay Award

- (A) 1-ii, 2-i, 3-iii, 4-iv
- (B) 1-ii, 2-i, 3-iv, 4-iii
- (C) 1-iv, 2-iii, 3-ii, 4-i
- (D) 1-ii, 2-iv, 3-iii, 4-i

Correct Answer: (B) 1-ii, 2-i, 3-iv, 4-iii

SOLUTION:

Working through each pair separately makes the correct combination clear. Bill and Melinda Gates, through their foundation's large scale funding of global health and population programmes, are linked to the UN Population Award. Sankaralingam Jagannathan and Krishnammal Jagannathan, longtime Gandhian activists who fought for land rights of landless labourers in Tamil Nadu, hold the Right to Livelihood Award, sometimes called the alternative Nobel. Prakash Amte and Mandakini Amte, who took forward the work started by Baba Amte among the Madia Gond community at Hemalkasa, were honoured jointly with the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2008. Peter and Rosemary Grant, biologists known for their long running research on Darwin's finches in the Galapagos, received the Kyoto Prize in the basic sciences category in 2009.

Putting these together gives 1 with ii, 2 with i, 3 with iv, and 4 with iii, which is option 2. Any option that swaps the Amtes' Magsaysay Award with the Grants' Kyoto Prize, or otherwise rearranges these pairs, does not match the real record of who won what. The correct sequence is 1-ii, 2-i, 3-iv, 4-iii.

Quick Tip: The Amtes worked in Hemalkasa and won the Magsaysay Award, the Grants studied Darwin's finches and won the Kyoto Prize.

86. What is Renminbi?

- (A) It is the official currency of the People's Republic of China (PRC), whose principal unit is the Yuan.
- (B) Low cost car being developed by Volkswagen in China, at prices lower than Nano.
- (C) New aircraft company floated by Brazil to challenge Boeing and Airbus.
- (D) New currency mooted for the entire ASEAN region like Euro for Europe.

Correct Answer: (A) It is the official currency of the People's Republic of China (PRC), whose principal unit is the Yuan.

SOLUTION:

Renminbi is simply the name of China's official currency, meaning people's currency, issued and managed by the People's Bank of China, with the Yuan serving as its base unit and Kuai as the everyday informal term for it. The term stayed in the news through 2010 mainly because of the ongoing trade tension between China and countries like the United States, which pushed for the Renminbi's exchange rate to be allowed to rise, arguing that China was holding it artificially low to keep its exports cheap and competitive. This exchange rate dispute was a recurring economic story of that year.

The other three descriptions are invented and do not match reality. No such Volkswagen car project priced under the Tata Nano existed under the name Renminbi. Brazil's real aerospace success story is Embraer, not a company called Renminbi built to rival Boeing and Airbus. And while regional economic cooperation is discussed within

ASEAN, there has been no single ASEAN currency proposed under this name similar to the Euro. The currency explanation in option 1 is the correct one.

Quick Tip: It is China's official currency, whose main unit is the Yuan.

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87. Embraer is one of the world leaders in the manufacturing of corporate/business jets. Embraer belongs to which country?

- (A) Germany
- (B) Japan
- (C) Brazil
- (D) France

Correct Answer: (C) Brazil

SOLUTION:

Embraer is a well known name in the aviation industry, especially for corporate and business jets. The full name of the company is Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica, and this name itself gives away the country it belongs to. It was set up in 1969 and has grown into one of the largest aircraft manufacturers in the world.

Its base of operations is Sao Jose dos Campos in Brazil, and from there it builds everything from small executive jets to regional passenger aircraft and military planes. Many domestic airlines around the world fly Embraer regional jets on shorter routes because of their efficiency.

Looking at the other choices, Germany and France are linked to Airbus rather than Embraer, and Japan does not have a comparable presence in the business jet market. None of these three fit the description in the question.

So the country that Embraer belongs to is Brazil, which makes option 3 the right choice.

Quick Tip: Embraer stands for Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica.

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88. The Unique Identification (UID) Project, headed by Nandan Nilekani has been renamed as

- (A) Aadhaar
- (B) Sambhav
- (C) Sambhandh
- (D) Alekh

Correct Answer: (A) Aadhaar

SOLUTION:

In 2009, the Government of India created the Unique Identification Authority of India, or UIDAI, with the job of giving every resident a unique 12 digit identity number. Nandan Nilekani, known for co-founding Infosys, was picked to lead this body as its Chairman, holding a rank equal to that of a Cabinet Minister.

The identity number and the project behind it were given the name Aadhaar, a Hindi term that translates to foundation or base. This name reflected the idea that the number would become the base

document citizens use to prove their identity for banking, subsidies, and other services.

None of the other options listed, Sambhav, Sambandh, or Alekh, are connected to this scheme in any official capacity, so they can be ruled out.

This confirms that the UID Project was renamed Aadhaar, making option 1 correct.

Quick Tip: Nandan Nilekani headed this identity number project, later called by a Hindi word meaning foundation.

• • •

89. India's first Special Economic Zone dedicated to the Aerospace Industry has been launched at

- (A) Hyderabad
- (B) Hallargi
- (C) Shimla
- (D) Ahmedabad

Correct Answer: (B) Hallargi

SOLUTION:

When the government wanted to encourage aerospace component manufacturing in India, a Special Economic Zone dedicated only to this industry was set up at Hallargi, close to Belgaum city in Karnataka. This was the first zone of its kind anywhere in the country, built to house companies that make parts and equipment for aircraft.

The idea behind a focused SEZ was to cluster aerospace manufacturers together so they could share infrastructure and benefit from the duty and tax concessions that SEZs offer, which in turn was expected to strengthen India's position in the global aviation supply chain.

Cities like Hyderabad already have a reputation in aerospace and defence work, and Ahmedabad and Shimla are known for different industries altogether, but the honour of hosting the first aerospace focused SEZ belongs to Hallargi, not to these places.

Hence, the location of India's first aerospace SEZ is Hallargi, confirming option 2 as the answer.

Quick Tip: This aerospace-only SEZ came up near Belgaum in Karnataka.

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90. The prime purpose of WTO is to promote:

- (A) Financial Support
- (B) Global Peace
- (C) Unilateral Trade
- (D) Multilateral Trade

Correct Answer: (D) Multilateral Trade

SOLUTION:

The World Trade Organization was formed in 1995, taking over from the earlier General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. It is based in Geneva and today counts well over 160 nations as members, making it

one of the largest bodies governing how countries trade with each other.

What the WTO is really built for is to create a shared rulebook that many countries agree to follow together, which is what the term multilateral trade refers to. This shared framework allows member nations to trade goods and services with predictable rules and gives them a forum to resolve disputes instead of taking unilateral steps against each other.

Options like financial support and global peace fall under the work of bodies such as the IMF, World Bank, or the United Nations rather than the WTO. And unilateral trade actually runs counter to the WTO's approach, since the organization exists precisely to move countries away from one sided trade actions.

Therefore, the WTO's prime purpose is to promote multilateral trade, making option 4 the right answer.

Quick Tip: WTO rules apply across many member countries together, not to one country acting alone.

• • •

91. On March 5, 2010, which of the following personalities from India is among 19 members chosen by UN chief Ban Ki-moon for a high-level advisory group on Climate Change Financing tasked with mobilizing funds pledged during the Copenhagen meet to tackle global warming?

- (A) Shyam Saran
- (B) Montek Singh Ahluwalia
- (C) Chandrashekhar Dasgupta
- (D) Pradipto Ghosh

Correct Answer: (B) Montek Singh Ahluwalia

SOLUTION:

After the Copenhagen climate summit ended with a pledge to raise 100 billion dollars annually by 2020 for developing countries, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon decided to form a High Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing in early 2010 to work out how this money could actually be mobilized.

On March 5, 2010, the Secretary General named 19 members to this group, and among them was Montek Singh Ahluwalia, who held the post of Deputy Chairman of India's Planning Commission at that time. His selection gave India a voice in shaping how the promised climate funds would be structured and distributed.

Names like Shyam Saran, Chandrashekhara Dasgupta, and Pradipto Ghosh are all associated with India's climate diplomacy in a broader sense, but none of them were the individual chosen for this specific UN advisory panel.

So the Indian personality on Ban Ki-moon's climate financing advisory group was Montek Singh Ahluwalia, confirming option 2.

Quick Tip: He was Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India at the time.

...

92. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has termed the 11th Five Year Plan as:

- (A) India's health plan
- (B) India's poverty eradication plan
- (C) India's rural prosperity plan
- (D) India's education plan

Correct Answer: (D) India's education plan

SOLUTION:

The 11th Five Year Plan, covering the years 2007 to 2012, was designed around the idea of growth that reaches more people, often described as faster and more inclusive growth. One of the standout features of this plan was the large jump in the budget set aside for education, which grew many times over from what earlier plans had allocated.

Because of this strong push, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh described the 11th Plan as India's education plan. During this period, the country worked on expanding schooling access, moved forward with the Right to Education, and added new IITs, IIMs, and central universities across the states.

The plan did touch on health, rural welfare, and poverty reduction as well, since inclusive growth covers many areas, but the specific phrase the Prime Minister used singled out education as the theme that defined this five year cycle.

This makes India's education plan the correct description, so option 4 is the answer.

Quick Tip: This plan period saw a sharp jump in spending on schools, colleges, and new IITs and IIMs.

93. Which of the following milestones was achieved by New Zealand Cricket Team Captain Daniel Vettori recently?

- (A) 2,000 runs and 200 wickets in Test Cricket
- (B) 3,000 runs and 300 wickets in One-Day Internationals (ODIs)
- (C) 3,000 runs and 300 wickets in Test Cricket
- (D) 2,000 runs and 200 wickets in One-Day Internationals (ODIs)

Correct Answer: (C) 3,000 runs and 300 wickets in Test Cricket

SOLUTION:

New Zealand's spin bowling captain Daniel Vettori reached a landmark that very few cricketers manage, completing 3,000 runs alongside 300 wickets in Test cricket. He got there during a Test match in late 2010, and with this achievement he became just the sixth cricketer ever to sit in this group, alongside all rounders such as Ian Botham, Kapil Dev, Imran Khan, and Shaun Pollock.

Throughout his Test career, Vettori was valued not only for his left arm spin bowling but also for his batting lower down the order, where he frequently added useful runs and helped his team post bigger totals, which is exactly what let him reach both figures.

The other choices talk about the same kind of double but place it in One Day Internationals or use different numbers for runs and wickets, and these do not describe what Vettori actually accomplished. His milestone was specifically the 3,000 run and 300 wicket combination in Test matches.

So the milestone Vettori achieved was 3,000 runs and 300 wickets in Test cricket, matching option 3.

Quick Tip: He is one of only a handful of players to reach this run-wicket double in Tests, alongside Kapil Dev and Botham.

• • •

94. What is the full form of the term 'NPA' as used in banking environment?

- (A) Not Profitable Assets
- (B) New Potential Accounts
- (C) Non Performing Assets
- (D) Net Performing Assets

Correct Answer: (C) Non Performing Assets

SOLUTION:

In banking language, NPA is short for Non Performing Asset. This term is applied to any loan or advance where the borrower has failed to pay interest or principal on time for a certain stretch, which the Reserve Bank of India generally sets at 90 days past due.

Once a bank tags a loan as an NPA, it must keep aside provisions to cover potential losses on that loan, which cuts into its profits and limits how much new lending it can do. Because of this, keeping NPAs low is a constant priority for banks, since a large pile of bad loans can drag down the stability of the entire banking sector.

The remaining choices, Not Profitable Assets, New Potential Accounts, and Net Performing Assets, are made up terms that are not actually used in banking or by the RBI.

So the correct expansion of NPA is Non Performing Assets, which is option 3.

Quick Tip: It refers to a loan where repayments have stopped for a set period, usually 90 days.

• • •

95. Which of the following contributes to the highest share of revenue earned by the Government of India?

- (A) Income Tax
- (B) Excise Duty
- (C) Value Added Tax
- (D) Corporate Tax

Correct Answer: (D) Corporate Tax

SOLUTION:

Corporate Tax is the answer here.

The Government of India collects money through several channels, and when you rank them by how much each brings in, the tax on company profits, known as corporate tax, comes out on top.

Companies operating in India, particularly the larger ones, generate substantial taxable profits, and the tax collected from these profits has historically exceeded what the government collects from taxing individual incomes.

Now look at why the other choices fall short. Income Tax applies to individuals and Hindu Undivided Families, and while it is a major revenue source, its total collection trails behind corporate tax. Excise Duty, an indirect tax on goods made in the country, also contributes a smaller slice of the pie. Value Added Tax is a state-level levy on the sale of goods within a state, meaning it goes to state treasuries rather

than the central government, so it cannot even be compared on the same footing as a central revenue source.

Putting it all together, Corporate Tax stands as the biggest revenue earner for the Government of India, making option 4 the right answer.

Quick Tip: Think about which tax on company profits outweighs personal income tax in central government collections.

• • •

96. Which country was world's largest exporter with merchandise exports worth \$1.47 trillion in 2008, according to the World Trade Organization?

- (A) USA
- (B) China
- (C) Germany
- (D) Russia

Correct Answer: (C) Germany

SOLUTION:

Germany is the right answer.

Every year the World Trade Organization tracks how much each country sells to the rest of the world in merchandise trade, and for 2008 the country at the very top of that list was Germany, with exports totalling about \$1.47 trillion. Germany's export strength came largely from high value manufactured goods such as cars, industrial machinery, and chemicals, which found strong demand in markets worldwide.

It is worth noting that this lead did not last much longer. In 2009, China pulled ahead of Germany and has held the top exporter position ever since, but that shift happened a year after the figure given in the question. The United States, despite having a huge economy, has typically run a trade deficit and was not the leading exporter. Russia's export basket was heavily weighted toward energy commodities like oil and natural gas, keeping its total exports far smaller than Germany's.

Given that the question specifically points to 2008 and the \$1.47 trillion figure, the correct choice remains Germany.

Quick Tip: This European country led global merchandise exports just before China took over the top spot in 2009.

• • •

97. Where in India, recently has the Clinton Foundation, founded by former US President Bill Clinton, firmed up its plans to set up world's largest solar park (3,000 to 5,000 MW capacity)?

- (A) Bihar
- (B) Orissa
- (C) Gujarat
- (D) Rajasthan

Correct Answer: (C) Gujarat

SOLUTION:

Gujarat is the correct choice.

The Clinton Foundation, through its climate initiative wing, partnered with the Gujarat state government to develop plans for an enormous solar power park, targeted at a capacity somewhere between 3,000 and 5,000 MW. This announcement came around the time Gujarat was already emerging as a leader in Indian solar policy, later reflected in projects such as the Charanka Solar Park in the Patan region.

The reasons Gujarat was picked over other states include its vast tracts of dry, sun soaked land unsuitable for farming but ideal for solar panels, and a state administration that was actively courting renewable energy investment at the time. None of the other listed states, Bihar, Orissa, or Rajasthan, were the site of this specific Clinton Foundation project, though Rajasthan would go on to build significant solar capacity of its own in later years.

Therefore, the state where the Clinton Foundation firmed up plans for this world scale solar park was Gujarat.

Quick Tip: This western Indian state with the Charanka Solar Park was the one linked with the Clinton Foundation's giant solar project.

• • •

98. Which three public sector lenders have entered recently into a joint venture agreement for setting up a banking subsidiary, India BIA Bank (Malaysia) Bhd, in Malaysia?

- (A) Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank and Andhra Bank.
- (B) Bank of Baroda, Indian Overseas Bank and Bank of India
- (C) Bank of Baroda, Indian Overseas Bank and Andhra Bank.
- (D) Bank of Baroda, Indian Bank, and Andhra Bank.

Correct Answer: (C) Bank of Baroda, Indian Overseas Bank and Andhra Bank.

SOLUTION:

The right answer is option 3, Bank of Baroda, Indian Overseas Bank and Andhra Bank.

Back in 2010, a trio of Indian public sector banks decided to jointly promote a banking subsidiary in Malaysia. The three lenders involved were Bank of Baroda, which took the leading role and the biggest shareholding, along with Indian Overseas Bank and Andhra Bank as its co-promoters. Together they formed what was reported as India International Bank (Malaysia) Bhd, marking a rare case of Indian public sector banks pooling resources to jointly own a foreign banking arm rather than each setting up separate branches abroad.

Look closely at the other answer choices and you will see they substitute in banks that were not actually part of this deal, such as Bank of India or Indian Bank, in place of Bank of Baroda or Andhra Bank. Those substitutions make those combinations incorrect, since neither Bank of India nor Indian Bank held a stake in this Malaysian venture.

To sum up, the three public sector banks behind India International Bank (Malaysia) Bhd were Bank of Baroda, Indian Overseas Bank, and Andhra Bank, confirming option 3 as correct.

Quick Tip: Bank of Baroda led this joint Malaysian venture along with two other public sector banks, not Bank of India or Indian Bank.



99. What is the campaign of Union and State Governments against the Naxalite movement called?

- (A) Operation Red Alert
- (B) Operation Green Hunt
- (C) Operation Cobra Den
- (D) Operation Clean Corridor

Correct Answer: (B) Operation Green Hunt

SOLUTION:

Operation Green Hunt is the correct answer.

When the Union government and various state governments joined forces to push back against Naxalite or Maoist insurgents operating across the tribal and forested belt known as the Red Corridor, the resulting security campaign became widely known as Operation Green Hunt. It brought together central paramilitary units like the CRPF with state police forces in states such as Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal, with intensified action seen through 2009 and 2010.

The term Operation Green Hunt spread through news coverage and public commentary as the label for this campaign, referencing the green, forested terrain where much of the conflict played out. None of the remaining choices, Operation Red Alert, Operation Cobra Den, or Operation Clean Corridor, match the actual name that was used for this anti-Naxalite drive, they are simply invented distractors.

So, the campaign waged by Union and State Governments against Naxalites is known as Operation Green Hunt, confirming option 2.

Quick Tip: This operation's name pairs a colour with a hunting term and targeted Naxalite strongholds in the Red Corridor.

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100. The instrument used to measure the speed of the wind is

- (A) Altimeter
- (B) Anemometer
- (C) Chronometer
- (D) Dosimeter

Correct Answer: (B) Anemometer

SOLUTION:

The answer is Anemometer.

Wind speed is measured using an instrument called an anemometer. Its most common form uses three or four cups fixed to spokes around a rotating shaft, and as wind pushes the cups around, the spin rate is translated into a speed value, usually shown in units like kilometres per hour or metres per second. You will find anemometers mounted at meteorological stations, on ships, at airports, and at sites being studied for wind turbine installation.

It helps to rule out the alternatives by knowing what each one actually does. An altimeter tells you height above sea level or ground level, useful for pilots and climbers. A chronometer is simply a very accurate clock, once essential for calculating longitude at sea. A dosimeter tracks exposure to radiation, a tool used to keep workers in nuclear or medical settings safe.

Since wind speed measurement is the job of the anemometer specifically, the correct choice is option 2.

Quick Tip: This device often has spinning cups and is used at weather stations to measure how fast the air is moving.

• • •

101. Which of the following countries is the first in the world to propose a carbon tax for its people to address global warming?

- (A) Finland
- (B) Japan
- (C) Germany
- (D) Australia

Correct Answer: (A) Finland

SOLUTION:

Finland is the correct answer.

Back in 1990, Finland became the first nation on earth to bring in a carbon tax, a charge placed on carbon dioxide emissions produced from burning fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas. The idea behind it was straightforward, make polluting fuels more expensive so that people and industries would gradually move toward cleaner alternatives, helping the country play its part in tackling global warming.

This Finnish move set a precedent that neighbouring Nordic nations, including Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, picked up on soon afterward with carbon taxes of their own. Compare this to Japan, which only rolled out its carbon tax in 2012, more than two decades

later. Germany took a different route altogether, relying on energy taxation and later the EU's emissions trading scheme instead of a standalone carbon tax. Australia's attempt at carbon pricing also came in 2012 and did not last long, being scrapped by 2014.

Given how far ahead of the others Finland was, it clearly stands as the first country to propose a carbon tax, making option 1 the right choice.

Quick Tip: This Nordic country was the pioneer, introducing its carbon tax back in 1990, well before others followed.

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102. Amino acids are found in

- (A) Carbohydrates
- (B) Fats
- (C) Proteins
- (D) Vitamins

Correct Answer: (C) Proteins

SOLUTION:

The correct answer is Proteins.

Every protein in the body is constructed from smaller units called amino acids, strung together in long chains through what are known as peptide bonds. There are twenty standard amino acids that living cells use, and the particular order in which they are arranged gives each protein its unique three dimensional shape and job, whether that is forming muscle fibre, acting as an enzyme, or making up part of the immune system as an antibody.

None of the other options share this connection to amino acids. Carbohydrates are built from sugar molecules like glucose linked in chains, an entirely separate chemistry. Fats come from fatty acids combined with glycerol, again unrelated to amino acid structure. Vitamins form their own diverse group of organic molecules needed in small quantities for the body to function properly, but they are not assembled from amino acids the way proteins are.

Because amino acids are specifically the units that combine to make proteins, the correct answer is option 3, Proteins.

Quick Tip: These molecules link together through peptide bonds to build this class of biological macromolecule.

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103. Which among the following is the world's largest milk producing country?

- (A) India
- (B) China
- (C) The US
- (D) Germany

Correct Answer: (A) India

SOLUTION:

Corporate Tax is the answer here.

The Government of India collects money through several channels, and when you rank them by how much each brings in, the tax on company profits, known as corporate tax, comes out on top.

Companies operating in India, particularly the larger ones, generate substantial taxable profits, and the tax collected from these profits has historically exceeded what the government collects from taxing individual incomes.

The correct choice here is India. By the time this exam was held in 2010, India had already held the position of the world's top milk producer for over a decade, a status it gained thanks to the White Revolution of the 1970s and 1980s. This dairy development movement, driven by Verghese Kurien and the National Dairy Development Board, linked village-level cooperatives to urban markets and pushed milk production up sharply across the country.

Looking at the other choices, China's dairy industry, though growing, never reached India's scale in the period around this exam. The US dairy industry is technologically advanced and large, but it still produces less total milk than India because India's numbers come from an enormous base of small buffalo and cow herders spread across the country. Germany's dairy sector, while important for Europe, is a fraction of the size needed to match India's national output. So the answer stands as India.

Quick Tip: Think of the country with the largest dairy output backed by Operation Flood.



104. A group of words that share the same spelling and the same pronunciation but have different meanings; e.g. left (opposite of right) and left (past tense of leave), is called:

- (A) Synonyms
- (B) Homonyms
- (C) Heteronyms
- (D) Acronyms

Correct Answer: (B) Homonyms

SOLUTION:

This is a vocabulary and linguistics question, and the answer is homonyms. When two words are written exactly the same way and spoken exactly the same way, but their meanings do not overlap at all, English grammar labels that pair as homonyms. The example given, "left" as a direction versus "left" as the past form of "leave," fits this definition perfectly since both spelling and sound match while meaning does not.

The other three terms describe different relationships between words. Synonyms share meaning, not spelling or sound, so pairs like "big" and "large" fall under that category instead. Heteronyms are words identical in spelling but different in pronunciation, the reverse case, such as "tear" (to rip) versus "tear" (a drop from crying). Acronyms are shortened forms built from the first letters of a longer name or phrase, such as "RADAR," which is an entirely separate concept from matching spelling and sound. That confirms homonyms as the right term.

Quick Tip: Same spelling, same sound, different meaning.

• • •

105. The National Flag of India was designed by:

- (A) Mahatma Gandhi
- (B) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (C) Rabindra Nath Tagore
- (D) Pingali Venkayya

Correct Answer: (D) Pingali Venkayya

SOLUTION:

Pingali Venkayya is the correct answer. He was a Telugu freedom fighter who spent years studying flags from around the world before proposing a design for India's own flag. His original concept, shown to Gandhi in the early 1920s, went through changes over the next two and a half decades, and the final tricolour with the Ashoka Chakra at its centre was officially adopted just before India's independence in 1947.

None of the other names fit the role of designer. Gandhi supported and reviewed the flag concept but did not create it himself. Nehru's part was political, presenting the flag for adoption in the Constituent Assembly, not sketching its design. Tagore's legacy lies elsewhere, in literature and music, including India's national anthem, and he had no hand in designing the flag. So the credit for the flag's design belongs to Pingali Venkayya.

Quick Tip: A freedom fighter from Andhra Pradesh designed the tricolour's original version.



106. In 1679, Denis Papin, a French physicist, who assisted Robert Boyle, used the latter's scientific discoveries and invented what is today one of the most commonly found kitchen equipment. His invention earned him a membership of the Royal Society of England. What was the invention?

- (A) Knife
- (B) Fork
- (C) Pressure Cooker
- (D) Stove

Correct Answer: (C) Pressure Cooker

SOLUTION:

This question is best answered as Pressure Cooker, and it is worth noting that the original published key marked Fork, which does not match the historical record. Denis Papin worked as an assistant to Robert Boyle and applied Boyle's findings on gases and pressure to build a closed cooking vessel in 1679, known as the "steam digester" or "Papin's digester." By locking steam inside under pressure, the device cooked food, including tough bones, far faster than any ordinary pot of the time, and it is the direct ancestor of today's pressure cooker as well as an early influence on autoclave technology used in sterilizing equipment. This breakthrough is precisely what earned Papin his Fellowship in the Royal Society of England in 1680.

The fork and the knife are utensils that predate Papin by many centuries, tracing back to ancient Middle Eastern and European dining customs, so there is no historical thread connecting either of them to his scientific work. A kitchen stove is a heat-generating appliance, which is also unrelated to what Papin actually built, since his device was about trapping pressure rather than producing heat.

Given how clearly documented the steam digester story is in the history of science, Pressure Cooker is the historically accurate answer here, even though it differs from the answer originally marked as key.

Quick Tip: His device used pressure and steam to cook food faster, the ancestor of a modern kitchen appliance.

• • •

107. Mr. Ratan Tata refused a job with one of the following companies to join Tata Steel in 1962. Which company was it?

- (A) IBM
- (B) HUL
- (C) Siemens
- (D) SKF International

Correct Answer: (A) IBM

SOLUTION:

The company Ratan Tata said no to was IBM. Fresh out of Cornell University with a degree in architecture, he had the option of taking up a position at IBM in the United States. JRD Tata counselled him against accepting a role at a firm that had no factories or production base within India, arguing it would not really benefit the nation, and Ratan Tata chose instead to come back home and start work at Tata Steel's Jamshedpur plant in 1962, learning the business from the ground level.

The other three options, HUL, Siemens, and SKF International, are all recognizable multinational or Indian companies, but none of them appear in the historical record of Ratan Tata's career choice at that

time. The well known account of his early life ties the declined offer specifically to IBM, which makes IBM the correct answer.

Quick Tip: A major American computing firm offered him a job before he chose the family business.

• • •

108. Which of the following have owned Land Rover brand before Tata Motors?

- (A) BMW
- (B) British Leyland
- (C) British Aerospace
- (D) All of the above

Correct Answer: (D) All of the above

SOLUTION:

Land Rover's ownership history makes All of the above the right choice. Tracing the brand back, it was folded into British Leyland's Rover Group in 1968 when that state-backed conglomerate consolidated much of Britain's car industry. Two decades later, in 1988, British Aerospace took over the Rover Group from the government, bringing Land Rover under its wing. BMW then purchased the Rover Group, Land Rover included, in 1994, before offloading Land Rover to Ford in 2000. Ford held onto it, alongside Jaguar, until selling the combined Jaguar Land Rover business to Tata Motors in 2008.

Because British Leyland, British Aerospace, and BMW each controlled the brand during different stretches of this timeline, picking just one

of them would leave out the rest of the true ownership chain. That is why the complete answer, All of the above, is the one that matches Land Rover's actual corporate history leading up to the Tata Motors acquisition.

Quick Tip: Land Rover passed through several British and European owners before ending up with Ford and then Tata.

• • •

109. Who is known as 'The Man Who Broke the Bank of England' after he made a reported \$1 billion during the 1992 Black Wednesday UK currency crisis?

- (A) George Soros
- (B) George W Bush
- (C) Paul Volcker
- (D) Ben Bernanke

Correct Answer: (A) George Soros

SOLUTION:

The answer is George Soros. His investment fund, Quantum Fund, took an enormous short position against the British pound heading into September 1992, betting that the currency would be forced out of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism. That is exactly what happened on Black Wednesday, 16 September 1992, when the UK government, unable to defend the pound's value even after hiking interest rates, pulled it out of the mechanism and let it devalue. Soros walked away with an estimated \$1 billion in profit from that single

trade, which is how the label "The Man Who Broke the Bank of England" came to be attached to his name.

The other names on the list belong to entirely different fields. George W Bush served as a US president and had nothing to do with British currency markets. Paul Volcker is remembered for steering the US Federal Reserve through the inflation fight of the early 1980s, well before this event. Ben Bernanke led the Federal Reserve during the 2008 crisis, over fifteen years after Black Wednesday. Since none of them were involved in the pound trade, George Soros remains the correct and only fitting answer.

Quick Tip: A hedge fund manager famously shorted the British pound in September 1992.

• • •

110. Who is the current dean of Harvard Business School (as of 2010)?

- (A) Nitin Nohria
- (B) Deepak Jain
- (C) Kim Clark
- (D) None of these

Correct Answer: (A) Nitin Nohria

SOLUTION:

At the time this exam was conducted, the dean of Harvard Business School was Nitin Nohria, who stepped into the role starting 1 July 2010. He had spent years teaching at HBS before being chosen as dean, and his appointment made him notable as the first person of Indian origin to lead the school.

Deepak Jain held a similar leadership post, but at a different institution altogether, Kellogg School of Management, so he does not fit here. Kim Clark had indeed once been dean of Harvard Business School, but his term ended in 2005 when he left to head Brigham Young University-Idaho, meaning he was no longer in the role by 2010. Since Nitin Nohria was actively serving as dean at the time of the exam, "None of these" cannot be correct either, leaving Nitin Nohria as the accurate answer.

Quick Tip: An India-born professor took over as HBS dean in 2010.

• • •

111.

"The emancipation of women", James Joyce told one of his friends, "has caused the greatest revolution in our time."

Other modernists agree: Virginia Woolf, claiming that in about 1910 "human character changed" and illustrating the new balance between the sexes, urged, "Read the 'Agamemnon' and see whether your sympathies are not almost entirely with Clytemnestra". D.H. Lawrence wrote "perhaps the deepest fight for 200 years and more has been the fight for women's independence".

But if modernist writers considered women's revolt against men's domination as one of their "greatest" and "deepest" themes, only recently, perhaps in the past 15 years has literary criticism begun to catch up with it. Not that the images of sexual antagonism that abound in modern literature have gone unremarked - far from it. We are able to see in literary works the perspective we bring to them and now that women are enough to make a difference in reforming canons and interpreting literature, the landscapes of literary history and the features of individual books have begun to change.

According to the passage, modernists are changing literary criticism by:

- (A) Noting instances of hostility between men and women
- (B) Seeing literature from fresh points of view
- (C) Studying the works of early twentieth-century writers
- (D) Reviewing books written by feminists

Correct Answer: (B) Seeing literature from fresh points of view

SOLUTION:

Look at the closing lines of the passage carefully. The author says the landscapes of literary history are changing not because new evidence has appeared, but because there are now enough women reading and interpreting literature to shift how old books get read. That is a change in viewpoint, not a change in subject matter.

Rule out the wrong choices one by one. Choice 1 talks about spotting hostility between the sexes, but the passage already tells us such antagonism in literature has been present in modern literature for a while, so noticing hostility is not the new development described here. Choice 3 turns the modernist writers into a syllabus, as though criticism now means studying Joyce, Woolf and Lawrence, but the passage uses those three only as proof that the theme is old, not as the new critical method. Choice 4 narrows the change to feminist authors specifically, which is far more restrictive than what the passage describes, since it talks about all of literary history and individual books in general.

What remains is the idea that critics and readers are simply seeing old texts through a new lens, which is exactly option 2, so that is the answer.

Quick Tip: Look at the passage's closing lines about perspective.



112.

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Other modernists agree: Virginia Woolf, claiming that in about 1910 "human character changed" and illustrating the new balance between the sexes, urged, "Read the 'Agamemnon' and see whether your sympathies are not almost entirely with Clytemnestra". D.H. Lawrence wrote "perhaps the deepest fight for 200 years and more has been the fight for women's independence".

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The author quotes James Joyce, Virginia Woolf and D.H. Lawrence primarily in order to show that:

- (A) These were feminist writers
- (B) Although well-meaning, they were ineffectual
- (C) Before the twentieth century, there was little interest in women's literature
- (D) None of the above

Correct Answer: (C) Before the twentieth century, there was little interest in women's literature

SOLUTION:

Think about why a writer would open with three separate quotations before making an argument. Joyce, Woolf and Lawrence are not random references, they are the biggest names of literary modernism, and each one is on record treating women's independence as a central concern of the era. That is a strong opening move, and it is meant to set up a contrast.

The contrast comes in the next sentence, where the author admits that literary criticism has only begun to catch up with this theme in the last decade and a half. In other words, even though these towering writers were already saying this was one of the great themes of their age, the critical world did not treat women's place in these narratives as a serious subject of study for a long time afterward. The three quotations are evidence for that lag, they show the theme existed long before the criticism did.

None of the other options fit this evidence. Calling Joyce, Woolf and Lawrence feminist writers overstates what the passage claims about them. Saying they were ineffectual contradicts the respectful tone in which they are quoted. Leaving it at none of the above ignores that option 3 is directly supported by the text. So the quotations are there to show that interest in women's literature was thin before this recent surge in criticism, confirming option 3 as the answer.

Quick Tip: Notice the gap between what the writers said and when criticism caught up.

113.

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But if modernist writers considered women's revolt against men's domination as one of their "greatest" and "deepest" themes, only recently, perhaps in the past 15 years has literary criticism begun to catch up with it. Not that the images of sexual antagonism that abound in modern literature have gone unremarked - far from it. We are able to see in literary works the perspective we bring to them and now that women are enough to make a difference in reforming canons and interpreting literature, the landscapes of literary history and the features of individual books have begun to change.

The author's attitude towards women's reformation of literary canons can best be described as one of:

- (A) Ambivalence
- (B) Antagonism
- (C) Indifference
- (D) Endorsement

Correct Answer: (D) Endorsement

SOLUTION:

A quick way to judge an author's attitude is to check whether the language used to describe an idea is neutral, critical or approving. Here the closing lines describe women reforming literary canons and reinterpreting old texts in a way that reads as natural progress, framed as something that had been waiting to happen once women are enough in number to drive it.

Check the other choices against that tone. Ambivalence would require some sign of doubt or a balanced back and forth in the passage, which is absent. Antagonism would mean pushing back against the trend, but the author instead explains why it matters and treats it as legitimate. Indifference would mean a flat, uninvested description, but the passage spends its final section building up to and explaining this change, which shows the author cares about it and views it favourably. Since the author's language treats the reform of literary canons by women as a welcome and overdue shift, the best label for that attitude is endorsement, so option 4 is correct.

Quick Tip: Check the tone of the closing sentence.



114.

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Other modernists agree: Virginia Woolf, claiming that in about 1910 "human character changed" and illustrating the new balance between the sexes, urged, "Read the 'Agamemnon' and see whether your sympathies are not almost entirely with Clytemnestra". D.H. Lawrence wrote "perhaps the deepest fight for 200 years and more has been the fight for women's independence".

But if modernist writers considered women's revolt against men's domination as one of their "greatest" and "deepest" themes, only recently, perhaps in the past 15 years has literary criticism begun to catch up with it. Not that the images of sexual antagonism that abound in modern literature have gone unremarked - far from it. We are able to see in literary works the perspective we bring to them and now that women are enough to make a difference in reforming canons and interpreting literature, the landscapes of literary history and the features of individual books have begun to change.

Which of the following titles best describes the contents of the passage?

- (A) Modernist Writers and the Search for Equality
- (B) The meaning of Literature from 1910 onwards
- (C) Transforming Literature
- (D) None of the options

Correct Answer: (A) Modernist Writers and the Search for Equality

SOLUTION:

When picking a title, ask what the passage is actually about, not just what it mentions in passing. The passage names three modernist writers and quotes each of them specifically on the topic of women gaining independence and equal standing with men. That is the throughline connecting the whole piece, from the opening Joyce quote to the closing comment on reforming literary canons.

Testing the alternatives shows why they fall short. The meaning of Literature from 1910 onwards turns a specific theme, women's equality, into a broad claim about literature in general, which the passage never makes. Transforming Literature is so generic it could title almost any article about literary change and does not capture the gender angle that defines this passage. Ruling out none of the options only makes sense if no listed title fits, but one clearly does.

Since the passage is built entirely around modernist writers addressing the question of equality between men and women, the fitting title is Modernist Writers and the Search for Equality, option 1.

Quick Tip: The title must cover both the writers and the gender theme.

• • •

115. Choose the correct sentence.

- (A) A anthropologist by profession, he is also a trained classical singer.
- (B) The anthropologist by profession, he is also a trained classical singer.
- (C) As anthropologist by profession, he is also a trained classical singer.
- (D) An anthropologist by profession, he is also a trained classical singer.

Correct Answer: (D) An anthropologist by profession, he is also a trained classical singer.

SOLUTION:

English uses an before any word that opens with a vowel sound and a before any word that opens with a consonant sound. Anthropologist starts with the vowel sound an, so the article that belongs in front of it is an, giving An anthropologist by profession, he is also a trained classical singer.

Walk through why the rest fail. A anthropologist breaks the vowel sound rule directly. The anthropologist would only work if the sentence were referring back to a specific, already identified anthropologist, but here the sentence is simply introducing someone's profession for the first time, so the indefinite article is needed instead. As anthropologist leaves the phrase incomplete, because as used this way needs its own article before the noun, as in as an anthropologist.

The only sentence that respects both the article rule and basic sentence structure is An anthropologist by profession, he is also a trained classical singer, confirming option 4 as correct.

Quick Tip: Anthropologist starts with a vowel sound.

• • •

116. _____ is used to indicate possession.

- (A) Hyphen
- (B) Apostrophe
- (C) Semi Colon
- (D) Period

Correct Answer: (B) Apostrophe

SOLUTION:

Possession in written English is signalled by a small mark placed before or after the letter s attached to a noun, for example Lawrence's novel or the writers' themes. That mark is the apostrophe, and it is the only punctuation mark on this list built for that job.

None of the other three options serve this purpose. A hyphen is used to link compound words or split a word across a line, not to show ownership. A semicolon is a tool for joining two related sentences into one, unrelated to possession. A period does nothing more than close off a sentence.

Because possession specifically calls for the apostrophe, option 2 is the right answer.

Quick Tip: Apostrophe shows ownership.

• • •

117. _____ is used to mark the end of declarative and imperative sentences.

- (A) Semicolon
- (B) Comma
- (C) Dash
- (D) Period

Correct Answer: (D) Period

SOLUTION:

Every plain statement or direct instruction in English needs a punctuation mark to signal that the sentence is finished. That mark is the period. The train left on time is a statement, and Take your seat is an instruction, and both are properly closed with a period rather than any other mark.

The alternatives all do different jobs. A semicolon sits inside a sentence to connect two related clauses. A comma is used for pauses and lists within a sentence, not to end it. A dash creates emphasis or inserts a side comment but is not a closing mark for ordinary statements or commands.

Because ending declarative and imperative sentences is specifically the period's job, the answer is option 4.

Quick Tip: Period ends statements and commands.

• • •

118. When a subordinate clause is followed by the main clause, _____ is required.

- (A) Dash
- (B) Semi-colon
- (C) Comma
- (D) Colon

Correct Answer: (C) Comma

SOLUTION:

English sentence structure calls for a comma whenever a dependent clause opens the sentence and a main clause follows it. Take Because

he was late, he missed the bus. The comma after Because he was late tells the reader where the introductory clause ends and the core sentence begins.

The other punctuation marks are built for different jobs. A dash inserts emphasis or an aside, which is not what is needed between a subordinate clause and its main clause. A semicolon links two clauses that could each stand alone as full sentences, but a subordinate clause cannot stand alone, so a semicolon would be misused here. A colon introduces something like a list or explanation, which is not the relationship between a subordinate and a main clause.

The mark that correctly separates a leading subordinate clause from the main clause is the comma, making option 3 the answer.

Quick Tip: Comma follows an opening subordinate clause.



119. When no connecting word is used to connect two independent clauses, one should use _____.

- (A) Comma
- (B) Semi-colon
- (C) Period
- (D) Colon

Correct Answer: (B) Semi-colon

SOLUTION:

Think of an independent clause as a mini sentence, it has a subject and a verb and makes complete sense on its own. Problems arise when

two such mini sentences are placed together without a linking word like and or but. Writers then have three common punctuation choices, and only one of them actually does the job correctly.

Using just a comma between two independent clauses is called a comma splice, and it is considered incorrect in standard written English because a comma is too weak a mark to hold two complete thoughts together on its own. Using a period turns the two clauses into two separate, unconnected sentences, which defeats the purpose since the question specifically asks how to connect them, not separate them. A colon has a different job altogether, it signals that what comes next explains, lists, or elaborates on what came before, so it is not a general-purpose connector for two equal independent clauses.

The semi-colon is built exactly for this situation, it is strong enough to separate two complete clauses grammatically while still showing the reader that the ideas are closely related and belong in one sentence. That is why the answer is option 2, semi-colon.

Quick Tip: Two independent clauses joined without a conjunction need a semi-colon.

• • •

120. Directions: Which is the correct proverb?

- (A) Sleeping dogs tell lies.
- (B) Dogs sleeping lie till late.
- (C) Lie sleeping dogs till the dawn comes.
- (D) Let the sleeping dogs lie.

Correct Answer: (D) Let the sleeping dogs lie.

SOLUTION:

Proverbs are fixed expressions, their wording does not change even though the individual words might seem interchangeable at first glance. "Let the sleeping dogs lie" is one such fixed phrase, and it carries the meaning that you should avoid reopening a matter that has already settled down, because stirring it up again could cause fresh problems.

The other three choices try to confuse the reader by rearranging the same words or twisting the meaning of lie into telling a falsehood. "Sleeping dogs tell lies" shifts the meaning entirely and is not a real saying. "Dogs sleeping lie till late" and "Lie sleeping dogs till the dawn comes" simply scramble the word order into ungrammatical, meaningless sentences, they do not exist as idioms.

Since a proverb must match its accepted form exactly, the answer has to be option 4, Let the sleeping dogs lie.

Quick Tip: The real proverb warns against disturbing a settled situation.



121. Directions: Which is the correct proverb?

- (A) A fool is always parted from his money.
- (B) A fool and his money are parted easily.
- (C) Money and the fool must part ways.
- (D) You can always part a fool from his money.

Correct Answer: (B) A fool and his money are parted easily.

SOLUTION:

This proverb is about how careless or unwise people tend to lose money quickly, since they do not plan or think before spending. The traditional form pairs the fool and his money together as joint subjects of the sentence, which is exactly the structure option 2 preserves, "A fool and his money are parted easily."

Look at why the other choices fail to match. Option 1 drops the paired subject and instead makes the fool alone the subject, which shifts the rhythm and structure away from the familiar saying. Option 3 flips the word order and introduces the word must, turning an observation about human nature into a rule or command, which is not how the proverb works. Option 4 changes the whole sentence into an active instruction directed at the reader, you can part a fool from his money, rather than describing what naturally happens to the fool.

Because option 2 keeps both the pairing of subject and the passive observational tone of the original proverb, it is the closest and correct match, confirming answer 2.

Quick Tip: The proverb pairs a fool with his money using are parted.

• • •

122. Directions: Choose the correct meaning of the following idiom.

If someone said, "You are the bomb!" she or he probably would be telling you:

- (A) You have a bad temper.
- (B) You are a war weapon.
- (C) You are exceptional and/or wonderful.
- (D) You are dangerous.

Correct Answer: (C) You are exceptional and/or wonderful.

SOLUTION:

Slang expressions frequently take an everyday word and give it a completely new meaning in casual conversation, and "the bomb" is a classic example. When someone tells you that you are the bomb, they are complimenting you, saying you are amazing, fantastic, or top notch in some way, whether in skill, appearance, or performance.

The literal readings in options 2 and 4, calling someone a war weapon or something dangerous, mistake the figurative slang for its dictionary meaning, which is not how idioms work. Option 1, linking it to a bad temper, mixes it up with a separate idiom about someone being like a ticking bomb ready to explode with anger, which has nothing to do with this phrase.

Correctly read as a compliment, the phrase means the person is exceptional and wonderful, confirming that option 3 is the right answer.

Quick Tip: Slang use of bomb here is a compliment, not a literal weapon.

• • •

123. Directions: Choose the correct meaning of the following idiom.

When someone is described as being "flighty", the person described is probably:

- (A) Light.
- (B) Indecisive and irresponsible.
- (C) Someone who loves flying.
- (D) Someone who flies kites.

Correct Answer: (B) Indecisive and irresponsible.

SOLUTION:

The word flighty is used to talk about a person's character, specifically someone whose moods, decisions, or interests shift suddenly and often, making them hard to rely on. It carries a mildly critical tone, suggesting the person cannot be counted on to stay committed to one plan, opinion, or relationship for long.

The other options misread the word by connecting it too literally to flight. Being light, loving flying, or flying kites all draw on the surface similarity between flighty and flight, but the actual usage has moved away from anything to do with physically flying. It instead points to unpredictable, changeable behavior, which is why calling someone flighty is really a comment on their indecisiveness and lack of dependability.

Given this figurative sense, the correct meaning is indecisive and irresponsible, so option 2 is the answer.

Quick Tip: Flighty describes an unreliable, changeable personality, not literal flying.



124. Directions: Choose the correct meaning of the following idiom.

What does "to take down the enemy" mean?

- (A) To take the enemy's pictures off the wall.
- (B) To kill the enemy.
- (C) To make friends with the enemy.
- (D) To ignore the enemy.

Correct Answer: (B) To kill the enemy.

SOLUTION:

In everyday and military English, take down is a phrasal verb that commonly means to overpower, defeat, or kill someone, especially an opponent in a fight or conflict. So when someone talks about taking down the enemy, they mean defeating or killing that enemy in confrontation, not performing some unrelated physical task.

The distractors all misread the phrase. Taking pictures off a wall applies a literal, domestic sense of take down that has nothing to do with enemies in conflict. Making friends with the enemy is essentially the reverse of what the idiom conveys, since take down implies hostility and victory over the other side, not reconciliation. Ignoring the enemy suggests inaction, while the idiom specifically implies decisive, forceful action against the enemy.

Reading the phrase in its combat sense, the correct meaning is to kill the enemy, which makes option 2 correct.

Quick Tip: Take down here means to defeat or kill, not remove something physically.



125. Directions: Choose the correct meaning of the following idiom.

What does, "Dime a dozen" mean?

- (A) For one dime you get a dozen.
- (B) All dozens cost a dime.
- (C) Anything that is common and easy to get.
- (D) It is difficult to get people.

Correct Answer: (C) Anything that is common and easy to get.

SOLUTION:

This idiom traces back to a time when a dime, a small coin, could buy a dozen of some cheap, mass produced item, which made the phrase a natural way to describe anything so abundant that it holds little special worth. Over time it stopped being about literal pricing and became a general expression for things, or even people, that are extremely common and easy to come across.

Options 1 and 2 stay stuck on the literal transaction, treating the phrase as if it were describing an actual sale of a dozen items for a dime, missing the figurative shift the idiom has undergone. Option 4 gets the meaning backwards, suggesting scarcity, while the idiom is really about the opposite, an oversupply of something so that it is easy, not hard, to obtain.

Understood figuratively, the phrase describes something common and readily available, so the correct answer is option 3.

Quick Tip: Dime a dozen means something so common it has little special value.



126. Directions: Choose the correct meaning of the following idiom.

"Throw the baby out with the bath water" means,

- (A) Clean out everything
- (B) Throw out the good things with the unwanted
- (C) Being thorough
- (D) Being thorough

Correct Answer: (B) Throw out the good things with the unwanted

SOLUTION:

Picture someone bathing a baby in a tub, then emptying the dirty water afterward without paying attention, and accidentally tipping the baby out along with it. That vivid image is the basis of this idiom, and it is used as a caution whenever people, in trying to remove something bad or unwanted, end up carelessly discarding something good or valuable in the same act.

The other options miss this cautionary angle. Clean out everything and being thorough both frame the phrase positively, as if it praises removing everything without exception, but the idiom is actually a warning against exactly that kind of careless, all-or-nothing approach, since it can destroy something worth keeping.

Read correctly as a warning, the idiom means throwing out the good things along with the unwanted, so the answer is option 2.

Quick Tip: The idiom warns against losing something valuable while discarding the unwanted.



127. "Bark up the wrong tree" means,

- (A) Skin of another animal
- (B) Behave like a dog
- (C) Purposely make an error
- (D) Make the wrong choice

Correct Answer: (D) Make the wrong choice

SOLUTION:

Idioms built around animals often describe human errors in a colorful way, and "bark up the wrong tree" is one of the most common examples in English. It describes a situation where someone directs their questions, blame, or effort toward the wrong person or the wrong approach, without realizing it at the time.

For example, if you accuse a colleague of a mistake they did not make, someone might say "you are barking up the wrong tree," meaning your suspicion is misplaced. This lines up exactly with option 4, "Make the wrong choice," since the core idea is picking an incorrect path or target.

It helps to rule out the other choices by testing them in a sentence. "Skin of another animal" and "behave like a dog" have no connection to the idiom's real use. "Purposely make an error" fails because the idiom never implies intent, the speaker genuinely believed their approach was correct. The answer is option 4, "Make the wrong choice."

Quick Tip: The idiom comes from a hunting dog barking at the wrong tree.



128. I _____ my bike yesterday, so my legs are sore.

- (A) road
- (B) rode
- (C) rhode
- (D) ride

Correct Answer: (B) rode

SOLUTION:

This question tests homophones and irregular verb forms together. "Road," "rode," and "ride" sound close but serve very different grammatical roles, and mixing them up is a common spelling mistake.

Since "yesterday" places the action firmly in the past, the sentence needs a past tense verb. "Ride" only works for present or future actions, so it does not fit here. "Road" is a noun for a street or path, it cannot function as a verb at all. "Rhode" is only used as part of a proper name and has no relevance to this sentence.

That leaves "rode," the correct past tense of "ride," which fits the sentence perfectly: "I rode my bike yesterday, so my legs are sore." The correct answer is option 2, rode.

Quick Tip: The action happened yesterday, so use the simple past of ride.

• • •

129. Insulation was fitted to _____ further heat loss from the building.

- (A) guard
- (B) protect
- (C) save
- (D) prevent

Correct Answer: (D) prevent

SOLUTION:

This is a collocation question, checking which verb naturally pairs with "heat loss" in standard English usage. Insulation is a physical barrier added to a building specifically to stop energy escaping as heat, so the sentence is describing its purpose.

Among the four choices, "prevent" is the only verb that combines with a noun phrase like "further heat loss" without needing a linking preposition. "Guard" and "protect" both usually pair with "against" or "from" when used this way, for instance "protect against heat loss," so using them without that preposition sounds unnatural and grammatically incomplete. "Save" is used with things you want to preserve or keep, such as "save energy" or "save money," not with something negative you want to stop.

Because "prevent" alone completes the sentence correctly in both meaning and structure, option 4, prevent, is the right choice.

Quick Tip: Look for the verb that takes heat loss directly without a preposition.

• • •

130. A _____ rate of inflation makes exports difficult.

- (A) great
- (B) high
- (C) large
- (D) tall

Correct Answer: (B) high

SOLUTION:

This question checks whether you know which adjective naturally goes with the word "rate" in English. Native speakers describe rates, whether of inflation, interest, or growth, using "high" or "low," almost never any other size word.

Testing each option against that pattern makes the answer clear.

"Great rate of inflation" sounds forced and is not common usage.

"Large rate of inflation" is also unnatural, since "large" usually modifies countable or measurable quantities like amounts or numbers, not rates. "Tall" is reserved for physical height and never applies to abstract measurements like inflation.

"High," on the other hand, is the standard collocation used across finance and general English whenever a rate or level is being described. The correct answer is option 2, high, giving the sentence "A high rate of inflation makes exports difficult."

Quick Tip: Rates are described as high or low, not great, large, or tall.



131. My boat has two _____.

- (A) sales
- (B) sails
- (C) sailes
- (D) sells

Correct Answer: (B) sails

SOLUTION:

This question is built around homophones, words that sound alike but are spelled differently and mean different things. "Sails," "sales," and "sells" all share the same or similar pronunciation, which is exactly why they are commonly confused in writing.

The context here is a boat, an object that moves using wind power caught by large cloth sheets attached to its mast. Those sheets are called "sails," which is the only word among the choices with that meaning. "Sales" belongs to commerce and refers to transactions of buying and selling, it has no connection to boats. "Sells" is a verb form, not a noun, so it cannot follow "two" the way a countable noun does. "Sailes" is not a real English word at all, just a misspelling.

Because the sentence needs a plural noun naming the boat's wind catching sheets, the correct answer is option 2, sails.

Quick Tip: Think of the fabric sheets on a boat that catch the wind.

• • •

132. Can you give me _____ details, please?

- (A) faster
- (B) further
- (C) farther
- (D) furthur

Correct Answer: (B) further

SOLUTION:

English distinguishes between "further" and "farther" based on whether the idea being discussed is abstract or physical. "Farther" is kept strictly for literal, measurable distance, like miles or steps, while "further" is used for abstract extensions such as more information, more discussion, or more detail.

The sentence asks for "details," which is an abstract noun about information, not a physical distance. This immediately rules out "farther." "Faster" is unrelated in meaning altogether, it describes speed, and speed has nothing to do with requesting information. "Furthur" is not a standard English word, just an incorrect spelling that sometimes appears by mistake.

Because the request is for more information rather than physical distance, the grammatically and semantically correct word is "further," confirming option 2 as the answer.

Quick Tip: Use further for more information, farther for physical distance.

• • •

133. A baby deer is called a _____.

- (A) Foal
- (B) Fawn
- (C) Calf
- (D) Joe

Correct Answer: (B) Fawn

SOLUTION:

Animal offspring often have unique names in English rather than simply being called "baby" plus the animal name, and this question checks knowledge of that specific vocabulary set. A young deer, still small and often spotted, is known as a "fawn."

Looking at the distractors helps confirm this. A "foal" is the young of a horse or a donkey, an animal with entirely different features and habitat from a deer. A "calf" belongs to a group of animals including cattle, elephants, and whales, again unrelated to deer despite all being mammals. "Joe" is likely a shortened or misspelled version of "joey," the correct term for a baby kangaroo found in Australia, not for a deer. Since none of these other terms apply to deer, the only accurate answer is "fawn," confirming option 2 as correct.

Quick Tip: This is the specific term used for a young deer.

• • •

134. The greatest _____ of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by _____ his attitude.

- (A) gift ... gifting
- (B) discovery ... altering
- (C) misgiving ... elevating
- (D) thing ... flaunting

Correct Answer: (B) discovery ... altering

SOLUTION:

This fill in the blanks question tests both vocabulary and logical consistency within a sentence. The sentence describes a powerful idea, that a person's entire life can shift simply through a change in mindset, and both blanks must support that idea using words with matching tone and meaning.

Reading the sentence carefully, the second half already contains the word "alter," so the second blank should naturally echo that same idea of change, which points toward "altering." Working backward, the first blank needs a positive, significant noun describing an important realization, and "discovery" captures exactly that sense of finding out something valuable and true.

Checking the other pairs against this logic rules them out quickly. "Gift ... gifting" introduces the unrelated idea of giving something away, which has nothing to do with a realization about life. "Misgiving ... elevating" mixes doubt with an unrelated positive verb, creating an inconsistent, contradictory sentence. "Thing ... flaunting" is vague and flaunting means showing off proudly, which does not describe the quiet act of changing one's attitude.

Because "discovery" and "altering" together create a sentence that is logical, consistent, and famously associated with William James's

ideas on attitude, the correct answer is option 2, discovery and altering.

Quick Tip: This is a famous paraphrase about changing your life by changing your attitude.

• • •

135. When it comes to staying _____, a mind-lift beats a _____ any day.

- (A) young ... face-lift
- (B) at home ... egg
- (C) light ... elevator
- (D) away ... sleep

Correct Answer: (A) young ... face-lift

SOLUTION:

This question tests a well-known one-liner built around a pun. A face-lift is cosmetic surgery, a physical procedure that smooths the skin and makes someone look younger. A mind-lift is the coined counterpart, a shift in thinking or attitude that keeps a person feeling youthful. The joke works because both phrases end in "lift", so the sentence sets up a comparison between an outer fix and an inner one.

To complete the blanks correctly, the first blank needs a word that describes the goal both a face-lift and a mind-lift are chasing, which is staying young, and the second blank needs the term that pairs naturally with mind-lift to complete the pun, which is face-lift. That is exactly what option 1 offers.

The remaining choices break down under this test. "At home ... egg" reads as random and carries no relation to youthfulness or lifts. "Light ... elevator" latches onto the literal meaning of lift as in an elevator, but that removes the pun entirely and makes the sentence pointless. "Away ... sleep" again fails to connect to the mind-lift versus face-lift comparison. Since the whole sentence depends on the pun between the two kinds of lift, and only option 1 keeps that pun alive, option 1 is the answer.

Quick Tip: Think of the pun between mind-lift and face-lift, both linked to looking or feeling young.

• • •

136. None are so _____ as those who are full of themselves.

- (A) empty
- (B) important
- (C) vital
- (D) indispensable

Correct Answer: (A) empty

SOLUTION:

This line follows the pattern of a classic proverb, "None are so blind as those who will not see", but swaps in a new pair of contrasting ideas. The phrase "full of themselves" describes someone who is vain, self-absorbed, and constantly focused on their own importance. The blank needs a word that flips this idea on its head to create irony, since that is how this style of saying always works, by pairing two seemingly opposite states in one sentence.

"Empty" is the correct fit because it directly opposes "full", turning the sentence into a clever observation: people who seem full of pride and self-regard are, in truth, often empty of real depth, wisdom, or humility. This kind of paradox, where a person's outward fullness hides an inward emptiness, is exactly the kind of insight these one-line sayings are built to deliver.

None of the other three words create this effect. "Important", "vital", and "indispensable" all sit on the same side of the meaning spectrum as "full of themselves", describing someone who matters a great deal rather than someone who lacks substance. Using any of them would make the sentence flat and repetitive instead of ironic. Because the sentence depends on a reversal of meaning against "full", and only "empty" supplies that reversal, option 1 is the correct answer.

Quick Tip: Look for the word that creates an ironic opposite to being full of oneself.

• • •

137. Your most unhappy customers are your greatest source of _____.

- (A) earning
- (B) irritation
- (C) worry
- (D) learning

Correct Answer: (D) learning

SOLUTION:

This sentence is a direct quote credited to Bill Gates, and it reflects a common principle in business and customer service: complaints are not just noise, they are data. When a customer is unhappy, they are pointing directly at a weak spot in the product, the service, or the process, information a business rarely gets any other way.

Because the sentence frames the unhappy customer as a resource rather than a burden, the missing word must carry a positive, growth-oriented meaning. "Learning" captures this perfectly, since it suggests that the company can study these complaints and use them to improve, turning a negative interaction into a long-term benefit.

The other options miss this framing. "Earning" wrongly implies unhappy customers bring in money, when in reality dissatisfaction usually threatens future business rather than generating it.

"Irritation" and "worry" both describe how a business might feel when facing complaints, but they stay stuck in the negative emotional reaction and ignore the constructive lesson the quote is trying to highlight. Since the quote is fundamentally about extracting value and insight from criticism, the correct word is "learning", confirming option 4 as the answer.

Quick Tip: This is a famous business quote about turning complaints into a business advantage.

• • •

138. Choose the correct antonym for the word below from the options provided.

'Eulogize'

- (A) Extol
- (B) Criticize
- (C) Emulate
- (D) Amulet

Correct Answer: (B) Criticize

SOLUTION:

The word "eulogize" comes from contexts like memorial speeches or tributes, where someone is spoken about in glowing, admiring terms. In simple words, it means to heap praise on someone. An antonym has to move in the exact opposite direction, toward disapproval or fault-finding rather than admiration.

"Criticize" fits this requirement precisely, since it means to judge someone unfavorably or point out their shortcomings, the reverse of celebrating their strengths. That makes it the clear antonym and the correct choice, option 2.

Checking the distractors confirms this. "Extol" is simply another word for praising highly, so instead of being an opposite, it is nearly identical in meaning to eulogize, making it a trap for anyone who mixes up synonym and antonym. "Emulate" shifts the meaning entirely to imitation or striving to match someone's example, which has nothing to do with praise or criticism as such. "Amulet" is not even a verb of judgment; it refers to a protective charm and is included largely because it looks like "emulate" at a glance, testing whether a reader is reading carefully. Since only "criticize" expresses the opposite action of praising, option 2 is confirmed as the answer.

Quick Tip: Eulogize means to praise; look for the word meaning to find fault instead.

• • •

139. Correct synonym for Pedantic is,

- (A) Referring to small children
- (B) Teaching Methodology
- (C) Finicky
- (D) Angry

Correct Answer: (C) Finicky

SOLUTION:

The word "pedantic" is often used to describe a person who cares too much about strict accuracy, minor technicalities, and formal rules, even in situations where such precision does not add real value. It carries a slightly negative tone, suggesting someone who nitpicks over trivial points rather than looking at the bigger picture.

Among the given options, "finicky" matches this sense closely, since it too describes a person who is overly particular, hard to satisfy, and focused on small details, which lines up well with how pedantic is used in everyday and formal English. This confirms option 3 as the correct answer.

The remaining choices are built around surface-level resemblance rather than actual meaning. "Referring to small children" borrows from the similar-sounding word "pediatric", which deals with child healthcare, a completely different field. "Teaching methodology" borrows from "pedagogy", the study of teaching methods, but pedantic is not specifically about how teaching is done, it is about an

excessive, fussy attention to detail in general. "Angry" describes a mood or emotional state, which is unrelated to the idea of being overly precise or particular. Since pedantic is fundamentally about fussy attention to minor details, "finicky" is the word that matches it, making option 3 correct.

Quick Tip: Pedantic describes someone overly fussy about minor rules and details.

• • •

140. Pyrophobia means

- (A) Fear of Pythons
- (B) Fear of funeral pyres
- (C) Fear of fever
- (D) Fear of fire

Correct Answer: (D) Fear of fire

SOLUTION:

Many English words describing fears are built from a Greek or Latin root that names the object of the fear, followed by "phobia". In "pyrophobia", the root "pyro" is the same root found in words like pyrotechnics, meaning fireworks, and pyromaniac, meaning someone with an urge to set fires. In every one of these words, pyro consistently points to fire.

Following that pattern, pyrophobia has to mean an intense fear of fire, which is exactly what option 4 states, confirming it as the correct answer.

The other options rely on the word sounding like something else rather than its actual root. "Fear of pythons" mixes up pyrophobia with the fear of snakes, a different phobia entirely with a different root. "Fear of funeral pyres" picks up on the fact that pyres are lit with fire, but this narrows the definition down too much, since pyrophobia covers fire in any form, not just pyres. "Fear of fever" borrows from the medical term pyrexia, which relates to body temperature, not to pyrophobia. Because the defining root pyro always means fire across related English words, the correct and complete meaning of pyrophobia is fear of fire, matching option 4.

Quick Tip: The root pyro comes from the Greek word for fire.

• • •

141. Choose the "kangaroo word" that carries a smaller version of the word with a very similar meaning.

- (A) Masculine
- (B) Woman
- (C) Man
- (D) Child

Correct Answer: (A) Masculine

SOLUTION:

Kangaroo words are an unusual category of English word puzzles. A word qualifies as a kangaroo word when a smaller word that means roughly the same thing can be spelled out using letters taken from the larger word, in the exact order they appear, without needing to be consecutive. The name comes from the image of a kangaroo carrying

its young inside its pouch, the smaller word riding along inside the bigger one.

Testing "masculine" against this rule works out cleanly. Spell out the letters: M, A, S, C, U, L, I, N, E. Picking out M first, then A, then jumping ahead to L, then jumping further to E, spells M-A-L-E in that exact sequence. "Male" is a near-perfect synonym for "masculine", so this word passes both tests a kangaroo word needs to pass, a smaller word hidden in order and a matching meaning.

None of the remaining choices work this way. "Woman", "Man", and "Child" are all fairly short words themselves and do not contain an even smaller word with a similar meaning spelled out from their own letters in sequence. Because "masculine" hides "male" inside it in the right order and with the right meaning, it stands out as the true kangaroo word here, confirming option 1 as the answer.

Quick Tip: Look for the word that hides a smaller synonym of itself spelled out in order within its own letters.

• • •

142. Choose the "kangaroo word" that carries a smaller version of the word with a very similar meaning.

- (A) Sleep
- (B) Respite
- (C) Walk
- (D) Talk

Correct Answer: (B) Respite

SOLUTION:

To solve this kind of question, check each option for a smaller word that means almost the same thing as the full word and whose letters appear in the same left-to-right order within the larger word, even if other letters sit between them.

Working through "respite", letter by letter: R, E, S, P, I, T, E. Selecting R, then E, then S, then skipping P and I to reach T, produces the sequence R-E-S-T, which spells "rest". Respite itself means a brief break or a period of relief from something tiring or stressful, which is essentially what rest means too. That gives a matching pair, rest hidden inside respite, both in order and in meaning, exactly what defines a kangaroo word.

The other three words do not offer this. "Sleep", "Walk", and "Talk" are each short everyday words, and searching through their letters does not reveal a smaller synonym spelled out in sequence. Because "respite" is the only option that hides a same-meaning shorter word, "rest", inside its own spelling in the correct order, the answer is option 2, respite.

Quick Tip: Look for the word that hides a smaller synonym of itself spelled out in order within its own letters.

• • •

143. Choose the word that completes the first word and begins the second word.

Paper _____ and _____ lifter

- (A) cone
- (B) weight
- (C) light
- (D) fly

Correct Answer: (B) weight

SOLUTION:

This question tests knowledge of compound words. A single word must join with "paper" to make one word and also join with "lifter" to make another word. Testing "weight": "paper" plus "weight" gives "paperweight", a small object placed on top of papers so they do not blow away, and "weight" plus "lifter" gives "weightlifter", someone who lifts heavy weights competitively.

Checking the remaining choices confirms none work both ways. "Cone" does not combine with "paper" or "lifter" to form standard words. "Light" does not create accepted compounds with either word in this pattern. "Fly" similarly fails to produce recognised English words on both sides.

Since "weight" is the only word that forms two genuine, commonly used English words when combined with "paper" and "lifter", the correct choice is option 2, weight.

Quick Tip: Think of an object that holds papers down and a person who lifts heavy things.

• • •

144. Choose the word that CANNOT be coupled with the given word to form a new word.

Out

- (A) Shine
- (B) Number
- (C) Bug
- (D) Run

Correct Answer: (C) Bug

SOLUTION:

This question checks familiarity with common compound verbs built on the prefix "out". Words like outshine, outnumber, and outrun are all part of everyday English vocabulary. Outshine means to perform or appear better than others. Outnumber means there are more of one group than another. Outrun means to move faster than someone else or to escape by speed.

The word "bug" behaves differently. There is no established word "outbug" in the English language, so it cannot join with "out" the way the other three options do.

Testing each option against common usage shows Shine, Number, and Run pass the test while Bug fails it. The correct answer is therefore option 3, Bug.

Quick Tip: Three of the four form everyday English verbs when joined with Out; one does not.

• • •

145. Choose the word that CANNOT be coupled with the given word to form a new word.

News

- (A) Letter
- (B) Week
- (C) Stand
- (D) Paper

Correct Answer: (B) Week

SOLUTION:

The task here is to spot which option fails to make a genuine common noun when attached to "news". Newsletter, newsstand, and newspaper are all ordinary words used daily. A newsletter is a short periodic bulletin sent to members of a group. A newsstand is the small shop or stall selling papers and magazines on the street. A newspaper is the printed sheet of daily or weekly news.

"Week" behaves differently from the rest. Combined with "news" it does not create a common English noun through normal compounding rules. "Newsweek" exists only as the trademarked title of a specific magazine, which is a proper noun, not a generic word anyone could use in a sentence the way "newspaper" is used.

Because three options form regular compound nouns and one forms only a brand name, the word that cannot be coupled with "News" to form a new common word is Week, option 2.

Quick Tip: One option only works as a proper noun brand name, not as a common compound word.

...

146. I did not see you _____ the office party.

- (A) in
- (B) for
- (C) at
- (D) on

Correct Answer: (C) at

SOLUTION:

This question tests correct preposition usage with events. In English, when referring to someone's presence at a gathering such as a party, wedding, meeting, or concert, the preposition "at" is used. So the natural sentence is "I did not see you at the office party," meaning the speaker looked for the person during the event but did not spot them.

The other prepositions do not fit this context. "In" suits physical enclosures like rooms or containers, not social events. "For" expresses purpose, reason, or duration, which does not match the idea of being present somewhere. "On" is reserved for days, dates, and physical surfaces, none of which apply to a party.

Since English grammar pairs events like parties with the preposition "at", the correct answer is option 3, at.

Quick Tip: Use the preposition that pairs with events and gatherings, like meetings and parties.

• • •

147. Fill in the blank with the correct simile.

As cool as

- (A) a cucumber
- (B) the winter night
- (C) an ice cream
- (D) a rock star

Correct Answer: (A) a cucumber

SOLUTION:

English similes are fixed expressions, and "as cool as a cucumber" is one of the most commonly used ones. It describes a person who remains calm, relaxed, and unruffled even in a stressful or tense situation. The comparison works because a cucumber's inner flesh feels cool even when the outside temperature is warm, which became a metaphor for emotional steadiness.

None of the other choices form an accepted idiom. "Winter night" and "ice cream" both relate to physical temperature rather than personality or behaviour, so they do not carry the idiomatic meaning of staying calm. "Rock star" is linked to fame, glamour, or confidence, which is unrelated to the idea of composure under pressure.

Because "a cucumber" is the only option that completes the recognised idiom for calmness, the correct answer is option 1, a cucumber.

Quick Tip: This is a fixed English idiom describing someone who stays calm under pressure.

• • •

148. Fill in the blank with the correct simile.

As fresh as

- (A) a daisy
- (B) a rose
- (C) milk
- (D) dew

Correct Answer: (A) a daisy

SOLUTION:

Idiomatic similes in English are memorised fixed phrases, and "as fresh as a daisy" is the standard one used to describe someone who feels energetic, alert, and well rested. The image comes from how a daisy flower opens crisp and bright each morning, which became a symbol of renewed energy and liveliness in a person.

The remaining choices do not match this established idiom. "A rose" is more commonly linked with beauty or romance in other phrases, not freshness of energy. "Milk" typically suggests whiteness or purity rather than liveliness. "Dew" evokes morning moisture but has no accepted idiomatic pairing with "fresh" describing a person's state.

Since only "a daisy" completes the recognised idiom for feeling lively and rested, the correct answer is option 1, a daisy.

Quick Tip: This fixed idiom is often used to describe someone feeling lively after rest.

• • •

149. Choose the option that does not belong with the rest.

- (A) Consort
- (B) Spouse
- (C) Partner
- (D) Clear

Correct Answer: (D) Clear

SOLUTION:

This question asks for the word that breaks the pattern shared by the rest. Looking at the meanings, "consort", "spouse", and "partner" all point to the same idea, a person joined to another in marriage or a close committed relationship. A consort is often used for the marital partner of royalty, a spouse is the everyday term for husband or wife, and a partner describes someone in a shared personal or married bond.

"Clear" carries a completely different meaning, relating to transparency, absence of obstruction, or something being easy to understand. It has nothing to do with marriage or companionship, which is exactly why it stands out from the group.

Given that three of the four words are synonyms for a life companion and one is unrelated in meaning, the odd one out and the correct answer is option 4, Clear.

Quick Tip: Three words describe a life companion; one describes visibility or understanding.

• • •

150. Nerd means

- (A) Genius
- (B) Uninteresting person
- (C) Worm
- (D) Arthropod

Correct Answer: (B) Uninteresting person

SOLUTION:

The word "nerd" belongs to informal, everyday English and is used to label a person who comes across as socially awkward, overly serious, or dull in social settings, often because they are absorbed in books, studies, or a narrow hobby. This everyday, slightly mocking sense aligns closely with the option "Uninteresting person".

The other choices miss the mark. "Genius" measures intelligence and brilliance, which is not what the word nerd directly conveys, even though nerds are stereotypically studious. "Worm" names a small invertebrate animal with no figurative link to the word nerd in standard usage. "Arthropod" is a formal biological category for insects, spiders, and similar creatures, which has no bearing on this social term at all.

Because the accepted everyday meaning of nerd describes someone seen as socially dull or uninteresting rather than a scientific or purely intellectual label, the correct answer remains option 2, Uninteresting person.

Quick Tip: Think of the informal, everyday sense of the word, not a scientific one.