TANCET MBA

Sample Paper – 1

Duration: 120 Minutes | **Maximum Marks: 100**

Instructions

- This paper contains **100** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer) modelled on the **TANCET MBA** entrance examination.
- Five parts: **Part A** – Analysis of Business Situations (Q 1–20), **Part B** – Reading Comprehension (Q 21–40), **Part C** – Quantitative Aptitude (Q 41–60), **Part D** – Data Sufficiency (Q 61–80), **Part E** – General English (Q 81–100).
- Each correct answer carries $+1$ **mark**. Each wrong answer carries a penalty of $-\frac{1}{4}$ **mark**. Unattempted questions carry no penalty.
- Only **one** option is correct. Darken the correct bubble completely on the OMR answer sheet.
- No section-wise time limit; manage 120 minutes across all five parts at your discretion.
- Mobile phones, calculators, log tables, and all electronic devices are **strictly prohibited**.

Part A: Analysis of Business Situations (Q 1–20)

Questions 1–5 are based on the following caselet. **Caselet 1 (Sunrise Beverages Ltd.):** Sunrise Beverages, an FMCG company with Rs.800 crore revenue, sources 60% of its raw materials (fruit pulp and sugar) from Maharashtra. An unseasonal drought has raised input costs by 35%. The company currently holds 3 months of inventory. A key competitor has already raised prices by 8%, but the company's sales team warns that any price hike above 5% will cause significant volume loss in the rural segment, which contributes 45% of total revenue.

Q1. If Sunrise Beverages raises prices by 10%, what is the most likely **immediate** consequence?

(A) Volume decline in the rural segment, eroding up to 45% of revenue base

(B) A sharp improvement in EBITDA margins as higher prices offset cost increases

(C) Customers switching permanently to competitors' premium product lines

(D) Government price-control intervention due to the large price hike

Q2. Given the cost pressure from the drought and the competitive landscape, what is the **best short-term course of action** for Sunrise Beverages?

(A) Immediately raise prices by 10% across all product categories and segments

(B) Implement a selective price hike of up to 5% in urban markets while absorbing costs in rural markets through inventory draw-down

(C) Suspend all rural distribution until raw material costs normalise

(D) Exit Maharashtra sourcing entirely and switch to imported fruit pulp

Q3. Which assumption most likely **underlies the competitor's decision** to raise prices by 8%?

(A) The competitor believes consumers will switch brands regardless of price changes

(B) The competitor's rural exposure is minimal compared to Sunrise Beverages

(C) Brand loyalty in the beverages segment is strong enough to absorb a moderate price hike without significant volume loss

(D) The competitor has already secured long-term raw material contracts at pre-drought prices

Q4. Which of the following actions would **NOT** help Sunrise Beverages manage its current cost pressure effectively?

(A) Negotiating long-term forward contracts with alternative suppliers in other states

(B) Optimising the product mix towards higher-margin SKUs

(C) Hedging commodity prices through derivatives to reduce volatility

(D) Launching an aggressive advertising campaign to justify a 15% price hike to consumers

Q5. What can be **inferred** about rural customer price sensitivity from the information in the caselet?

(A) Rural customers are highly price-sensitive and a hike above 5% risks meaningful volume loss

(B) Rural customers are brand-loyal and will absorb any price hike without switching

(C) Rural customers contribute less than urban customers to overall company revenue

(D) Rural customers are primarily purchasing premium product variants of the company

Questions 6–10 are based on the following caselet. **Caselet 2 (CodeNext Technologies):** CodeNext, a mid-sized IT services firm, is evaluating two strategic options: (a) acquire an AI startup for Rs.120 crore that offers immediate market access, but which has no profitable track record, or (b) build an in-house AI division over 18 months at a cost of Rs.60 crore. However, pursuing the in-house option means missing a current client RFP for AI services worth Rs.40 crore total contract value (TCV), as the capability will not be ready in time.

Q6. What is the **key trade-off** in the make-vs-buy decision facing CodeNext Technologies?

(A) Higher acquisition cost versus lower quality of the startup's technology

(B) Speed-to-market and immediate revenue potential versus cost efficiency and internal capability building

(C) Risk of regulatory scrutiny versus the financial burden of the acquisition

(D) Loss of existing client relationships versus gaining new AI-focused clients

Q7. Which factor **most strongly supports** the acquisition option for CodeNext?

(A) The startup's acquisition cost is lower than the cost to build in-house

(B) The in-house division will eventually be more profitable than the acquired startup

(C) The ability to respond to client RFPs immediately, generating revenue that would otherwise be missed

(D) The startup has an established profitable track record in the AI domain

Q8. Which assumption **must be true** for the in-house option to be preferred over acquisition?

(A) The client RFP worth Rs.40 crore will be re-floated within 6 months

(B) The AI startup being acquired will become profitable within 2 years

(C) CodeNext will not face any future AI-related RFPs during the 18-month build period

(D) The long-term strategic value and cost savings of the in-house division outweigh the Rs.40 crore opportunity cost and higher near-term risk

Q9. The existence of the Rs.40 crore RFP opportunity highlights which **strategic risk** of option (b) — the in-house build?

(A) Opportunity cost risk: CodeNext may lose immediate revenue and client relationships while building capability

(B) Execution risk: the in-house team may fail to deliver a working AI product within 18 months

(C) Regulatory risk: building proprietary AI capability may attract data privacy scrutiny

(D) Reputational risk: clients may view the in-house approach as a sign of technological weakness

Q10. Which course of action **best balances risk and opportunity** for CodeNext Technologies?

(A) Immediately proceed with the acquisition at Rs.120 crore without any due diligence

(B) Acquire the startup to capture the current RFP and market opportunity while simultaneously integrating and developing internal AI talent to reduce dependency

(C) Decline the RFP, build in-house, and wait for future opportunities in the AI space

(D) Outsource AI capability to a third-party vendor rather than building or buying

Questions 11–15 are based on the following caselet. **Caselet 3 (UrbanCore Hospital Group):** UrbanCore, a private chain of 5 hospitals, is now required by new state government regulations to reserve 25% of all beds for EWS (economically weaker section) patients at heavily subsidised rates. The company's EBITDA margins are already thin at 12%. Cross-subsidisation has historically been financed by premium ward revenues, which are currently growing at only 4% annually. Management is weighing four options: (a) comply fully without any offsetting adjustment, (b) challenge the regulation in court, (c) expand premium ward capacity to offset the revenue loss, and (d) reduce nursing staff to cut operating costs.

Q11. What is the **primary financial risk** of full compliance with the regulation without any strategic adjustment?

(A) Immediate loss of premium patients to competing private hospitals

(B) Regulatory penalties for non-compliance with EWS bed reservation norms

(C) Further compression of already thin EBITDA margins, potentially pushing the company into losses

(D) Risk of government takeover of the hospital chain due to non-payment of dues

Q12. Which option is **most consistent with long-term licence security and brand value** for UrbanCore?

(A) Challenging the regulation in court to delay implementation and protect margins

(B) Reducing nursing staff to cut costs immediately and protect EBITDA

(C) Complying fully with the regulation without any revenue-offsetting strategy

(D) Complying with the regulation while simultaneously expanding premium capacity to fund cross-subsidisation sustainably

Q13. What **inference** can be drawn about UrbanCore's current cost structure from the information provided?

(A) The company's cost base is already relatively high, leaving limited headroom to absorb additional subsidised-care obligations at the current revenue growth rate

(B) The company has significant cash reserves that can absorb the EWS compliance cost for several years

(C) The nursing staff payroll constitutes more than 50% of operating costs

(D) Premium ward revenues are growing fast enough to fully fund EWS compliance without any strategic adjustment

Q14. The state regulation most directly tests UrbanCore's ability to do what?

(A) Lobby effectively with government bodies to reverse unfavourable regulations

(B) Cross-subsidise social obligations using commercial revenues while maintaining financial viability

(C) Recruit and retain high-quality medical staff under difficult financial conditions

(D) Expand its physical infrastructure rapidly across multiple locations

Q15. Which assumption is **implicit** in option (d) — reducing nursing staff to cut costs?

(A) Nursing staff are the highest-paid category of employees in the hospital

(B) Reducing nursing staff will have no negative impact on the quality of patient care

(C) Reducing staff costs will generate sufficient savings to offset the financial impact of EWS bed reservation without adversely affecting care quality or patient safety standards

(D) The government regulation does not specify any minimum nurse-to-patient ratio that must be maintained

Q16. A division head discovers that a supplier has been billing 5% above the contracted rate on every invoice for three months. The Managing Director is a personal friend of the supplier's owner. What is the **best action** for the division head?

(A) Quietly adjust future payment amounts to offset the overbilling without raising the matter formally

(B) Contact the supplier directly and request a correction, without informing internal stakeholders

(C) Escalate the matter to the CFO only after sending one informal reminder to the supplier

(D) Raise the billing discrepancy immediately through the official procurement grievance process, regardless of personal relationships at the top

Q17. A factory manager can meet the monthly production target by either (a) requiring workers to work 3 hours of unpaid overtime, or (b) hiring 10 temporary workers at additional cost. Which action **best aligns with ethical management practice**?

(A) Hire the temporary workers, revise the cost forecast upward, and inform management of the variance with a justification

(B) Push workers to do unpaid overtime, citing intense competitive pressure as justification

(C) Miss the production target entirely and explain the situation to management without proposing any solution

(D) Split the approach by requiring 1.5 hours of unpaid overtime and hiring only 5 temporary workers

Q18. A brand manager learns that a key competitor has launched a new product at a price 20% lower than the company's equivalent offering. There are 4 weeks before the next sales cycle begins. What is the **best immediate action**?

(A) Immediately match the competitor's price cut across all channels to protect market share

(B) Conduct rapid consumer and trade research over the next 2 weeks to assess price sensitivity and switching intent before finalising the response

(C) Reposition the brand as premium, ignore the competitor's price cut, and wait for the next quarter

(D) Request an emergency budget increase for a large-scale counter-advertising campaign

Q19. A project manager's team of 12 has 3 members on unexpected medical leave during a critical client delivery week. The client has explicitly stated zero tolerance for delivery delays. What is the **best course of action**?

(A) Proactively inform the client about the resource shortage and renegotiate the deadline

(B) Redistribute the work equally among the remaining 9 team members and hope for the best

(C) Hire contract resources immediately to replace the absent members, and also push the remaining team harder to ensure on-time delivery is achieved

(D) Deliver a partial build to the client this week and complete the remaining work in the following week

Q20. A sales manager discovers that the team's top-performing salesperson has been offering unauthorised discounts significantly above the company's policy limit in order to close deals. What is the **best response**?

(A) Overlook the policy violation given the salesperson's consistently strong performance numbers

(B) Issue a verbal warning privately but take no formal disciplinary action

(C) Have a private discussion with the salesperson and closely monitor future deals without formal documentation

(D) Issue a formal written warning and enforce the discount policy strictly, regardless of the salesperson's performance level

Part B: Reading Comprehension (Q 21–40)

Passage 1: Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Work

The rapid diffusion of artificial intelligence across industries has ignited a polarised debate about its impact on employment. Proponents argue that AI principally displaces repetitive, rule-based tasks while simultaneously creating demand for a new class of hybrid roles that combine human judgement with machine-generated insights. Early evidence from sectors that adopted AI relatively early — such as advanced manufacturing and legal discovery — appears to support this view: net job creation in these sectors has outpaced economy-wide averages, even as individual task profiles have changed dramatically.

Critics, however, contend that policymakers are underestimating the speed of disruption. The policy debate has crystallised around two broad responses: a universal basic income (UBI) that provides a financial floor regardless of employment status, and targeted reskilling programmes designed to upgrade workers' skills to meet emerging demand. Economists remain divided on which approach yields higher long-term social returns. A complicating factor is that workers in low-income countries face materially greater displacement risk, not because AI penetrates these economies faster, but because the institutional infrastructure for retraining — community colleges, employer-sponsored upskilling, and public employment services — is considerably weaker than in advanced economies. This uneven distribution of reskilling capacity may ultimately determine whether AI-driven growth is broadly inclusive or predominantly concentrates gains among already-advantaged populations.

Q21. [Passage 1] What is the **main idea** of the passage?

(A) AI will inevitably cause mass unemployment in both developed and developing economies

(B) AI disrupts employment patterns but the net outcome depends heavily on how quickly and equitably reskilling infrastructure is built, especially in low-income countries

(C) Universal basic income is the most effective policy response to AI-driven job displacement

(D) Sectors that adopted AI early have uniformly experienced net job losses

Q22. [Passage 1] What can be **inferred** about reskilling programmes from the passage?

(A) Reskilling programmes have already been proven to be more effective than UBI in all economies

(B) Reskilling programmes are most effective when implemented by large multinational corporations

(C) The effectiveness of reskilling programmes is constrained by the strength of a country's institutional infrastructure for training and upskilling

(D) Reskilling programmes are only relevant for workers in advanced manufacturing and legal sectors

Q23. [Passage 1] The word **most similar in meaning** to "displacement" as used in the passage is:

(A) Promotion

(B) Transition

(C) Migration

(D) Dislodgement

Q24. [Passage 1] The **author's tone** is best described as:

(A) Balanced and analytical, presenting multiple perspectives while highlighting an equity concern

(B) Strongly optimistic about AI's ability to create more jobs than it destroys

(C) Sharply critical of AI adoption and in favour of restricting its deployment

(D) Dismissive of concerns about job displacement in low-income countries

Q25. [Passage 1] Which statement would the **author most likely agree with**?

(A) AI's impact on employment is uniformly positive and policymakers should not intervene

(B) Whether AI benefits are broadly shared depends significantly on whether low-income countries can build effective reskilling ecosystems

(C) Universal basic income is clearly superior to reskilling as a policy tool in all contexts

(D) AI displaces only low-skilled workers and has no significant impact on professional or managerial roles

Passage 2: Microfinance and Rural Entrepreneurship in India

India's microfinance sector has grown into one of the world's largest, driven in significant part by the Reserve Bank of India's Self-Help Group–Bank Linkage Programme (SHG-BLP). Millions of rural households, particularly women-headed ones, have gained access to formal credit for the first time, enabling small-scale entrepreneurship in activities ranging from tailoring and dairy farming to food processing and handicraft exports. MFI repayment rates have remained impressively high by global standards, challenging the conventional assumption that low-income borrowers are inherently high credit risks.

Yet the sector is not without structural tensions. Interest rates charged by microfinance institutions typically range between 20 and 28 per cent per annum — rates that, critics argue, can trap vulnerable borrowers in cycles of debt when businesses underperform. The 2010 Andhra Pradesh microfinance crisis, precipitated by aggressive lending practices and coercive recovery methods, resulted in multiple borrower suicides and prompted the RBI to introduce a far tighter regulatory framework governing MFI operations. Subsequent reforms have improved transparency and set caps on interest rate spreads, but the fundamental question of whether microfinance empowers or exploits its most economically marginalised clients continues to divide practitioners and academics alike.

Q26. [Passage 2] What is the **central argument** of the passage?

(A) Microfinance has comprehensively failed rural borrowers in India and should be abolished

(B) The SHG-Bank Linkage Programme is the most successful financial inclusion initiative globally

(C) Microfinance has meaningfully expanded rural credit access and entrepreneurship, but structural issues such as high interest rates and past crises reveal significant risks for vulnerable borrowers

(D) RBI regulation has effectively solved all problems in the Indian microfinance sector

Q27. [Passage 2] Which conclusion about high interest rates is **most directly supported** by the passage?

(A) High interest rates are unavoidable given the operating costs of rural microfinance delivery

(B) High interest rates have had no measurable impact on borrower repayment behaviour

(C) RBI regulations have successfully brought microfinance interest rates down below 15% per annum

(D) Interest rates in the range of 20–28% per annum can potentially trap borrowers in debt cycles when their businesses underperform

Q28. [Passage 2] The 2010 Andhra Pradesh microfinance crisis is cited primarily to:

(A) Illustrate the serious human and regulatory consequences that can result from unchecked aggressive lending and coercive recovery practices in microfinance

(B) Show that microfinance is fundamentally unsuitable for rural Indian borrowers

(C) Demonstrate that the RBI was slow to regulate the sector despite early warning signs

(D) Argue that Self-Help Groups are a more reliable vehicle for rural credit than MFIs

Q29. [Passage 2] What does the passage suggest about **women borrowers** in India's microfinance sector?

(A) Women borrowers have higher default rates than male borrowers in the microfinance sector

(B) Women borrowers, particularly in women-headed rural households, have been primary beneficiaries of microfinance-enabled entrepreneurship

(C) Women borrowers were disproportionately harmed in the 2010 Andhra Pradesh crisis

(D) Women borrowers are primarily engaged in agricultural activities rather than entrepreneurship

Q30. [Passage 2] Which of the following **best describes the author's perspective**?

(A) Strongly supportive of microfinance without acknowledging any of its limitations

(B) Strongly opposed to microfinance, citing the 2010 crisis as conclusive evidence of its failure

(C) Nuanced and balanced — acknowledging both the transformative potential and the genuine structural risks of microfinance for vulnerable populations

(D) Primarily focused on the regulatory aspects of microfinance while ignoring its social impact

Passage 3: India's Export Competitiveness

India's share in global merchandise exports has remained stubbornly flat at approximately 1.8 per cent for over a decade, a striking contrast to

China's commanding 14 per cent share. This stagnation reflects a confluence of structural bottlenecks: inadequate port and logistics infrastructure that adds 3–5 percentage points to effective tariff costs, labour laws that discourage scale-intensive manufacturing, and exchange rate volatility that complicates long-term export pricing for manufacturers. Despite repeated policy commitments to double India's export share, progress has been uneven across sectors.

The government's Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes represent the most substantive recent policy response. By offering financial incentives tied directly to incremental production, PLI has catalysed meaningful export growth in sectors like mobile electronics and pharmaceuticals, where India is beginning to carve a global competitive position. However, the agriculture sector — which employs the largest share of India's workforce — faces a distinct constraint: ongoing WTO disputes over India's agricultural subsidies have limited India's ability to aggressively promote agri-exports, leaving a large potential export base significantly under-exploited. Whether these targeted interventions can collectively shift India's export trajectory remains an open and consequential question.

Q31. [Passage 3] The **primary purpose** of the passage is to:

(A) Celebrate India's recent success in growing its global merchandise export share

(B) Argue that India should replicate China's export model in its entirety

(C) Analyse the specific impact of the PLI scheme on the electronics sector

(D) Examine the structural and policy factors that explain India's stagnant export competitiveness and the limitations of recent government responses

Q32. [Passage 3] Why does the author **mention China's 14% export share**?

(A) To highlight the scale of the gap between India's current export performance and the potential that a peer emerging economy has realised, underscoring the urgency of India's challenge

(B) To argue that India should adopt China's political and economic system to achieve similar results

(C) To show that global export markets are dominated by a single country, leaving little room for India

(D) To suggest that India's export stagnation is entirely caused by Chinese competition

Q33. [Passage 3] According to the passage, PLI schemes are significant because:

(A) They have completely resolved India's infrastructure and logistics cost disadvantages

(B) They have incentivised incremental production in specific sectors and begun establishing India's competitive position in mobile electronics and pharmaceuticals

(C) They have replaced WTO-compliant agricultural subsidies with a more effective support mechanism

(D) They have attracted sufficient foreign direct investment to fund all of India's export infrastructure needs

Q34. [Passage 3] Which factor does the passage **NOT** identify as limiting India's export competitiveness?

(A) Inadequate port and logistics infrastructure

(B) Labour laws that discourage scale-intensive manufacturing

(C) The high corporate income tax rate applied to export-oriented industries

(D) Exchange rate volatility complicating long-term export pricing

Q35. [Passage 3] What can be **inferred** about India's agri-export potential from the passage?

(A) India's agricultural sector is too small to contribute meaningfully to export growth

(B) WTO disputes have permanently eliminated India's ability to grow agricultural exports

(C) India's agriculture sector is already the largest contributor to its total merchandise exports

(D) India's agricultural sector represents a large but under-exploited export opportunity constrained by WTO subsidy disputes

Passage 4: The Gig Economy and Worker Rights

India has witnessed a dramatic surge in gig workers over the past decade, with food delivery platforms, ride-hailing aggregators, and freelance digital marketplaces collectively employing tens of millions of workers. A central tension animates this growth: most platform companies classify their workers as independent contractors rather than employees, thereby avoiding statutory obligations to provide provident fund contributions, employee state insurance, gratuity, and other social security benefits that are guaranteed to formal employees under Indian labour law.

The legal classification debate gained fresh global momentum when the UK Supreme Court ruled in 2021 that Uber drivers must be classified as workers entitled to minimum wage and holiday pay protections — a ruling that sent reverberations through platform businesses worldwide. In India, the Code on Social Security 2020 took a notable step by explicitly recognising gig and platform workers as a distinct category and mandating that the central and state governments frame social security schemes specifically for them — though implementation has been slow and the specific benefits remain undefined. Platform companies counter that the defining characteristic of gig work is flexibility, and that many of their workers prefer the autonomy of self-employment over the constraints of formal employment. This argument, however, is increasingly challenged by worker advocates who point out that algorithmic management effectively eliminates the autonomy that platform companies claim to offer.

Q36. [Passage 4] What is the **main tension** described in the passage?

(A) The conflict between gig workers' need for social security and protection, and platform companies' interest in maintaining an independent-contractor classification that avoids statutory benefit obligations

(B) The tension between the UK Supreme Court's ruling and India's domestic labour laws

(C) The conflict between gig workers seeking higher wages and platform companies' need to maintain profitability

(D) The tension between digital platform growth and the decline of traditional brick-and-mortar retail employment

Q37. [Passage 4] The UK Supreme Court ruling on Uber is cited to illustrate:

(A) That India should fully adopt UK labour law to protect gig workers

(B) The growing global legal momentum towards reclassifying gig workers away from the independent contractor model and extending them employment protections

(C) That ride-hailing platforms in particular are more exploitative than other types of gig economy platforms

(D) That international court rulings have direct binding effect on Indian labour law

Q38. [Passage 4] Which statement **accurately reflects** the India Code on Social Security 2020 as described in the passage?

(A) The Code immediately provided full PF and ESI benefits to all gig and platform workers in India from the date of its enactment

(B) The Code ruled that all gig workers must be reclassified as formal employees of the platforms they work for

(C) The Code recognised gig and platform workers as a distinct category and required governments to design social security schemes for them, though specific benefits have not yet been fully defined or implemented

(D) The Code explicitly prohibited platform companies from classifying their workers as independent contractors

Q39. [Passage 4] What is the **platform companies' central counterargument** against reclassifying gig workers as employees?

(A) Reclassification would make platform business models economically unviable and lead to mass layoffs

(B) Platform companies argue that gig work generates higher incomes than comparable formal employment

(C) Reclassification would violate existing international trade agreements on digital services

(D) Gig work is fundamentally defined by the flexibility and autonomy that workers actively choose, and formal employee status would eliminate this defining benefit

Q40. [Passage 4] The **author's attitude** toward gig workers' situation is best described as:

(A) Sympathetically critical — acknowledging gig workers' vulnerability while noting that the platform companies' autonomy argument is increasingly challenged by the reality of algorithmic control

(B) Fully supportive of platform companies' view that flexibility is the primary benefit of gig work

(C) Dismissive of gig workers' concerns, viewing the independent contractor model as fair and mutually beneficial

(D) Neutral and purely descriptive, with no discernible evaluative stance on the gig economy debate

Part C: Quantitative Aptitude (Q 41–60)

Q41. A shopkeeper marks goods 40% above cost price and then gives a discount of 20% on the marked price. What is the profit percentage?

(A) 8%

(B) 10%

(C) 12%

(D) 15%

Q42. An 80-litre mixture contains milk and water in the ratio 3 : 1. How many litres of water must be added to make the ratio 1 : 1?

(A) 20 litres

(B) 25 litres

(C) 30 litres

(D) 40 litres

Q43. Find the simple interest on Rs. 12,000 at 6.5% per annum for 2 years.

(A) Rs. 1,560

(B) Rs. 1,480

(C) Rs. 1,620

(D) Rs. 1,200

Q44. Pipe A can fill a tank in 12 hours and Pipe B can fill it in 18 hours. If both pipes are opened simultaneously, how many hours will the tank take to fill completely?

(A) 6 hours

(B) 7.2 hours

(C) 8 hours

(D) 9 hours

Q45. A train 120 m long passes a platform 180 m long at a speed of 54 km/h. How many seconds does it take to cross the platform completely?

(A) 15 seconds

(B) 18 seconds

(C) 20 seconds

(D) 24 seconds

Q46. A merchant purchases goods at Rs. 450 and wishes to make a profit of 25% after offering a discount of 10% on the marked price. What should the marked price be?

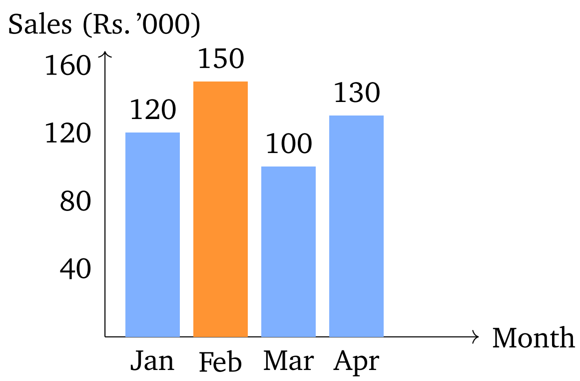
(A) Rs. 580

(B) Rs. 600

(C) Rs. 610

(D) Rs. 625

Q47. The bar chart below shows monthly sales (in Rs. thousands) for a company over four months. What percentage of the total four-month sales occurred in **February**?



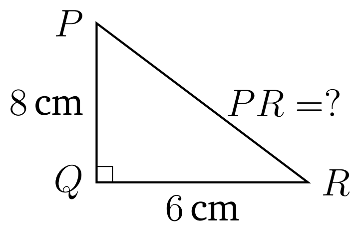
(A) 30%

(B) 24%

(C) 20%

(D) 26%

Q48. In the right triangle PQR shown below, $PQ = 8$ cm and $QR = 6$ cm, with the right angle at Q. Find the length of the hypotenuse PR.



(A) 9 cm

(B) 10 cm

(C) 11 cm

(D) 12 cm

Q49. What is the Least Common Multiple (LCM) of 12, 18, and 24?

(A) 36

(B) 48

(C) 72

(D) 144

Q50. The sum of two numbers is 36 and their product is 323. Find the difference between the squares of the two numbers.

(A) 36

(B) 54

(C) 64

(D) 72

Q51. On what principal will the compound interest for 2 years at 10% per annum amount to Rs. 2,100?

(A) Rs. 10,000

(B) Rs. 9,500

(C) Rs. 12,000

(D) Rs. 8,000

Q52. The present ages of A and B are in the ratio 3 : 5. Four years ago their ages were in the ratio 1 : 2. Find B's present age.

(A) 15 years

(B) 20 years

(C) 25 years

(D) 30 years

Q53. The average marks of 30 students is 65. Later, marks of two students are corrected from 52 to 62, and from 48 to 58. What is the new average?

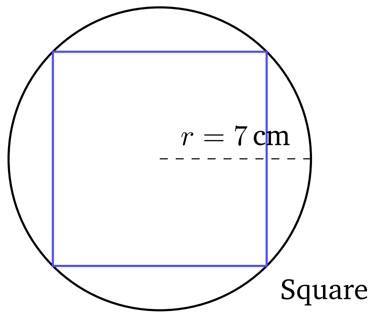
(A) 65.33

(B) 65.50

(C) 65.67

(D) 66.00

Q54. A circle of radius 7 cm has a square inscribed in it, as shown below. Find the area of the inscribed square.



(A) 196 sq cm

(B) 147 sq cm

(C) 100 sq cm

(D) 98 sq cm

Q55. Car A leaves city X at 60 km/h towards city Y. Car B leaves city Y at 40 km/h towards city X, both starting simultaneously. The two cities are 300 km apart. At what distance from city X do the two cars meet?

(A) 180 km

(B) 150 km

(C) 200 km

(D) 120 km

Q56. What is the remainder when $7^{20} + 1$ is divided by 6?

(A) 0

(B) 2

(C) 3

(D) 5

Q57. A invests Rs. 25,000 for 8 months and B invests Rs. 30,000 for 6 months in a joint venture. In what ratio should the profits be shared?

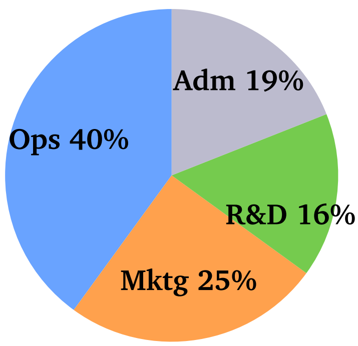
(A) 3 : 2

(B) 4 : 3

(C) 10 : 9

(D) 5 : 4

Q58. The pie chart below shows how a company distributes its annual revenue of Rs. 75 lakhs. How much (in lakhs) is spent on **R&D**?



(A) Rs. 10 lakhs

(B) Rs. 14 lakhs

(C) Rs. 16 lakhs

(D) Rs. 12 lakhs

Q59. A bag contains 4 red, 5 blue, and 3 white balls. One ball is drawn at random. What is the probability that the ball drawn is **not white**?

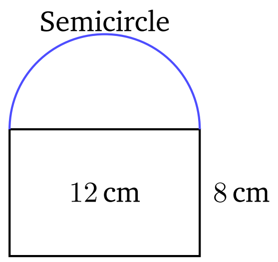
(A) $\frac{3}{4}$

(B) $\frac{1}{4}$

(C) $\frac{2}{3}$

(D) $\frac{5}{12}$

Q60. A rectangle of length 12 cm and breadth 8 cm has a semicircle drawn on one of its longer sides (outside the rectangle), as shown. Find the total area of the composite figure. (Use $\pi \approx 3.14$.)



(A) ≈ 144.5 sq cm

(B) ≈ 152.5 sq cm

(C) ≈ 160.0 sq cm

(D) ≈ 168.0 sq cm

Part D: Data Sufficiency (Q 61–80)

*Each question below consists of a problem and two statements labelled **I** and **II**. Choose:*

- **(A)** Statement I alone is sufficient, but Statement II alone is not sufficient.
- **(B)** Statement II alone is sufficient, but Statement I alone is not sufficient.

- **(C)** Both statements together are sufficient, but neither statement alone is sufficient.
- **(D)** Statements I and II together are not sufficient to answer the question.

Q61. Is integer n a perfect square?

Statement I: n is an even number.

Statement II: n is divisible by 4.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient, but Statement II alone is not.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient, but Statement I alone is not.

(C) Both statements together are sufficient, but neither alone is.

(D) Statements I and II together are not sufficient.

Q62. What is the value of positive integer n?

Statement I: n is the only even prime number.

Statement II: n is a multiple of 3.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient, but Statement II alone is not.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient, but Statement I alone is not.

(C) Both statements together are sufficient, but neither alone is.

(D) Statements I and II together are not sufficient.

Q63. What is the sum $p + q$?

Statement I: $p - q = 8$.

Statement II: $p + q = 22$.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient, but Statement II alone is not.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient, but Statement I alone is not.

(C) Both statements together are sufficient, but neither alone is.

(D) Statements I and II together are not sufficient.

Q64. What is the value of $a + b$?

Statement I: $a - b = 5$.

Statement II: $a^2 - b^2 = 35$.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient, but Statement II alone is not.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient, but Statement I alone is not.

(C) Both statements together are sufficient, but neither alone is.

(D) Statements I and II together are not sufficient.

Q65. What is the exact age of Rajan?

Statement I: Rajan is older than Seema.

Statement II: Seema is 12 years old.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient, but Statement II alone is not.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient, but Statement I alone is not.

(C) Both statements together are sufficient, but neither alone is.

(D) Statements I and II together are not sufficient.

Q66. What is the value of positive integer x, given that x is a single-digit number?

Statement I: $x^2 = 49$.

Statement II: x is an odd number.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient, but Statement II alone is not.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient, but Statement I alone is not.

(C) Both statements together are sufficient, but neither alone is.

(D) Statements I and II together are not sufficient.

Q67. What is the ratio $a : b$?

Statement I: $a + b = 48$.

Statement II: $a = 3b$.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient, but Statement II alone is not.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient, but Statement I alone is not.

(C) Both statements together are sufficient, but neither alone is.

(D) Statements I and II together are not sufficient.

Q68. What is the value of xy?

Statement I: $x + y = 10$.

Statement II: $x - y = 4$.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient, but Statement II alone is not.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient, but Statement I alone is not.

(C) Both statements together are sufficient, but neither alone is.

(D) Statements I and II together are not sufficient.

Q69. How many students in a class scored above 80 marks?

Statement I: The class has 40 students.

Statement II: The average score of the class is 72.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient, but Statement II alone is not.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient, but Statement I alone is not.

(C) Both statements together are sufficient, but neither alone is.

(D) Statements I and II together are not sufficient.

Q70. What is the value of n^2?

Statement I: $n = -7$.

Statement II: n is a negative integer.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient, but Statement II alone is not.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient, but Statement I alone is not.

(C) Both statements together are sufficient, but neither alone is.

(D) Statements I and II together are not sufficient.

Q71. What is the speed of a train (in km/h)?

Statement I: The train travels a distance of 450 km.

Statement II: The train covers 450 km in exactly 5 hours.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient, but Statement II alone is not.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient, but Statement I alone is not.

(C) Both statements together are sufficient, but neither alone is.

(D) Statements I and II together are not sufficient.

Q72. What is the value of m?

Statement I: $2m + 3n = 24$.

Statement II: $m - n = 3$.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient, but Statement II alone is not.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient, but Statement I alone is not.

(C) Both statements together are sufficient, but neither alone is.

(D) Statements I and II together are not sufficient.

Q73. What is 30% of a certain number N?

Statement I: 20% of N is greater than 50.

Statement II: N is a positive integer less than 500.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient, but Statement II alone is not.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient, but Statement I alone is not.

(C) Both statements together are sufficient, but neither alone is.

(D) Statements I and II together are not sufficient.

Q74. Is the two-digit positive integer k divisible by 6?

Statement I: k is divisible by both 2 and 3.

Statement II: k is an even number.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient, but Statement II alone is not.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient, but Statement I alone is not.

(C) Both statements together are sufficient, but neither alone is.

(D) Statements I and II together are not sufficient.

Q75. What is the value of the fraction $\frac{p}{q}$?

Statement I: $p + q = 21.$

Statement II: $p = \frac{2}{3}q.$

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient, but Statement II alone is not.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient, but Statement I alone is not.

(C) Both statements together are sufficient, but neither alone is.

(D) Statements I and II together are not sufficient.

Q76. What is the area of a rectangle?

Statement I: The perimeter of the rectangle is 40 cm.

Statement II: The length of the rectangle is 5 cm more than its breadth.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient, but Statement II alone is not.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient, but Statement I alone is not.

(C) Both statements together are sufficient, but neither alone is.

(D) Statements I and II together are not sufficient.

Q77. What is the profit earned by a trader on selling an article?

Statement I: The trader sold the article for Rs. 600.

Statement II: The trader's overhead expenses are 5% of the selling price.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient, but Statement II alone is not.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient, but Statement I alone is not.

(C) Both statements together are sufficient, but neither alone is.

(D) Statements I and II together are not sufficient.

Q78. What is the present age of Priya?

Statement I: Priya is twice the age she was 10 years ago.

Statement II: Priya is younger than 25 years old.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient, but Statement II alone is not.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient, but Statement I alone is not.

(C) Both statements together are sufficient, but neither alone is.

(D) Statements I and II together are not sufficient.

Q79. What is the area of a circle?

Statement I: The diameter of the circle is more than 10 cm.

Statement II: The circumference of the circle is 28π cm.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient, but Statement II alone is not.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient, but Statement I alone is not.

(C) Both statements together are sufficient, but neither alone is.

(D) Statements I and II together are not sufficient.

Q80. What is the value of integer z?

Statement I: z is a prime number less than 20.

Statement II: z is an odd number between 14 and 18.

(A) Statement I alone is sufficient, but Statement II alone is not.

(B) Statement II alone is sufficient, but Statement I alone is not.

(C) Both statements together are sufficient, but neither alone is.

(D) Statements I and II together are not sufficient.

Part E: General English (Q 81–100)

Q81. Choose the word that best completes the sentence: "The committee ________ its decision after consulting all stakeholders."

(A) deferred

(B) differed

(C) inferred

(D) conferred

Q82. Choose the word that best completes the sentence: "She was ________ by the complexity of the new regulations."

(A) exasperated

(B) perplexed

(C) enraptured

(D) elated

Q83. Choose the word that best completes the sentence: "The merger was ________ successful despite initial scepticism from analysts."

(A) marginally

(B) dubiously

(C) remarkably

(D) partially

Q84. Choose the word that best completes the sentence: "The CEO's speech was ________ and left little room for ambiguity."

(A) verbose

(B) ambiguous

(C) incoherent

(D) unequivocal

Q85. Choose the word that best completes the sentence: "Profits rose ________ in the third quarter, beating analyst estimates by a wide margin."

(A) sharply

(B) vaguely

(C) modestly

(D) erratically

Q86. Identify the **grammatically correct** sentence.

(A) The team of managers are meeting today to discuss the quarterly results.

(B) The board of directors has approved the merger proposal unanimously.

(C) Neither of the candidates were considered suitable for the senior role.

(D) A group of investors are planning to exit the company before year-end.

Q87. Identify the **grammatically correct** sentence.

(A) She was working on the project when her manager calls her into a meeting.

(B) By the time he arrived at the office, the presentation already starts.

(C) The auditors confirmed that the accounts had been reconciled correctly before the submission deadline.

(D) The company will launch its new product after it completed the regulatory approvals.

Q88. Identify the **grammatically correct** sentence.

(A) Running down the corridor, the files were dropped by the manager.

(B) Having reviewed the report, the errors were corrected before the meeting.

(C) Exhausted after a long journey, the hotel lobby was reached by the delegates.

(D) Having reviewed the data carefully, the analyst presented her conclusions to the board.

Q89. Identify the **grammatically correct** sentence.

(A) The committee is looking into the matter to resolve the dispute effectively.

(B) The report was submitted on the deadline of Monday morning.

(C) She is waiting the results of the final interview since last week.

(D) The director insisted on discussing about the budget allocation in detail.

Q90. Identify the **grammatically correct** sentence.

(A) Each of the employees must submit their individual performance report by Friday.

(B) Neither the manager nor the team members were able to resolve the conflict on their own.

(C) The company and its subsidiary has agreed to merge its operations next year.

(D) Everyone on the panel shared their opinions openly during the appraisal meeting.

Q91. **LOQUACIOUS** — choose the word **closest in meaning**:

(A) Reserved

(B) Boisterous

(C) Talkative

(D) Eloquent

Q92. **ACRIMONIOUS** — choose the word **closest in meaning**:

(A) Pleasant

(B) Sarcastic

(C) Indifferent

(D) Bitter

Q93. **PERFIDIOUS** — choose the word **closest in meaning**:

(A) Treacherous

(B) Virtuous

(C) Zealous

(D) Steadfast

Q94. **ONEROUS** — choose the word **closest in meaning**:

(A) Light

(B) Burdensome

(C) Urgent

(D) Optional

Q95. **SANGUINE** — choose the word **closest in meaning**:

(A) Pessimistic

(B) Anxious

(C) Optimistic

(D) Lethargic

Q96. **FRUGAL** — choose the word **most opposite in meaning**:

(A) Stingy

(B) Economical

(C) Thrifty

(D) Extravagant

Q97. **OBSTINATE** — choose the word **most opposite in meaning**:

(A) Flexible

(B) Stubborn

(C) Tenacious

(D) Resolute

Q98. **VERBOSE** — choose the word **most opposite in meaning**:

(A) Eloquent

(B) Concise

(C) Articulate

(D) Garrulous

Q99. **TRANSIENT** — choose the word **most opposite in meaning**:

(A) Fleeting

(B) Brief

(C) Permanent

(D) Momentary

Q100. **PLACID** — choose the word **most opposite in meaning**:

(A) Serene

(B) Calm

(C) Tranquil

(D) Turbulent

Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Concept — Demand-Price Elasticity in FMCG: In FMCG markets, rural customers are highly price-sensitive because disposable incomes are lower and substitute products are readily available. A price increase beyond tolerable limits causes volume decline rather than revenue gain.

Step 1 — Identify the risk: The caselet explicitly states that a price hike above 5% will cause volume loss in the rural segment.

Step 2 — Apply to a 10% hike: A 10% hike is double the warning threshold. The most immediate consequence is volume decline in the rural segment, which accounts for 45% of revenue.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: A 10% hike unlikely fully offsets a 35% input cost rise; margin improvement is not guaranteed.
- Option C: Permanent brand switching is a long-term risk, not the most likely *immediate* consequence.
- Option D: Government intervention for a single company's 10% price hike is not a typical immediate response.

Final Answer: Volume decline in the rural segment is the most likely immediate consequence $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q1

Q2.

Solution

Concept — Short-Term Cost Management and Segmented Pricing: When facing cost pressures, a company with heterogeneous customer segments should apply price increases selectively, protecting price-sensitive segments while recovering costs where possible. Inventory draw-down provides a short-term buffer.

Step 1 — Assess constraints: Rural customers (45% of revenue) cannot absorb more than 5%; urban customers are less price-sensitive. The company has 3 months of inventory as a buffer.

Step 2 — Evaluate options: A selective hike (up to 5% in urban markets) while absorbing costs via inventory draw-down in rural markets preserves volume and buys time to negotiate alternative sourcing.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: A blanket 10% hike risks immediate rural volume loss.
- Option C: Suspending rural distribution destroys the 45% revenue base permanently.
- Option D: Completely exiting Maharashtra sourcing is a long-term strategic shift, not a short-term action.

Final Answer: Selective price hike in urban markets while absorbing costs in rural via inventory $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q2

Q3.

Solution

Concept — Competitor Strategy Assumptions: When a competitor raises prices despite cost pressures, the implicit assumption is that brand loyalty or category stickiness is sufficient to retain customers even at higher prices.

Step 1 — Observe competitor action: The competitor raised prices by 8%, which is above the 5% threshold identified as risky for Sunrise.

Step 2 — Identify the underlying assumption: The competitor must believe that consumers in the category are brand-loyal enough to accept a moderate price hike without switching — otherwise the competitor would not risk the volume loss.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Assuming consumers switch regardless would mean the hike makes no sense strategically.
- Option B: The caselet gives no information about the competitor's rural exposure.
- Option D: Pre-contracted prices are possible but not stated; the most direct assumption is about consumer behaviour.

Final Answer: Brand loyalty is strong enough to absorb a moderate price hike $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q3

Q4.

Solution

Concept — Cost Management Strategies: Effective cost management under commodity pressure includes forward contracting, hedging, and product mix optimisation. Actions that increase costs without strategic benefit are counter-productive.

Step 1 — Evaluate each option: Forward contracts (A) reduce future input cost volatility. Product mix shift to higher-margin SKUs (B) improves profitability per unit. Commodity hedging (C) directly addresses price volatility risk.

Step 2 — Identify the ineffective option: Launching an aggressive advertising campaign to justify a 15% price hike (D) adds cost, and a 15% hike is far above the 5% threshold — this would accelerate rural volume loss, not manage cost pressure.

Why other options are wrong:

- Options A, B, C: All are legitimate, commonly used cost-management levers in FMCG.

Final Answer: An advertising campaign to justify a 15% hike would not help manage cost pressure $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q4

Q5.

Solution

Concept — Reading Business Caselets for Inference: Inferences must be grounded strictly in what the caselet states, not in general assumptions. The caselet explicitly links a price hike above 5% to volume loss in the rural segment.

Step 1 — Locate the evidence: "The company's sales team warns that any price hike above 5% will cause volume loss in the rural segment, which contributes 45% of revenue."

Step 2 — Draw the inference: This directly implies rural customers are highly price-sensitive, i.e., a small price change above 5% meaningfully affects their purchasing decisions.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Contradicts the caselet evidence — the sales team's warning implies low loyalty, not high.

- Option C: Rural customers contribute 45%, which is nearly half, so they are not a minor segment.
- Option D: The caselet provides no information about which product variants rural customers buy.

Final Answer: Rural customers are highly price-sensitive; a hike above 5% risks volume loss $\Rightarrow \boxed{A}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q5

Q6.

Solution

Concept — Make-vs-Buy Decision Framework: The classic make-vs-buy trade-off weighs the cost and time of internal development against the speed and premium of external acquisition. Each path has distinct risk and reward profiles.

Step 1 — Identify acquire advantages: Immediate market access, ability to bid on current RFPs, faster revenue generation.

Step 2 — Identify build advantages: Lower cost (Rs.60 cr vs Rs.120 cr), deeper internal capability, no integration risk, no premium for an unprofitable startup.

Step 3 — Identify the core trade-off: Speed-to-market and immediate revenue potential (acquire) versus cost efficiency and long-term internal capability (build).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Technology quality is not the stated differentiator; cost and speed are.
- Option C: Regulatory scrutiny is not mentioned in the caselet.
- Option D: Loss of existing clients is not referenced in the caselet's framing.

Final Answer: Speed-to-market and immediate revenue vs. cost efficiency and capability building $\Rightarrow \boxed{B}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q6

Q7.

Solution

Concept — Opportunity Cost in Strategic Decisions: When evaluating the acquisition option, the strongest argument is the immediate revenue and market access it provides, particularly the Rs.40 crore RFP that would be lost under the build option.

Step 1 — Review acquisition advantages: Immediate capability, current RFP eligibility, faster time-to-market.

Step 2 — Identify the strongest factor: The ability to bid on and win the Rs.40 crore RFP that would be missed during an 18-month build is the most time-sensitive and concrete advantage of acquisition.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The acquisition costs Rs.120 cr versus Rs.60 cr to build, so cost is not an advantage.
- Option B: No evidence is given that the in-house option will eventually be more profitable.
- Option D: The caselet explicitly states the startup has no profitable track record.

Final Answer: Immediate RFP response capability that prevents loss of Rs.40 crore opportunity $\Rightarrow \boxed{C}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q7

Q8.

Solution

Concept — Implicit Assumptions in Strategic Choice: For the costlier-but-slower in-house option to be preferred, the long-term value it generates must exceed the opportunity cost of missing the immediate RFP plus the additional cost differential.

Step 1 — Quantify opportunity cost: Missing the Rs.40 crore RFP is an immediate revenue loss. The build option costs Rs.60 crore versus Rs.120 crore for acquisition, saving Rs.60 crore.

Step 2 — State the required assumption: The long-term strategic and financial value of owning an in-house AI capability must outweigh the Rs.40 crore short-term opportunity cost and any integration or capability risks.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Re-floating of the RFP is uncertain and speculative.
- Option B: Startup profitability supports the acquisition option, not the in-house option.
- Option C: Assuming no future RFPs is unrealistically pessimistic and not a required assumption.

Final Answer: Long-term value of in-house capability must outweigh opportunity cost and risk $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q8

Q9.

Solution

Concept — Strategic Risk Identification: Opportunity cost risk arises when a chosen strategy causes a company to forgo a concrete, time-sensitive revenue or market opportunity.

Step 1 — Analyse the Rs.40 crore RFP: The company cannot bid on this contract if it chooses the 18-month build option. This is a direct, quantifiable lost revenue opportunity.

Step 2 — Classify the risk: This is an opportunity cost risk — by not being ready, CodeNext loses immediate revenue and potentially the client relationship.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Execution risk is a valid concern but is not what the Rs.40 crore RFP specifically illustrates.
- Option C: No regulatory risk is mentioned in connection with in-house AI development in the caselet.
- Option D: Missing an RFP does not directly create reputational damage unless communicated publicly.

Final Answer: Opportunity cost risk — missing immediate revenue and client opportunity $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q9

Q10.

Solution

Concept — Balanced Strategic Decision-Making: The optimal strategic choice captures near-term opportunity while building long-term capability. A pure acquire or pure build approach each sacrifice one dimension.

Step 1 — Evaluate balanced option: Acquiring the startup secures the Rs.40 crore RFP and immediate market presence. Simultaneously integrating and building internal AI talent reduces long-term dependency on the acquired entity and builds organisational capability.

Step 2 — Confirm this is the best balanced approach: It captures short-term revenue, manages risk, and creates long-term resilience.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Acquiring without due diligence on an unprofitable startup is reckless.
- Option C: Declining the RFP and building misses the immediate opportunity.
- Option D: Outsourcing creates dependency without building strategic capability.

Final Answer: Acquire to capture RFP; simultaneously build internal AI talent for resilience $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q10

Q11.

Solution

Concept — Margin Compression under Social Mandates: When a company with thin margins is required to provide heavily subsidised services, the immediate financial risk is further EBITDA erosion that can turn marginally profitable operations into loss-making ones.

Step 1 — Identify current financial state: EBITDA margin is already thin at 12%. Premium ward revenue growth is only 4% annually.

Step 2 — Assess impact of full compliance without adjustment: Reserving 25% of beds at subsidised rates removes revenue without reducing cost. This compresses margins further and could push the group into losses.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Loss of premium patients is a secondary risk; the primary risk is direct margin compression.
- Option B: Regulatory penalties apply to non-compliance, not to full compliance.
- Option D: Government takeover due to non-payment of dues is not referenced in the caselet.

Final Answer: Further EBITDA margin compression, potentially pushing the group into losses $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q11

Q12.

Solution

Concept — Compliance, Brand, and Long-Term Viability: For healthcare businesses, regulatory compliance protects operating licences; brand value is built on quality of care. The optimal strategy aligns both with financial sustainability.

Step 1 — Evaluate option (d) comply + expand: Full compliance protects the operating licence and brand. Expanding premium capacity increases cross-subsidisation revenue, making compliance financially sustainable.

Step 2 — Confirm superiority over other options: Litigation (b) creates uncertainty and regulatory hostility. Reducing nursing staff (d) damages care quality and brand. Complying without adjustment (a) risks financial viability.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Court challenge risks licence security and public reputation.
- Option B: Nursing staff reduction risks patient safety and quality metrics.
- Option C: Compliance without a revenue strategy is financially unsustainable.

Final Answer: Comply with regulation; expand premium capacity to sustain cross-subsidisation $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q12

Q13.

Solution

Concept — Reading Financial Indicators in Caselets: A 12% EBITDA margin in a capital-intensive healthcare business with slow-growing revenue signals a high operating cost burden relative to revenues, leaving little financial flexibility.

Step 1 — Analyse the data: EBITDA at 12% means 88% of revenue is consumed by operating costs. Premium ward revenue grows at only 4% per year.

Step 2 — Draw inference: The cost base must already be high relative to revenues; there is limited headroom to absorb additional below-market-rate services without strategic action.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: No mention of significant cash reserves; the thin margins suggest otherwise.
- Option C: The caselet does not provide staff cost breakdowns.
- Option D: 4% premium revenue growth is too slow to fund a 25% bed subsidy without adjustment.

Final Answer: Cost base is already high; limited headroom to absorb additional subsidy obligations $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q13

Q14.

Solution

Concept — Cross-Subsidisation in Healthcare Business Models: Private hospitals in India often rely on cross-subsidisation: commercial, premium-paying patients fund subsidised or free care for economically weaker patients. The regulation tests this model's resilience.

Step 1 — Identify what the regulation demands: 25% of beds at subsidised rates, funded from commercial revenues.

Step 2 — State what this tests: The ability to cross-subsidise social care obligations through premium commercial revenues while maintaining financial viability.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Lobbying is a potential response, not the capability the regulation directly tests.

- Option C: Staff recruitment is an operational challenge not directly tested by this specific regulation.
- Option D: Physical expansion is one strategic option, not the direct test.

Final Answer: Cross-subsidise social obligations using commercial revenues while remaining financially viable $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q14

Q15.

Solution

Concept — Implicit Assumptions in Cost-Cutting Strategies: Any cost-cutting measure implicitly assumes that the reduction will generate adequate savings to address the financial gap without creating compensating costs (e.g., quality failures, regulatory penalties).

Step 1 — Identify what option (d) proposes: Reduce nursing staff to cut operating costs.

Step 2 — Identify the assumption: This assumes that staff cost savings will be sufficient to offset the EWS compliance cost, and that reducing nursing staff will not unacceptably compromise care quality or violate safety standards.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Whether nurses are the highest-paid category is not a required implicit assumption.
- Option B: "No negative impact" is too absolute; the assumption is that the impact is manageable within standards.
- Option D: Nurse-to-patient ratios may indeed be regulated, but this is a risk to the option, not the implicit assumption driving it.

Final Answer: Staff savings will offset EWS compliance cost without unacceptably compromising care quality $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q15

Q16.

Solution

Concept — Ethical Decision-Making and Organisational Processes: When a financial irregularity is discovered, ethical management requires following formal institutional processes. Personal relationships between senior leaders and vendors must not influence compliance actions.

Step 1 — Identify the issue: A supplier is systematically overbilling by 5%. This is a procurement integrity issue, not merely a billing error.

Step 2 — Select the correct process: Raising the matter through the official procurement grievance process immediately is the only option that is transparent, documented, and process-compliant regardless of personal relationships.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Silently adjusting payments is not transparent and does not resolve the root cause.
- Option B: Contacting the supplier directly without informing internal stakeholders bypasses internal controls.
- Option C: Waiting to send an informal reminder before escalating introduces unnecessary delay.

Final Answer: Raise through the official procurement grievance process immediately $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q16

Q17.

Solution

Concept — Ethical Labour Management: Requiring unpaid overtime violates workers' rights and potentially labour law. Ethical management absorbs legitimate operational costs rather than transferring them to workers.

Step 1 — Evaluate unpaid overtime option: Requiring 3 hours of unpaid overtime is exploitative and likely illegal under applicable labour statutes. This should not be an option regardless of business pressure.

Step 2 — Evaluate hiring temps: Hiring temporary workers at additional cost is the ethical alternative. Revising the cost forecast and informing management maintains transparency.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Unpaid overtime violates worker rights and is ethically unacceptable.
- Option C: Missing the target without any proactive solution is abdication of responsibility.
- Option D: 1.5 hours of unpaid overtime, even if shorter, is still exploitative and not ethical.

Final Answer: Hire temporary workers and revise the cost forecast transparently $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q17

Q18.

Solution

Concept — Evidence-Based Competitive Response: A price cut by a competitor does not automatically require an equivalent response. The correct managerial action is to first understand customer price sensitivity before committing to a strategy.

Step 1 — Assess the time available: Four weeks before the next sales cycle is adequate time to conduct rapid research.

Step 2 — Identify the best action: Rapid consumer and trade research provides the evidence base needed to determine whether matching the cut is necessary, or whether premium positioning can be maintained.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Immediately matching the price cut without data can unnecessarily erode margins if customers are not actually switching.
- Option C: Ignoring the price cut without any research is reckless.
- Option D: A counter-campaign budget request delays action and does not address the pricing question.

Final Answer: Conduct rapid consumer research before deciding on a price or positioning response $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q18

Q19.

Solution

Concept — Resource Management Under Delivery Pressure: When the client has zero tolerance for delay, the project manager must take all available actions simultaneously to protect the delivery commitment.

Step 1 — Assess the constraint: 3 of 12 team members are on medical leave. The client will not accept a delay.

Step 2 — Identify the optimal response: Hiring contract resources restores headcount immediately. Simultaneously motivating and supporting the remaining team ensures maximum throughput. Together, these give the best chance of on-time delivery.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Renegotiating violates the client's explicitly stated zero-tolerance condition.
- Option B: Redistributing among only 9 people risks burnout and delivery quality.
- Option D: Partial delivery is a form of delay and likely unacceptable to the client.

Final Answer: Hire contract resources and drive the remaining team to ensure on-time delivery $\Rightarrow \boxed{C}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q19

Q20.

Solution

Concept — Policy Enforcement and Performance Management: A top performer's results do not grant exemption from company policy. Allowing unauthorised discounts creates precedent, erodes pricing integrity, and is unfair to other salespeople who follow the rules.

Step 1 — Identify the violation: Offering unauthorised discounts above the policy limit is a clear breach of company policy, regardless of the business intent.

Step 2 — Determine the correct response: A formal written warning is required. It creates a documented record, signals that policy applies equally to all employees, and protects the organisation from future liability.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Overlooking violations based on performance sets a dangerous precedent.
- Option B: A verbal warning without formal action is insufficient for repeated policy breaches.
- Option C: Private discussion without formal documentation is not adequate enforcement.

Final Answer: Issue a formal written warning and enforce discount policy regardless of performance $\Rightarrow \boxed{D}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q20

Q21.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension: Main Idea: The main idea encompasses the full scope of the passage, including both the AI disruption and the equity dimension highlighted in the final paragraph.

Step 1 — Identify the passage's two central themes: (1) AI displaces routine jobs but creates new hybrid roles; (2) Whether this is inclusive depends on reskilling infrastructure, especially in low-income countries.

Step 2 — Match to option: Option B captures both the disruption and the equity-dependent outcome.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage does not say AI will "inevitably" cause mass unemployment.
- Option C: UBI is mentioned as one policy option, not the author's recommended solution.
- Option D: The passage says net job creation has outpaced averages in early-adopter sectors — the opposite.

Final Answer: AI disrupts employment; inclusive outcomes depend on reskilling infrastructure equity $\Rightarrow \boxed{B}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q21

Q22.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension: Inference: An inference goes one logical step beyond what is explicitly stated. The passage states reskilling infrastructure is "considerably weaker" in low-income countries, implying effectiveness is institutionally constrained.

Step 1 — Locate the relevant text: "institutional infrastructure for retraining. . . is considerably weaker than in advanced economies."

Step 2 — Derive the inference: The effectiveness of reskilling programmes depends on the strength of the institutional framework supporting them.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage does not compare UBI vs reskilling effectiveness directly.
- Option B: The passage does not suggest corporations are the most effective reskilling providers.
- Option D: The passage applies reskilling broadly, not just to manufacturing or legal sectors.

Final Answer: Reskilling effectiveness is constrained by a country's institutional training infrastructure $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q22

Q23.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in Context: "Displacement" in the context of labour economics means workers being pushed out of their existing roles or positions.

Step 1 — Read the passage usage: "displacement risk" refers to workers being removed from their jobs due to AI automation.

Step 2 — Match to synonym: "Dislodgement" most closely captures the sense of being pushed out of a position.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: "Promotion" is the opposite of displacement.
- Option B: "Transition" is too neutral; it does not capture the involuntary removal aspect.

- Option C: "Migration" implies voluntary movement to a new location, not involuntary job loss.

Final Answer: "Dislodgement" is closest in meaning to displacement as used in this context ⇒ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q23

Q24.

Solution

Concept — Identifying Author Tone: Tone is conveyed through the balance of perspectives presented and the evaluative language used. A balanced passage presents both sides and flags unresolved tensions.

Step 1 — Identify tonal evidence: The passage presents proponents' and critics' views equally. It flags an equity concern (low-income country vulnerability) without one-sided advocacy.

Step 2 — Match to option: "Balanced and analytical, presenting multiple perspectives while highlighting an equity concern" is the most accurate description.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: "Strongly optimistic" overstates; the author raises significant concerns.
- Option C: The author does not advocate restricting AI deployment.
- Option D: The passage devotes its final paragraph specifically to low-income country concerns.

Final Answer: Balanced and analytical, presenting multiple perspectives with an equity lens ⇒ $\boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q24

Q25.

Solution

Concept — Author Agreement Questions: The statement the author would agree with must align with the passage's explicit arguments and implied positions.

Step 1 — Identify the passage's key position: The distribution of AI benefits depends significantly on whether low-income countries can build effective reskilling ecosystems. This is the passage's concluding and most emphatic point.

Step 2 — Match to option: Option B directly restates this position.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The author explicitly raises concerns, not a uniformly positive view.
- Option C: The passage presents UBI as one option, not the clearly superior one.
- Option D: The passage acknowledges displacement of low-income workers broadly, not just low-skilled workers.

Final Answer: Whether AI benefits are shared depends on reskilling ecosystems in low-income countries $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q25

Q26.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension: Central Argument: The central argument integrates both the positive achievements of microfinance and its genuine risks, as the passage explicitly does.

Step 1 — Identify both sides of the passage: Positive: credit access, women's entrepreneurship, high repayment rates. Negative: high interest rates, 2010 crisis, ongoing exploitation debate.

Step 2 — Match to option: Option C captures both the transformative potential and the structural risks.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage does not say microfinance has comprehensively failed.

- Option B: The passage does not claim global superiority for the SHG-BLP programme.
- Option D: The passage goes beyond regulation to discuss social impact and structural issues.

Final Answer: Microfinance expanded credit access but carries significant structural risks for vulnerable borrowers $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q26

Q27.

Solution

Concept — Supported Conclusion vs. Inference: A directly supported conclusion is one explicitly stated or demonstrated in the passage, not merely implied.

Step 1 — Find the relevant passage text: "Interest rates charged. . . typically range between 20 and 28 per cent per annum — rates that, critics argue, can trap vulnerable borrowers in cycles of debt when businesses underperform."

Step 2 — Match to option: Option D restates this almost verbatim.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Operating cost justification is not discussed in the passage.
- Option B: The passage does not claim high rates have no impact on repayment.
- Option C: The passage does not say RBI has brought rates below 15%.

Final Answer: High interest rates (20–28%) can trap borrowers in debt cycles when businesses underperform $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q27

Q28.

Solution

Concept — Purpose of Evidence in Argument: Identifying why a specific example is cited requires understanding what point the author is making at that moment in the passage.

Step 1 — Read the context: The 2010 AP crisis is cited immediately after discussing the risks of high interest rates and coercive recovery. It resulted in suicides and triggered RBI regulation.

Step 2 — Identify the purpose: The crisis illustrates the most extreme consequences of unchecked aggressive lending and coercive practices, justifying regulatory intervention.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The passage does not argue microfinance is fundamentally unsuitable for India.
- Option C: No critique of RBI's timeliness is presented in the passage.
- Option D: SHG vs. MFI comparison is not the point made at this juncture.

Final Answer: Cited to illustrate consequences of unchecked aggressive lending and coercive recovery practices ⇒ $\boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q28

Q29.

Solution

Concept — Reading for Specific Textual Evidence: Questions about what the passage "suggests" require locating specific statements about the target group.

Step 1 — Find the relevant text: "Millions of rural households, particularly women-headed ones, have gained access to formal credit. . . enabling small-scale entrepreneurship."

Step 2 — Match to option: Option B accurately reflects this statement — women in women-headed rural households are primary beneficiaries of microfinance-enabled entrepreneurship.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Default rates for women vs. men are not compared in the passage.
- Option C: The 2010 crisis victims are not specifically identified as women in the passage.
- Option D: The passage mentions a range of non-agricultural activities (tailoring, food processing), not primarily agriculture.

Final Answer: Women in rural women-headed households are primary beneficiaries of microfinance entrepreneurship ⇒ $\boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q29

Q30.

Solution

Concept — Identifying Author Perspective: The author's perspective is revealed through the overall balance of the argument and the evaluative language used.

Step 1 — Analyse the passage's structure: The passage opens positively (access, entrepreneurship, repayment rates) and then systematically raises structural concerns (interest rates, 2010 crisis, ongoing debate). Neither side is dismissed.

Step 2 — Match to option: Option C — "nuanced and balanced" — best describes an author who acknowledges both transformative potential and genuine structural risks.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage dedicates significant space to risks, so it is not uncritically supportive.
- Option B: The passage does not conclude that microfinance has failed.
- Option D: The passage discusses social and human impact extensively alongside regulation.

Final Answer: Nuanced and balanced — acknowledging both potential and risks of microfinance $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q30

Q31.

Solution

Concept — Primary Purpose of a Passage: The primary purpose encompasses the full scope of the passage's argument, not just one section.

Step 1 — Identify the passage's full scope: The passage covers: India's stagnant export share, structural constraints (infrastructure, labour laws, FX volatility), PLI scheme as a response, and WTO-constrained agri-exports.

Step 2 — Match to option: Option D covers all elements: structural and policy factors explaining stagnation, and limitations of recent government responses.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage discusses stagnation, not recent success.
- Option B: No argument is made to replicate China's entire model.

- Option C: PLI and electronics are discussed but as one element, not the primary purpose.

Final Answer: Examine structural and policy factors behind India's stagnant export competitiveness ⇒ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q31

Q32.

Solution

Concept — Purpose of Comparative Data: When an author cites a comparator's much higher figure, it is typically to contextualise the magnitude of the gap and underscore urgency.

Step 1 — Find the context: "India's share. . . approximately 1.8 per cent. . . a striking contrast to China's commanding 14 per cent share."

Step 2 — Identify the purpose: The contrast highlights how far India lags behind a peer emerging economy and underscores the scale of the challenge.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: No argument is made to replicate China's political system.
- Option C: The passage does not argue there is no room for India in global markets.
- Option D: The passage lists structural bottlenecks as causes of stagnation, not exclusively Chinese competition.

Final Answer: To highlight the magnitude of the gap with a peer economy and underscore urgency ⇒ $\boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q32

Q33.

Solution

Concept — Evidence-Based Comprehension: "According to the passage" questions require locating and restating what is explicitly stated, not inferring beyond the text.

Step 1 — Find the relevant text: "PLI has catalysed meaningful export growth in sectors like mobile electronics and pharmaceuticals, where India is beginning to carve a global competitive position."

Step 2 — Match to option: Option B directly reflects this — PLI incentivised incremental production and is establishing India's competitive position in specific sectors.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: PLI has not resolved infrastructure bottlenecks; they remain explicitly mentioned.
- Option C: PLI is not a replacement for agricultural subsidies.
- Option D: No claim about fully funding infrastructure needs through FDI is made.

Final Answer: PLI has incentivised production in electronics and pharma, building India's global position $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q33

Q34.

Solution

Concept — Negative Comprehension (NOT) Questions: These require identifying which item from the options is absent from the passage's list of constraints.

Step 1 — List constraints stated in the passage: Infrastructure bottlenecks, labour laws discouraging scale manufacturing, exchange rate volatility, WTO subsidy disputes for agriculture.

Step 2 — Identify the absent factor: Corporate income tax rates are never mentioned in the passage as a constraint on export competitiveness.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: "Inadequate port and logistics infrastructure" is explicitly mentioned.
- Option B: "Labour laws discouraging scale-intensive manufacturing" is explicitly mentioned.
- Option D: "Exchange rate volatility" is explicitly mentioned.

Final Answer: Corporate income tax rates are NOT mentioned as a limiting factor in the passage $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q34

Q35.

Solution

Concept — Inference from Passage Evidence: The passage describes agri-exports as constrained by WTO disputes, employing the largest share of India's workforce — suggesting large scale but under-realised potential.

Step 1 — Locate the relevant text: "the agriculture sector — which employs the largest share of India's workforce — faces a distinct constraint. . . leaving a large potential export base significantly under-exploited."

Step 2 — Match to option: Option D captures both the large scale and the under-exploitation due to WTO disputes.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The sector employs the largest workforce share, suggesting it is not too small.
- Option B: "Permanently eliminated" is too absolute; WTO disputes can be resolved.
- Option C: The passage does not say agriculture is already the largest export contributor.

Final Answer: Agriculture is a large but under-exploited export opportunity constrained by WTO subsidy disputes $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) **Go Back to Q35**

Q36.

Solution

Concept — Identifying the Central Tension in a Passage: The main tension frames the entire passage and is introduced in the opening paragraph.

Step 1 — Identify the opening tension: Platform companies classify workers as independent contractors to avoid statutory benefit obligations, while workers lack social security (PF, ESI, gratuity).

Step 2 — Match to option: Option A captures this precisely — the conflict between workers' need for protection and platforms' interest in avoiding statutory obligations.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: UK law vs. Indian law is one illustrative element, not the main tension.

- Option C: Wages are not the central focus; classification and social security are.
- Option D: Digital platform growth vs. retail is not the subject of this passage.

Final Answer: Workers' need for social security vs. platforms' interest in independent-contractor classification $\Rightarrow \boxed{A}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q36

Q37.

Solution

Concept — Purpose of an External Example: When an author cites an international court ruling, it typically illustrates a global trend relevant to the domestic debate.

Step 1 — Find the context: "The legal classification debate gained fresh global momentum when the UK Supreme Court ruled. . . Uber drivers must be classified as workers. . . a ruling that sent reverberations through platform businesses worldwide."

Step 2 — Identify the purpose: The ruling is cited to illustrate growing global legal momentum towards reclassifying gig workers and extending employment protections.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: No argument is made that India should adopt UK law wholesale.
- Option C: The passage does not distinguish ride-hailing as more exploitative than other gig categories.
- Option D: International rulings do not have direct binding effect on Indian law.

Final Answer: Cited to illustrate global legal momentum towards reclassifying gig workers away from contractor status $\Rightarrow \boxed{B}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q37

Q38.

Solution

Concept — Accurate Recall of Passage Detail: "According to the passage" questions test whether the reader has accurately extracted what is stated without over- or under-stating it.

Step 1 — Find the relevant text: "the Code on Social Security 2020 took a notable step by explicitly recognising gig and platform workers as a distinct category and mandating that... governments frame social security schemes... though implementation has been slow and the specific benefits remain undefined."

Step 2 — Match to option: Option C accurately reflects this: recognition + government mandate to frame schemes + slow/incomplete implementation.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Code did not immediately provide PF and ESI benefits.
- Option B: The Code did not order reclassification of workers as formal employees.
- Option D: The Code did not explicitly prohibit the independent contractor classification.

Final Answer: Code recognised gig workers, mandated social security schemes, but implementation remains slow $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q38

Q39.

Solution

Concept — Identifying a Counterargument: The platform companies' counterargument is explicitly stated in the passage and should be identified precisely.

Step 1 — Find the relevant text: "Platform companies counter that the defining characteristic of gig work is flexibility, and that many of their workers prefer the autonomy of self-employment over the constraints of formal employment."

Step 2 — Match to option: Option D restates this — the flexibility and autonomy workers actively choose is the platform companies' central defence.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Economic unviability is a real concern but is not the stated counterargument in this passage.

- Option B: Income comparisons are not the platform companies' stated argument here.
- Option C: Trade agreement violation is not referenced in the passage.

Final Answer: Gig work is defined by flexibility and autonomy that workers actively choose over formal employment $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q39

Q40.

Solution

Concept — Author Attitude in Argumentative Passages: Attitude is revealed through the balance of the argument, word choices, and the final emphasis.

Step 1 — Identify evaluative language: The passage notes gig workers "lack social security," that algorithmic management "effectively eliminates the autonomy that platform companies claim to offer" — this is sympathetically critical.

Step 2 — Match to option: Option A — sympathetically critical, acknowledging workers' vulnerability while noting that platforms' autonomy argument is increasingly challenged — is most accurate.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The author explicitly challenges the platform companies' flexibility argument.
- Option C: The author clearly identifies workers' vulnerability as a real concern.
- Option D: The passage contains clear evaluative stances and is not purely neutral.

Final Answer: Sympathetically critical — acknowledging vulnerability while challenging the autonomy argument $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q40

Q41.

Solution

Concept — Successive Percentage Changes (Profit & Loss): When a discount is applied to a marked price above cost, the net effect is calculated by combining both percentage changes multiplicatively.

Step 1 — Set up: Let cost price (CP) = Rs. 100. Marked price (MP) = CP × 1.40 = Rs. 140.

Step 2 — Apply discount: Selling price (SP) = MP × 0.80 = 140 × 0.80 = Rs. 112.

Step 3 — Calculate profit %: Profit = SP − CP = 112 − 100 = Rs. 12. Profit % = $\frac{12}{100} \times 100 = 12\%$.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (8%): Incorrect calculation; perhaps using 40% − 20% − 12% error.
- Option B (10%): Underestimates the combined effect.
- Option D (15%): Overestimates; no combination gives 15% here.

Final Answer: Profit percentage = 12% ⇒ $\boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q41

Q42.

Solution

Concept — Mixture and Alligation: When water is added to a mixture, the milk content stays constant while total volume increases.

Step 1 — Find initial quantities: Total = 80 L, ratio = 3:1. Milk = $\frac{3}{4} \times 80 = 60$ L. Water = $\frac{1}{4} \times 80 = 20$ L.

Step 2 — Set up equation: Let x litres of water be added. For ratio 1:1, milk = water. $60 = 20 + x$, so $x = 40$ L.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (20 L): $60/(20 + 20) = 60/40 = 3 : 2$, not 1:1.
- Option B (25 L): $60/45 \neq 1 : 1$.
- Option C (30 L): $60/50 = 6 : 5 \neq 1 : 1$.

Final Answer: 40 litres of water must be added ⇒ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q42

Q43.

Solution

Concept — Simple Interest Formula: SI $= \dfrac{P \times R \times T}{100}$, where P = principal, R = rate per annum, T = time in years.

Step 1 — Substitute values: $P = 12{,}000$, $R = 6.5$, $T = 2$.

Step 2 — Calculate: SI $= \dfrac{12000 \times 6.5 \times 2}{100} = \dfrac{156000}{100} =$ Rs. $1{,}560$.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (Rs.1480): Corresponds to a rate of approximately 6.17%, not 6.5%.
- Option C (Rs.1620): Corresponds to a rate of 6.75%.
- Option D (Rs.1200): Corresponds to only 5% rate.

Final Answer: Simple Interest = Rs. 1,560 $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q43

Q44.

Solution

Concept — Pipes and Cisterns (Combined Rate): When two pipes fill simultaneously, their combined rate is the sum of individual rates, and total time = $\dfrac{1}{\text{combined rate}}$.

Step 1 — Find individual rates: Rate of A $= \dfrac{1}{12}$ tank/hr. Rate of B $= \dfrac{1}{18}$ tank/hr.

Step 2 — Combined rate: $\dfrac{1}{12} + \dfrac{1}{18} = \dfrac{3}{36} + \dfrac{2}{36} = \dfrac{5}{36}$ tank/hr.

Step 3 — Time to fill: $T = \dfrac{36}{5} = 7.2$ hours.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (6h): Would require a combined rate of 1/6, which is higher than actual.
- Option C (8h): Incorrect; arithmetic mean of 12 and 18 is 15, and harmonic mean gives 7.2.

- Option D (9h): Too slow; both pipes together always fill faster than either alone.

Final Answer: Tank fills in 7.2 hours $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q44

Q45.

Solution

Concept — Trains Crossing Platforms: Total distance = length of train + length of platform. Speed must be converted from km/h to m/s.

Step 1 — Convert speed: $54 \text{ km/h} = 54 \times \dfrac{5}{18} = 15 \text{ m/s}$.

Step 2 — Total distance: $120 + 180 = 300$ m.

Step 3 — Time: $t = \dfrac{300}{15} = 20$ seconds.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (15s): Uses only the train length (120/15 = 8s is wrong too); 225/15 = 15 uses wrong distance.
- Option B (18s): Uses 270 m total, which is incorrect.
- Option D (24s): Uses 360 m, which is the wrong total distance.

Final Answer: The crossing takes 20 seconds $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q45

Q46.

Solution

Concept — Marked Price, Discount, and Profit: Selling price must satisfy both the profit requirement and the discount condition. Work backwards from the desired SP.

Step 1 — Find required SP: SP = CP × (1 + profit%) = 450 × 1.25 = Rs. 562.50.

Step 2 — Find MP from discount: SP = MP × (1 − discount%) ⇒ 562.50 = MP × 0.90. Therefore MP = $\dfrac{562.50}{0.90}$ = Rs. 625.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Rs.580): SP after 10% off = 522, profit = 16%, not 25%.

- Option B (Rs.600): SP after 10% off = 540, profit = 20%, not 25%.
- Option C (Rs.610): SP after 10% off = 549, profit = 22%, not 25%.

Final Answer: Marked price = Rs. 625 ⇒ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q46

Q47.

Solution

Concept — Reading Bar Charts and Percentage Calculations: Read the bar values from the chart, sum them for the total, and compute the required percentage.

Step 1 — Read bar values: Jan = 120, Feb = 150, Mar = 100, Apr = 130.

Step 2 — Calculate total: $120 + 150 + 100 + 130 = 500$.

Step 3 — February percentage: $\dfrac{150}{500} \times 100 = 30\%$.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (24%): Would require Feb = 120; that is Jan's value.
- Option C (20%): Would require Feb = 100; that is Mar's value.
- Option D (26%): Would require Feb = 130; that is Apr's value.

Final Answer: February accounts for 30% of total four-month sales ⇒ $\boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q47

Q48.

Solution

Concept — Pythagoras Theorem: In a right-angled triangle, the square of the hypotenuse equals the sum of squares of the other two sides: $PR^2 = PQ^2 + QR^2$.

Step 1 — Identify the sides: Right angle at Q. Legs: $PQ = 8$ cm, $QR = 6$ cm. Hypotenuse: $PR = ?$

Step 2 — Apply Pythagoras: $PR^2 = 8^2 + 6^2 = 64 + 36 = 100$. Therefore $PR = \sqrt{100} = 10$ cm.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (9 cm): $9^2 = 81 \neq 100$.
- Option C (11 cm): $11^2 = 121 \neq 100$.

- Option D (12 cm): $12^2 = 144 \neq 100$.

Final Answer: Hypotenuse $PR = 10$ cm $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q48

Q49.

Solution

Concept — Least Common Multiple (LCM) using Prime Factorisation: LCM = product of highest powers of all prime factors present in any of the numbers.

Step 1 — Prime factorise each number: $12 = 2^2 \times 3$. $18 = 2 \times 3^2$. $24 = 2^3 \times 3$.

Step 2 — Take highest powers: Highest power of 2: $2^3 = 8$. Highest power of 3: $3^2 = 9$.

Step 3 — LCM: $8 \times 9 = 72$.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (36): $36 = 2^2 \times 3^2$. Not divisible by 24 ($24 \nmid 36$).
- Option B (48): $48 = 2^4 \times 3$. Not divisible by 18 ($18 \nmid 48$).
- Option D (144): Common multiple but not the *least*; LCM = 72 divides 144.

Final Answer: LCM of 12, 18, and 24 = 72 $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q49

Q50.

Solution

Concept — Algebraic Identity: Difference of Squares: $a^2 - b^2 = (a+b)(a-b)$. We need $a+b$ and $a-b$.

Step 1 — Given: $a + b = 36$, $ab = 323$.

Step 2 — Find $a - b$: $(a-b)^2 = (a+b)^2 - 4ab = 36^2 - 4(323) = 1296 - 1292 = 4$. So $a - b = 2$.

Step 3 — Calculate difference of squares: $a^2 - b^2 = (a+b)(a-b) = 36 \times 2 = 72$.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (36): This equals $a + b$, not $a^2 - b^2$.

- Option B (54): Incorrect; uses wrong value of $a - b$.
- Option C (64): Incorrect calculation.

Final Answer: $a^2 - b^2 = 72 \Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q50

Q51.

Solution

Concept — Compound Interest: Finding Principal: CI $= P\left[\left(1 + \frac{R}{100}\right)^T - 1\right]$. Rearrange to find P when CI is given.

Step 1 — Set up equation: $2100 = P\left[(1.10)^2 - 1\right] = P[1.21 - 1] = 0.21P$.

Step 2 — Solve for P: $P = \frac{2100}{0.21} =$ Rs. $10{,}000$.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (Rs.9500): CI = $9500 \times 0.21 = 1995 \neq 2100$.
- Option C (Rs.12000): CI = $12000 \times 0.21 = 2520 \neq 2100$.
- Option D (Rs.8000): CI = $8000 \times 0.21 = 1680 \neq 2100$.

Final Answer: Principal = Rs. 10,000 $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q51

Q52.

Solution

Concept — Age Ratio Problems: Set up simultaneous equations using the two given ratios and solve for the unknown.

Step 1 — Define variables: Let present ages of A and B be $3x$ and $5x$ respectively.

Step 2 — Set up equation for 4 years ago: $\frac{3x-4}{5x-4} = \frac{1}{2}$. Cross multiply: $2(3x - 4) = 5x - 4 \Rightarrow 6x - 8 = 5x - 4 \Rightarrow x = 4$.

Step 3 — Find B's present age: $B = 5x = 5 \times 4 = 20$ years.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (15): Would give $x = 3$; check: ratio 4 years ago = 5:11, not 1:2.

- Option C (25): Would give $x = 5$; check: ratio 4 years ago = 11:21, not 1:2.
- Option D (30): Would give $x = 6$; check: ratio 4 years ago = 14:26 = 7:13, not 1:2.

Final Answer: B's present age = 20 years $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q52

Q53.

Solution

Concept — Correcting Averages: When individual marks are corrected, the total sum changes by the net difference, and the new average is recalculated.

Step 1 — Original total: $30 \times 65 = 1950$.

Step 2 — Net gain from corrections: $(62 - 52) + (58 - 48) = 10 + 10 = 20$.

Step 3 — New total and average: New total $= 1950 + 20 = 1970$. New average $= \dfrac{1970}{30} = 65.\overline{6} \approx 65.67$.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (65.33): Net gain of only 10 would give $1960/30 = 65.33$.
- Option B (65.50): Net gain of 15 would give $1965/30 = 65.50$.
- Option D (66.00): Net gain of 30 would give $1980/30 = 66.00$.

Final Answer: New average = 65.67 $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q53

Q54.

Solution

Concept — Inscribed Square in a Circle: The diagonal of the inscribed square equals the diameter of the circle. For a square with diagonal d, side $= \dfrac{d}{\sqrt{2}}$ and area $= \dfrac{d^2}{2}$.

Step 1 — Find diagonal: Diagonal $= 2r = 2 \times 7 = 14$ cm.

Step 2 — Find side: Side $= \dfrac{14}{\sqrt{2}} = 7\sqrt{2}$ cm.

Step 3 — Find area: Area $= (7\sqrt{2})^2 = 49 \times 2 = 98$ sq cm. Alternatively: Area

$$= \frac{d^2}{2} = \frac{196}{2} = 98 \text{ sq cm.}$$

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (196): This is the area of a square with side 14 (the diameter), not the inscribed square.
- Option B (147): Incorrect; $= 3 \times 49$, no geometric basis.
- Option C (100): Side would need to be 10; but the inscribed square's side is $7\sqrt{2} \approx 9.9$ cm, giving area 98, not 100.

Final Answer: Area of inscribed square = 98 sq cm $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q54

Q55.

Solution

Concept — Relative Speed and Meeting Point: When two objects move towards each other, their combined speed determines the meeting time. Distance from the starting point = own speed × meeting time.

Step 1 — Combined speed: $60 + 40 = 100$ km/h.

Step 2 — Time to meet: $t = \frac{300}{100} = 3$ hours.

Step 3 — Distance from city X: Car A travels $60 \times 3 = 180$ km from city X.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (150 km): Midpoint — only valid if both cars had equal speeds.
- Option C (200 km): Would require Car A to travel for $200/60 \approx 3.33$ hrs, but they meet in 3 hrs.
- Option D (120 km): Would be Car B's distance from city Y (Car B travels $40 \times 3 = 120$ km).

Final Answer: Cars meet 180 km from city X $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q55

Q56.

Solution

Concept — Modular Arithmetic (Remainder): Use the fact that $7 \equiv 1 \pmod 6$. Any power of 7 is therefore congruent to 1 modulo 6.

Step 1 — Find $7^{20} \bmod 6$: Since $7 \equiv 1 \pmod 6$, we have $7^{20} \equiv 1^{20} = 1 \pmod 6$.

Step 2 — Find $(7^{20} + 1) \bmod 6$: $7^{20} + 1 \equiv 1 + 1 = 2 \pmod 6$.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (0): Would require $7^{20} + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod 6$, i.e., $7^{20} \equiv 5 \pmod 6$. But $7 \equiv 1 \pmod 6$.
- Option C (3): $7^{20} + 1$ is even (odd + 1 = even), so remainder when divided by 6 cannot be 3.
- Option D (5): $7^{20} \equiv 1$, so $7^{20} + 1 \equiv 2$, not 5.

Final Answer: Remainder = 2 ⇒ $\boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q56

Q57.

Solution

Concept — Partnership and Profit Sharing: In a partnership, profit is shared in proportion to capital $\times$ time invested.

Step 1 — Calculate profit weights: A: $25{,}000 \times 8 = 2{,}00{,}000$. B: $30{,}000 \times 6 = 1{,}80{,}000$.

Step 2 — Find ratio: $A : B = 2{,}00{,}000 : 1{,}80{,}000 = 200 : 180 = 10 : 9$.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (3:2): Would require weights of 3 and 2, which does not match the calculation.
- Option B (4:3): Would require 4:3 ratio; 200:180 simplifies to 10:9, not 4:3.
- Option D (5:4): 5:4 = 225:180, which is not what we calculated.

Final Answer: Profit ratio A : B = 10 : 9 ⇒ $\boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q57

Q58.

Solution

Concept — Reading Pie Charts and Percentage of Total: The R&D sector occupies 16% of the pie chart. Apply this percentage to the total revenue to find the absolute amount.

Step 1 — Identify R&D percentage: From the pie chart, R&D = 16% of total revenue.

Step 2 — Calculate R&D spend: R&D amount = $\frac{16}{100} \times 75 = 12$ lakhs.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Rs.10 lakhs): $10/75 = 13.3\%$, not 16%.
- Option B (Rs.14 lakhs): $14/75 = 18.7\%$, not 16%.
- Option C (Rs.16 lakhs): $16/75 = 21.3\%$, not 16%.

Final Answer: R&D spend = Rs. 12 lakhs $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q58

Q59.

Solution

Concept — Complementary Probability: P(not white) = 1 − P(white), or equivalently, count non-white balls divided by total balls.

Step 1 — Count balls: Red = 4, Blue = 5, White = 3. Total = 12. Non-white = $4 + 5 = 9$.

Step 2 — Calculate probability: $P(\text{not white}) = \frac{9}{12} = \frac{3}{4}$.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (1/4): This is $P(\text{white}) = 3/12$, not P(not white).
- Option C (2/3): Would require 8 non-white balls out of 12.
- Option D (5/12): This is $P(\text{blue}) = 5/12$, not P(not white).

Final Answer: Probability (not white) = $\frac{3}{4} \Rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q59

Q60.

Solution

Concept — Composite Area (Rectangle + Semicircle): Total area = area of rectangle + area of semicircle with radius = half the length of the longer side.

Step 1 — Rectangle area: $12 \times 8 = 96$ sq cm.

Step 2 — Semicircle area: Radius = $12/2 = 6$ cm. Area = $\frac{\pi r^2}{2} = \frac{3.14 \times 36}{2} = \frac{113.04}{2} = 56.52$ sq cm.

Step 3 — Total area: $96 + 56.52 \approx 152.52 \approx 152.5$ sq cm.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (144.5): Uses $r = 5.5$ cm (wrong radius) or $\pi \approx 3.0$.
- Option C (160.0): Overestimates; perhaps uses $\pi = 3.5$ or wrong radius.
- Option D (168.0): Significantly overestimates the semicircle area.

Final Answer: Total area ≈ 152.5 sq cm ⇒ $\boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q60

Q61.

Solution

Concept — Data Sufficiency: Neither Statement Sufficient (D): For a DS question to have answer D, both statements individually and together must fail to uniquely answer the question.

Step 1 — Analyse Statement I (n is even): Even numbers include both perfect squares (4, 16, 36. . .) and non-perfect squares (2, 6, 8. . .). Not sufficient.

Step 2 — Analyse Statement II (n divisible by 4): Divisible by 4 includes perfect squares (4, 16, 36, 64. . .) and non-perfect squares (12, 20, 28. . .). Not sufficient.

Step 3 — Together: Even AND divisible by 4 still includes both: 36 (perfect square) and 12 (not a perfect square). Together insufficient.

Final Answer: Neither statement alone nor together is sufficient ⇒ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q61

Q62.

Solution

Concept — Data Sufficiency: Statement I Alone Sufficient (A): Statement I gives a unique answer; Statement II gives multiple possible answers.

Step 1 — Analyse Statement I (n is the only even prime): There is exactly one even prime number: $n = 2$. This uniquely determines n. Sufficient.

Step 2 — Analyse Statement II (n is a multiple of 3): Multiples of 3: 3, 6, 9, 12. . . — infinitely many values. Not sufficient.

Step 3 — Conclusion: Statement I alone is sufficient; Statement II alone is not.

Final Answer: Statement I alone is sufficient $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q62

Q63.

Solution

Concept — Data Sufficiency: Statement II Alone Sufficient (B): The question asks for the value of $p + q$. Statement II directly states it; Statement I does not.

Step 1 — Analyse Statement I ($p - q = 8$): This tells us the difference, not the sum. For example, $p = 15, q = 7$ gives sum 22; $p = 20, q = 12$ gives sum 32. Many sums are possible. Not sufficient.

Step 2 — Analyse Statement II ($p + q = 22$): The answer to the question is explicitly provided: $p + q = 22$. Sufficient.

Step 3 — Conclusion: Statement II alone is sufficient; Statement I alone is not.

Final Answer: Statement II alone is sufficient $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q63

Q64.

Solution

Concept — Data Sufficiency: Both Together Sufficient (C): Neither statement alone gives $a + b$, but combining them using the algebraic identity $a^2 - b^2 = (a + b)(a - b)$ does.

Step 1 — Analyse Statement I ($a - b = 5$): Gives the difference. For example: $a = 8, b = 3$ gives sum 11; $a = 10, b = 5$ gives sum 15. Multiple sums possible. Not sufficient alone.

Step 2 — Analyse Statement II ($a^2 - b^2 = 35$): $a^2 - b^2 = (a+b)(a-b) = 35$. Without knowing $a - b$, we can't determine $a + b$ uniquely. Not sufficient alone.

Step 3 — Together: $(a+b) \times 5 = 35$, so $a + b = 7$. Sufficient together.

Final Answer: Both statements together are sufficient, neither alone is $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q64

Q65.

Solution

Concept — Data Sufficiency: Insufficient Even Together (D): Two statements are insufficient together when they provide no definite numerical link between the unknown and the given information.

Step 1 — Analyse Statement I (Rajan is older than Seema): Gives a relative ordering but no numerical age. Not sufficient.

Step 2 — Analyse Statement II (Seema is 12 years old): Gives Seema's exact age but says nothing about Rajan's age numerically. Not sufficient.

Step 3 — Together: We know Rajan is older than 12, but his exact age could be 13, 25, 40 — any value > 12. Together insufficient.

Final Answer: Statements I and II together are not sufficient $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q65

Q66.

Solution

Concept — Data Sufficiency: Statement I Alone Sufficient (A): Statement I gives a unique positive single-digit answer; Statement II narrows to multiple possibilities.

Step 1 — Analyse Statement I ($x^2 = 49$): $x = 7$ (since x is a positive single-digit number, we take the positive root). This gives a unique answer. Sufficient.

Step 2 — Analyse Statement II (x is odd): Odd single-digit positive integers: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 — five possible values. Not sufficient.

Step 3 — Conclusion: Statement I alone determines $x = 7$ uniquely.

Final Answer: Statement I alone is sufficient $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q66

Q67.

Solution

Concept — Data Sufficiency: Statement II Alone Sufficient (B): To find a ratio, we need a proportional relationship, not a sum.

Step 1 — Analyse Statement I ($a + b = 48$): The sum alone does not determine the ratio. For example, $a = 24, b = 24$ gives ratio 1:1; $a = 36, b = 12$ gives ratio 3:1. Many ratios possible. Not sufficient.

Step 2 — Analyse Statement II ($a = 3b$): Directly gives the proportional relationship: $a : b = 3 : 1$. Sufficient.

Step 3 — Conclusion: Statement II alone gives the ratio directly.

Final Answer: Statement II alone is sufficient $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q67

Q68.

Solution

Concept — Data Sufficiency: Both Together Sufficient (C): Two simultaneous linear equations in two unknowns have a unique solution, enabling calculation of the product xy.

Step 1 — Analyse Statement I ($x + y = 10$): Without the other equation, x and y can be any pair summing to 10 (e.g., 3 and 7, or 4 and 6), giving different products. Not sufficient.

Step 2 — Analyse Statement II ($x - y = 4$): Similarly, x and y can be any pair with difference 4. Not sufficient.

Step 3 — Together: Adding: $2x = 14$, so $x = 7$. Then $y = 3$. Therefore $xy = 21$. Sufficient.

Final Answer: Both statements together are sufficient $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q68

Q69.

Solution

Concept — Data Sufficiency: Insufficient Even Together (D): To know how many students scored above 80, we need the full score distribution, not just the class size and average.

Step 1 — Analyse Statement I (class has 40 students): Size alone tells us nothing about the distribution of scores. Not sufficient.

Step 2 — Analyse Statement II (average score = 72): The average could result from many different distributions — some with many students above 80, some with none. Not sufficient.

Step 3 — Together: Even knowing there are 40 students with an average of 72, the actual distribution above 80 is unknown without more data. Together insufficient.

Final Answer: Statements I and II together are not sufficient $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q69

Q70.

Solution

Concept — Data Sufficiency: Statement I Alone Sufficient (A): A specific value of n uniquely determines n^2; knowing only that n is negative does not.

Step 1 — Analyse Statement I ($n = -7$): $n^2 = (-7)^2 = 49$. The question is answered uniquely. Sufficient.

Step 2 — Analyse Statement II (n is a negative integer): n could be $-1, -2, -3, \ldots$ — infinitely many values, each giving a different n^2. Not sufficient.

Step 3 — Conclusion: Statement I alone is sufficient.

Final Answer: Statement I alone is sufficient $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q70

Q71.

Solution

Concept — Data Sufficiency: Statement II Alone Sufficient (B): Speed requires both distance and time. Statement I gives only distance; Statement II gives both.

Step 1 — Analyse Statement I (train travels 450 km): Distance alone without time cannot determine speed. Not sufficient.

Step 2 — Analyse Statement II (450 km in 5 hours): Speed $= \dfrac{450}{5} = 90$ km/h. Answer is uniquely determined. Sufficient.

Step 3 — Conclusion: Statement II alone provides both distance and time, giving a unique speed.

Final Answer: Statement II alone is sufficient $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q71

Q72.

Solution

Concept — Data Sufficiency: Both Together Sufficient (C): Two simultaneous equations in two unknowns are needed to uniquely determine each variable.

Step 1 — Analyse Statement I ($2m+3n = 24$): One equation with two unknowns — infinitely many solutions. Not sufficient.

Step 2 — Analyse Statement II ($m - n = 3$): One equation with two unknowns — infinitely many solutions. Not sufficient.

Step 3 — Together: From II: $m = n + 3$. Substitute into I: $2(n + 3) + 3n = 24 \Rightarrow 5n + 6 = 24 \Rightarrow n = 3.6$, $m = 6.6$. Unique solution. Sufficient.

Final Answer: Both statements together are sufficient $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q72

Q73.

Solution

Concept — Data Sufficiency: Insufficient Even Together (D): When statements provide only ranges or inequalities, they cannot pin down a unique value of the unknown.

Step 1 — Analyse Statement I (20% of $N > 50$): This means $N > 250$. Many values satisfy this. Not sufficient.

Step 2 — Analyse Statement II (N is a positive integer < 500): N can be any integer from 1 to 499. Not sufficient.

Step 3 — Together: $250 < N < 500$. N is still a range (251 to 499), not a unique value. 30% of N is not uniquely determined. Together insufficient.

Final Answer: Statements I and II together are not sufficient $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q73

Q74.

Solution

Concept — Data Sufficiency: Statement I Alone Sufficient (A): A number is divisible by 6 if and only if it is divisible by both 2 and 3. Statement I directly confirms both conditions.

Step 1 — Analyse Statement I (k is divisible by both 2 and 3): Divisibility by 6 requires divisibility by 2 AND 3 (since $6 = 2 \times 3$ and $\gcd(2, 3) = 1$). Statement I confirms both. Therefore k is divisible by 6. Sufficient.

Step 2 — Analyse Statement II (k is even): Even means divisible by 2, but not necessarily by 3. For example, 20 is even but not divisible by 6; 18 is even and divisible by 6. Not sufficient.

Step 3 — Conclusion: Statement I alone is sufficient.

Final Answer: Statement I alone is sufficient $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q74

Q75.

Solution

Concept — Data Sufficiency: Statement II Alone Sufficient (B): The ratio p/q is a proportional relationship. A proportionality equation determines it directly; a sum equation does not.

Step 1 — Analyse Statement I ($p + q = 21$): Many pairs sum to 21 with different ratios: $(7, 14)$ gives $p/q = 1/2$; $(10.5, 10.5)$ gives $p/q = 1$. Not sufficient.

Step 2 — Analyse Statement II ($p = \frac{2}{3}q$): Directly gives $p/q = 2/3$. The ratio is uniquely determined. Sufficient.

Step 3 — Conclusion: Statement II alone provides the ratio directly.

Final Answer: Statement II alone is sufficient $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q75

Q76.

Solution

Concept — Data Sufficiency: Both Together Sufficient (C): Area = length $\times$ breadth. We need both dimensions. Each statement provides one equation involving l and b; together they give two equations.

Step 1 — Analyse Statement I (perimeter = 40 cm): $2(l + b) = 40$, so $l + b = 20$. One equation, two unknowns. Not sufficient for area.

Step 2 — Analyse Statement II ($l = b + 5$): One equation, two unknowns. Not sufficient alone.

Step 3 — Together: $l+b = 20$ and $l = b+5$. Substituting: $(b+5)+b = 20 \Rightarrow b = 7.5$, $l = 12.5$. Area = $12.5 \times 7.5 = 93.75$ sq cm. Sufficient.

Final Answer: Both statements together are sufficient $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q76

Q77.

Solution

Concept — Data Sufficiency: Insufficient Even Together (D): Profit = Selling Price − Cost Price. Without knowing the cost price, profit cannot be determined even if SP and overheads are known.

Step 1 — Analyse Statement I (SP = Rs.600): Profit requires CP. Without CP, profit is unknown. Not sufficient.

Step 2 — Analyse Statement II (overhead = 5% of SP): Overheads = 5% × 600 = Rs.30 (using I). But CP is still unknown. Not sufficient.

Step 3 — Together: We know SP = 600 and overheads = 30. However, the original cost price of the article is still not given. Profit cannot be calculated. Together insufficient.

Final Answer: Statements I and II together are not sufficient ⇒ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q77

Q78.

Solution

Concept — Data Sufficiency: Statement I Alone Sufficient (A): A logical age relationship can give a unique equation with one unknown.

Step 1 — Analyse Statement I (Priya is twice the age she was 10 years ago): Let present age $= x$. Then $x = 2(x - 10) \Rightarrow x = 2x - 20 \Rightarrow x = 20$. Unique solution. Sufficient.

Step 2 — Analyse Statement II (Priya is younger than 25): Any age < 25 is possible. Not sufficient.

Step 3 — Conclusion: Statement I alone yields the unique answer $x = 20$.

Final Answer: Statement I alone is sufficient ⇒ $\boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q78

Q79.

Solution

Concept — Data Sufficiency: Statement II Alone Sufficient (B): Circumference uniquely determines the radius, which uniquely determines the area.

Step 1 — Analyse Statement I (diameter > 10 cm): Gives a range, not a unique radius. Area is not uniquely determined. Not sufficient.

Step 2 — Analyse Statement II (circumference $= 28\pi$ cm): $2\pi r = 28\pi$, so $r = 14$ cm. Area $= \pi r^2 = 196\pi$ sq cm. Unique. Sufficient.

Step 3 — Conclusion: Statement II alone is sufficient.

Final Answer: Statement II alone is sufficient $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q79

Q80.

Solution

Concept — Data Sufficiency: Both Together Sufficient (C): Each statement constrains the set of possible values; combining them narrows to a unique value.

Step 1 — Analyse Statement I (z is a prime < 20): Primes less than 20: 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19. Eight possible values. Not sufficient.

Step 2 — Analyse Statement II (z is an odd number between 14 and 18): Odd integers strictly between 14 and 18: 15 and 17. Two possible values. Not sufficient.

Step 3 — Together: Intersection of $\{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19\}$ and $\{15, 17\} = \{17\}$. $z = 17$ uniquely. Sufficient.

Final Answer: Both statements together are sufficient $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q80

Q81.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary: Deferred vs. Similar Words: "Deferred" means postponed or delayed. "Differed" means disagreed. Context: the committee consulted stakeholders before acting, suggesting delay, not disagreement.

Step 1 — Analyse context: "After consulting all stakeholders" implies a deliberate pause before the decision — consistent with postponing (deferring) the decision.

Step 2 — Eliminate distractors:

- Option B (differed): Means disagreed — grammatically odd (differed *its* decision is not standard usage).
- Option C (inferred): Means concluded from evidence — wrong meaning entirely.
- Option D (conferred): Means consulted, but the sentence says the committee did the consulting, then made a decision.

Final Answer: "deferred" — the committee postponed its decision $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q81

Q82.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary: Perplexed vs. Similar Words: "Perplexed" means confused or puzzled. "Complexity" of regulations suggests the person was confused, not angry or joyful.

Step 1 — Analyse context: "Complexity of the new regulations" is cognitively challenging — it causes confusion, best captured by "perplexed."

Step 2 — Eliminate distractors:

- Option A (exasperated): Means frustrated/irritated — possible but less precise than perplexed for complexity.
- Option C (enraptured): Means delighted or enchanted — opposite in register.
- Option D (elated): Means overjoyed — clearly inappropriate.

Final Answer: "perplexed" — confused by the complexity of the regulations $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q82

Q83.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary: Adverbs Modifying Outcomes: "Remarkably" signals an outcome that exceeded expectations — consistent with "despite initial scepticism."

Step 1 — Analyse context: The phrase "despite initial scepticism" signals that the successful outcome was surprising or exceeded expectations. "Remarkably" expresses this contrast.

Step 2 — Eliminate distractors:

- Option A (marginally): A marginal success would not surprise sceptics or warrant the "despite" contrast.
- Option B (dubiously): Means questionably or dishonestly — contradicts the positive "successful."
- Option D (partially): A partial success is a qualified outcome, not what "despite scepticism" typically introduces.

Final Answer: "remarkably" — success that exceeded sceptical expectations $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q83

Q84.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary: Unequivocal vs. Similar Terms: "Unequivocal" means leaving no room for doubt or ambiguity. The sentence explicitly says "left little room for ambiguity," which is the definition of unequivocal.

Step 1 — Match definition to context: "Left little room for ambiguity" = clear and unambiguous = "unequivocal."

Step 2 — Eliminate distractors:

- Option A (verbose): Means wordy/long-winded — does not relate to clarity or lack of ambiguity.
- Option B (ambiguous): Literally the opposite of "leaving little room for ambiguity."
- Option C (incoherent): Means unclear or illogical — contradicts the intended meaning.

Final Answer: "unequivocal" — clear, leaving no room for ambiguity ⇒ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q84

Q85.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary: Adverbs Describing Change Magnitude: "Beating analyst estimates by a wide margin" indicates a large, notable increase, best captured by "sharply."

Step 1 — Analyse context: "Beating analyst estimates" implies profits increased beyond expectations — a notable, not modest, rise. "Sharply" connotes a steep, significant increase.

Step 2 — Eliminate distractors:

- Option B (vaguely): Means unclearly — not applicable to describing a profit rise.
- Option C (modestly): A modest rise typically does not "beat analyst estimates by a wide margin."
- Option D (erratically): Means irregularly — does not fit the context of beating estimates in a specific quarter.

Final Answer: "sharply" — profits rose steeply, beating analyst estimates ⇒ $\boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q85

Q86.

Solution

Concept — Subject-Verb Agreement: Collective nouns like "board of directors," "committee," and "team" take singular verbs in formal British English when acting as a unit.

Step 1 — Analyse Option B: "The board of directors **has** approved" — "board" is the subject (singular collective noun); "has" is correctly singular. Grammatically correct.

Step 2 — Identify errors in other options:

- Option A: "team of managers **are**" — collective noun should take singular verb "is."

- Option C: "Neither of the candidates **were**" — "neither" takes singular verb "was."
- Option D: "A group of investors **are**" — "group" as subject should take singular "is."

Final Answer: Option B has correct subject-verb agreement ⇒ $\boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q86

Q87.

Solution

Concept — Tense Consistency: In a sentence or passage, verb tenses must be logically consistent with the time relationship between events.

Step 1 — Analyse Option C: "The auditors confirmed that the accounts **had been** reconciled correctly before the submission deadline." Past perfect ("had been reconciled") correctly precedes simple past ("confirmed"). Grammatically correct.

Step 2 — Identify errors in other options:

- Option A: "was working. . . her manager **calls**" — mixes past continuous with present simple.
- Option B: "he arrived. . . presentation already **starts**" — should use "had already started."
- Option D: "will launch. . . after it **completed**" — should use "has completed" (present perfect after "after" in future context).

Final Answer: Option C maintains correct tense consistency ⇒ $\boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q87

Q88.

Solution

Concept — Misplaced Modifier (Dangling Participle): A participial phrase must logically refer to the subject of the main clause. If it refers to the wrong noun, the modifier is dangling.

Step 1 — Analyse Option D: "Having reviewed the data carefully, **the analyst** presented her conclusions." The subject of "having reviewed" is "the analyst" — correctly placed. Grammatically correct.

Step 2 — Identify errors in other options:

- Option A: "Running down the corridor, **the files** were dropped." Files cannot run — dangling modifier.
- Option B: "Having reviewed the report, **the errors** were corrected." Errors cannot review — dangling modifier.
- Option C: "Exhausted after a long journey, **the hotel lobby** was reached." Hotel lobby cannot be exhausted — dangling modifier.

Final Answer: Option D correctly places the participial modifier $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q88

Q89.

Solution

Concept — Correct Preposition Usage: Certain verbs and phrases require specific prepositions. "Look into" (investigate), "submitted *by/before* the deadline", "waiting *for*" the results, "insist on" (not "discuss about").

Step 1 — Analyse Option A: "The committee is looking **into** the matter to resolve the dispute." "Look into" correctly means to investigate. Grammatically correct.

Step 2 — Identify errors in other options:

- Option B: "submitted **on** the deadline of Monday" — standard usage is "submitted **by** the deadline" or "submitted **on** Monday." "On the deadline of" is non-standard.
- Option C: "waiting the results" — should be "waiting **for** the results."
- Option D: "discuss **about** the budget" — "discuss" does not take "about"; correct is "discuss the budget."

Final Answer: Option A uses the correct preposition $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q89

Q90.

Solution

Concept — Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement: A pronoun must agree in number with its antecedent (the noun it refers to).

Step 1 — Analyse Option B: "Neither the manager nor the team members were able to resolve the conflict on **their** own." When "neither. . . nor" joins a singular and a plural noun, the verb and pronoun agree with the nearer noun ("team members" — plural). "Their" correctly refers to the plural "team members." Grammatically correct.

Step 2 — Identify errors in other options:

- Option A: "Each of the employees must submit **their**" — "each" is singular; should be "his or her" (though "their" is increasingly accepted, in formal grammar it remains a mismatch).
- Option C: "company and its subsidiary **has**" and "merge **its** operations" — compound subject (A and B) requires "have" and "their."
- Option D: "Everyone. . . shared **their**" — "everyone" is singular; strict pronoun agreement requires "his or her."

Final Answer: Option B correctly handles pronoun-antecedent agreement ⇒ $\boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q90

Q91.

Solution

Concept — Synonyms: LOQUACIOUS: "Loquacious" derives from Latin *loqui* (to speak) and means tending to talk a great deal; garrulous.

Step 1 — Identify the meaning: Loquacious = excessively talkative.

Step 2 — Match to synonym: "Talkative" is the most direct synonym.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (reserved): Antonym — means quiet and restrained.
- Option B (boisterous): Means noisy and energetic, not specifically about talking too much.
- Option D (eloquent): Means articulate and persuasive — a quality of speech, not its quantity.

Final Answer: LOQUACIOUS = talkative ⇒ $\boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q91

Q92.

Solution

Concept — Synonyms: ACRIMONIOUS: "Acrimonious" describes speech or behaviour that is angry and bitter, especially in disputes.

Step 1 — Identify the meaning: Acrimonious = bitter and sharp-tempered, especially in disputes.

Step 2 — Match to synonym: "Bitter" is the closest synonym, capturing the sharp, resentful quality of acrimony.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (pleasant): Antonym — the opposite of acrimonious.
- Option B (sarcastic): Sarcasm involves irony; acrimony involves bitterness. Related but not synonymous.
- Option C (indifferent): Means unconcerned — opposite in emotional intensity.

Final Answer: ACRIMONIOUS = bitter $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q92

Q93.

Solution

Concept — Synonyms: PERFIDIOUS: "Perfidious" comes from Latin *perfidia* (bad faith) and means guilty of betrayal or deceit; treacherous.

Step 1 — Identify the meaning: Perfidious = deliberately faithless; betraying trust.

Step 2 — Match to synonym: "Treacherous" is the closest synonym — both mean betraying trust or being disloyal.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (virtuous): Antonym — means morally good and faithful.
- Option C (zealous): Means enthusiastically devoted — unrelated to betrayal.
- Option D (steadfast): Means loyal and unwavering — antonym of perfidious.

Final Answer: PERFIDIOUS = treacherous ⇒ $\boxed{A}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q93

Q94.

Solution

Concept — Synonyms: ONEROUS: "Onerous" derives from Latin *onus* (burden) and means involving heavy obligations or burdens; oppressively demanding.

Step 1 — Identify the meaning: Onerous = burdensome; involving great effort or difficulty.

Step 2 — Match to synonym: "Burdensome" is the direct synonym.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (light): Antonym — means easy, the opposite of burdensome.
- Option C (urgent): Urgency relates to time pressure, not to the heaviness of a task.
- Option D (optional): Means not required — unrelated to the weight or burden of a task.

Final Answer: ONEROUS = burdensome ⇒ $\boxed{B}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q94

Q95.

Solution

Concept — Synonyms: SANGUINE: "Sanguine" originally referred to the blood (Latin: *sanguis*) and in temperament theory meant cheerful and optimistic. In modern English, it means confidently optimistic.

Step 1 — Identify the meaning: Sanguine = optimistic, especially in difficult situations.

Step 2 — Match to synonym: "Optimistic" is the direct synonym.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (pessimistic): Antonym — the opposite of sanguine.
- Option B (anxious): Anxiety is the opposite of sanguine confidence.
- Option D (lethargic): Means sluggish and lacking energy — unrelated to

optimism.

Final Answer: SANGUINE = optimistic ⇒ $\boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q95

Q96.

Solution

Concept — Antonyms: FRUGAL: "Frugal" means careful with money and resources; economical. Its antonym is a word meaning the opposite: lavish or extravagant spending.

Step 1 — Identify the meaning: Frugal = economical, avoiding waste or extravagance.

Step 2 — Identify the antonym: "Extravagant" means spending much more than necessary; the direct opposite of frugal.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (stingy): Means excessively unwilling to spend — similar to frugal, not opposite.
- Option B (economical): Synonym of frugal, not an antonym.
- Option C (thrifty): Synonym of frugal, not an antonym.

Final Answer: Antonym of FRUGAL = extravagant ⇒ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q96

Q97.

Solution

Concept — Antonyms: OBSTINATE: "Obstinate" means stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or course of action. Its antonym relates to willingness to change.

Step 1 — Identify the meaning: Obstinate = stubbornly fixed; unwilling to change.

Step 2 — Identify the antonym: "Flexible" means willing to change, adapt, or compromise — the direct opposite of obstinate.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (stubborn): Synonym of obstinate, not an antonym.
- Option C (tenacious): Means persistent and determined — closer to a synonym than antonym.
- Option D (resolute): Means firmly determined — also a partial synonym.

Final Answer: Antonym of OBSTINATE = flexible ⇒ $\boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q97

Q98.

Solution

Concept — Antonyms: VERBOSE: "Verbose" means using more words than necessary; long-winded. Its antonym relates to brevity.

Step 1 — Identify the meaning: Verbose = excessively wordy; using too many words.

Step 2 — Identify the antonym: "Concise" means expressing much in few words; brief and clear — the direct opposite of verbose.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (eloquent): Means articulate and persuasive — a quality of expression, not its opposite in terms of length.
- Option C (articulate): Means expressing oneself clearly — related but not the direct antonym of wordy.
- Option D (garrulous): Means excessively talkative — synonym of verbose, not antonym.

Final Answer: Antonym of VERBOSE = concise ⇒ $\boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q98

Q99.

Solution

Concept — Antonyms: TRANSIENT: "Transient" means lasting only for a short time; impermanent. Its antonym relates to permanence or durability.

Step 1 — Identify the meaning: Transient = temporary; short-lived; passing.

Step 2 — Identify the antonym: "Permanent" means lasting indefinitely; the direct opposite of transient.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (fleeting): Synonym of transient — means passing very quickly.
- Option B (brief): Synonym of transient — means of short duration.
- Option D (momentary): Synonym of transient — means lasting only a moment.

Final Answer: Antonym of TRANSIENT = permanent ⇒ $\boxed{C}$

$\boxed{\text{Answer: (C)}}$ Go Back to Q99

Q100.

Solution

Concept — Antonyms: PLACID: "Placid" means not easily upset or excited; calm and peaceful. Its antonym describes a state of agitation or disturbance.

Step 1 — Identify the meaning: Placid = calm; peaceful; undisturbed.

Step 2 — Identify the antonym: "Turbulent" means characterised by conflict, disorder, or confusion; the direct opposite of placid.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (serene): Synonym of placid — means calm and peaceful.
- Option B (calm): Synonym of placid — the very definition of placid.
- Option C (tranquil): Synonym of placid — means free from disturbance.

Final Answer: Antonym of PLACID = turbulent ⇒ $\boxed{D}$

$\boxed{\text{Answer: (D)}}$ Go Back to Q100

Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	A	2	B	3	C	4	D	5	A
6	B	7	C	8	D	9	A	10	B
11	C	12	D	13	A	14	B	15	C
16	D	17	A	18	B	19	C	20	D
21	B	22	C	23	D	24	A	25	B
26	C	27	D	28	A	29	B	30	C
31	D	32	A	33	B	34	C	35	D
36	A	37	B	38	C	39	D	40	A
41	C	42	D	43	A	44	B	45	C
46	D	47	A	48	B	49	C	50	D
51	A	52	B	53	C	54	D	55	A
56	B	57	C	58	D	59	A	60	B
61	D	62	A	63	B	64	C	65	D
66	A	67	B	68	C	69	D	70	A
71	B	72	C	73	D	74	A	75	B
76	C	77	D	78	A	79	B	80	C
81	A	82	B	83	C	84	D	85	A
86	B	87	C	88	D	89	A	90	B
91	C	92	D	93	A	94	B	95	C
96	D	97	A	98	B	99	C	100	D