

# MAHCET Verbal Ability & RC

## Sample Paper – 7

Duration: 38 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 50

### Instructions

- This paper contains **50** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer), modelled on the Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension section of **MAH MBA CET**.
- Each correct answer carries **+1 mark**. There is **no negative marking** for incorrect or unattempted answers.
- Only **one** option is correct. Choose carefully.
- Syllabus level: **Graduate-level English proficiency — Vocabulary, Grammar, Reading Comprehension, and Verbal Reasoning.**
- Use of mobile phones, calculators, or electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited.



**Reading Comprehension — Passage 1 (Questions 1–5)**

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)—cardiovascular ailments, diabetes, cancer, and chronic respiratory conditions—now account for approximately 60 per cent of India's total disease burden, a dramatic shift from the infectious disease profile that dominated just three decades ago. The epidemiological transition has been driven by a convergence of risk factors: rising tobacco consumption, increasing intake of ultra-processed foods, physically sedentary urban lifestyles, and the chronic psychological stress associated with rapid urbanisation. These behavioural and environmental determinants interact with genetic predispositions to make large segments of the population vulnerable at relatively young ages, imposing not only a humanitarian cost but also a significant drag on economic productivity.

India's policy response has centred on the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke (NPCDCS), which seeks to integrate NCD screening and early detection into the existing primary healthcare architecture. While the programme has expanded population-level awareness and established NCD clinics at district and sub-district levels, implementation remains uneven—better resourced in urban settings than in rural ones. A persistent structural tension underlies public health spending: the government's allocation continues to favour tertiary, curative care over primary, preventive interventions, even though epidemiological evidence consistently demonstrates that prevention yields superior long-term returns. Bridging this gap requires a concerted shift. Health literacy campaigns that empower communities to understand risk factors, modify diets, and adopt physically active routines are as essential as expanding diagnostic infrastructure. Taxation of tobacco and sugar-laden beverages, stricter regulation of food advertising directed at children, and mandatory nutritional labelling can reduce the incidence of risk behaviours upstream, before costly clinical interventions become necessary. Without a decisive reorientation of resources and political will toward prevention, India risks locking itself into an escalating cycle of treatment expenditure that neither the public exchequer nor individual households can sustainably bear.

**Q1.** Which of the following best captures the central argument of the passage?

- (A) The NPCDCS has successfully reduced the incidence of cardiovascular diseases across rural India.
- (B) India's disease burden has remained static over the past three decades due to ineffective policy.



- (C) Genetic predisposition is the primary driver of the NCD epidemic in India.
- (D) Non-communicable diseases now dominate India's disease burden, necessitating a fundamental policy shift toward prevention-first strategies.

**Q2.** According to the passage, which combination of factors contributes to India's rising NCD burden?

- (A) Infectious disease spillovers, genetic mutations, and declining vaccination rates.
- (B) Tobacco use, ultra-processed food intake, sedentary lifestyles, and urban stress.
- (C) Inadequate tertiary care infrastructure and shortage of trained oncologists.
- (D) Poor sanitation, polluted water sources, and high rates of malnutrition.

**Q3.** As used in the passage, the phrase “**epidemiological transition**” most nearly means:

- (A) A shift in the pattern of diseases prevalent in a population over time.
- (B) The government's formal transfer of healthcare responsibilities to state authorities.
- (C) An increase in the number of hospitals equipped to treat chronic conditions.



(D) The migration of rural populations to urban centres in search of medical care.

**Q4.** The author implies that investing in preventive healthcare is superior to curative care primarily because:

(A) Tertiary care hospitals are geographically inaccessible to most of India's population.

(B) Most NCDs are caused by genetic factors that curative medicine cannot address.

(C) Intervening before diseases develop is more cost-effective over the long term than treating advanced conditions.

(D) The NPCDCS has already achieved universal coverage of curative NCD services.

**Q5.** The tone of the passage can best be described as:

(A) Complacent and self-congratulatory about India's health-care achievements.

(B) Urgent and reform-oriented, pressing for a decisive reallocation of health resources.

(C) Detached and purely academic, presenting statistics without normative conclusions.

(D) Pessimistic and fatalistic, suggesting that India's NCD crisis is beyond remedy.



**Reading Comprehension — Passage 2 (Questions 6–10)**

India is home to approximately 120 major languages and more than 1,600 dialects, making it one of the most linguistically diverse nations on the planet. The Constitution of India recognises 22 languages in its Eighth Schedule—a list that has grown incrementally through political advocacy—while hundreds of others remain outside formal institutional protection. This remarkable plurality is not merely an anthropological curiosity; it encodes millennia of local knowledge systems, oral literatures, and cultural identities that would be irretrievably lost if the languages that carry them fall silent.

The threat is real. UNESCO's Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger places dozens of Indian languages on its endangered list, citing dwindling speaker communities and the absence of intergenerational transmission. Younger generations, drawn by economic incentives and the prestige associated with English and major regional languages, increasingly abandon mother tongues in favour of languages with greater market utility. Community-led documentation projects—recording oral traditions, vocabulary, and grammatical structures—alongside digital archives and university-affiliated field programmes, represent front-line efforts against this attrition. These initiatives, however, remain chronically under-funded and heavily dependent on the dedication of individual scholars rather than sustained institutional commitment.

The tension between English-medium instruction, which opens doors to professional mobility, and mother-tongue education, which nurtures cognitive development and cultural continuity, sits at the heart of language policy debates. Advocates of multilingual education argue that children learn best in a familiar linguistic environment, and that early literacy in the mother tongue provides a scaffold for acquiring additional languages. Critics counter that prioritising regional languages risks disadvantaging students in a globalised economy. Resolving this tension demands not a binary choice but a thoughtfully sequenced multilingual pedagogy that treats linguistic diversity as a national asset rather than an administrative inconvenience.

**Q6.** Which of the following best states the main idea of the passage?

- (A) The Eighth Schedule should be expanded to include all 1,600 dialects spoken in India.
- (B) English-medium education is the principal cause of economic inequality in India.
- (C) India's extraordinary linguistic diversity is a precious heritage that faces serious endangerment and demands proac-



tive preservation.

- (D) UNESCO has successfully documented and preserved all endangered Indian languages through its digital archive programme.

**Q7.** The author's primary purpose in writing this passage is to:

- (A) Celebrate the richness of India's linguistic heritage while simultaneously alerting readers to the dangers of language loss.
- (B) Argue that English should be adopted as the sole medium of instruction across Indian schools.
- (C) Critique UNESCO for failing to allocate adequate funding to Indian language preservation.
- (D) Provide a neutral statistical overview of the number of languages spoken in India.

**Q8.** According to the passage, which organisation has documented Indian endangered languages in a widely cited publication?

- (A) The Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- (B) The Sahitya Akademi through its annual endangered languages report.
- (C) The Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) via its decennial survey.
- (D) UNESCO, through its Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger.



- Q9.** In the context of the second paragraph, the word “**attrition**” most nearly means:
- (A) A military strategy involving gradual wearing down of an opponent.
  - (B) The gradual loss or erosion of languages due to dwindling speaker communities.
  - (C) The process of formally removing a language from the Eighth Schedule.
  - (D) Increased funding competition among language documentation projects.
- Q10.** The passage implies that the tension between English-medium and mother-tongue instruction is best resolved by:
- (A) Mandating English as the sole medium of instruction from the primary level onward.
  - (B) Eliminating all regional language instruction to standardise the national curriculum.
  - (C) Adopting a sequenced multilingual approach that values linguistic diversity as a national resource.
  - (D) Allowing individual states to independently decide on the medium of instruction without central guidance.



**Reading Comprehension — Passage 3 (Questions 11–20)**

The COVID-19 pandemic compressed what might otherwise have been a decade of EdTech adoption into barely eighteen months. Platforms such as BYJU's, Unacademy, and Vedantu recorded explosive growth in subscriber bases, attracting venture capital at valuations that made Indian EdTech one of the most heavily funded sectors globally. Yet the post-2022 landscape told a sobering story: valuations plummeted, layoffs proliferated, and questions about pedagogical quality, inflated subscription numbers, and aggressive sales practices cast a long shadow over the sector's earlier triumphalism. The speed of the rise and the severity of the correction underscored a fundamental lesson—user acquisition is not synonymous with learning outcomes.

Alongside the commercial EdTech ecosystem, the government launched DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing), a national platform providing teachers with access to digital content, training resources, and assessment tools aligned to the national curriculum. DIKSHA represented a different philosophical model: publicly funded, openly accessible, and designed to complement classroom instruction rather than replace it. Research studies examining pandemic-era learning consistently found that blended learning—combining digital tools with face-to-face teacher interaction—outperformed purely asynchronous online instruction on measures of comprehension, retention, and student engagement.

The digital divide, however, remained the sector's most intractable structural problem. While smartphone penetration rose sharply in urban India, vast swathes of rural households lacked reliable internet connectivity, age-appropriate devices, or the parental digital literacy needed to support home-based learning. Children from marginalised communities—Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and daily-wage migrant families—faced compounded disadvantages, with school closures during the pandemic deepening pre-existing learning gaps rather than equalising opportunity as EdTech advocates had optimistically projected.

Regulatory scrutiny has intensified in response to mounting evidence of student harm. Concerns centre on opaque fee structures, misleading performance guarantees, and the psychological pressure placed on students through high-frequency push notifications and gamified urgency triggers. Policymakers have begun drafting guidelines that would require EdTech platforms to disclose course completion rates, learning outcome metrics, and refund policies. Whether these measures will prove adequate—or whether a more fundamental rethinking of EdTech's role within the national education architecture is warranted—remains the defining policy debate of the post-pandemic era.

**Q11.** Which of the following best captures the central argument of the passage?

(A) EdTech platforms in India have comprehensively democra-



tised access to quality education since the pandemic.

- (B) EdTech holds genuine transformative potential, but the digital divide and accountability deficits critically limit its ability to deliver equitable educational outcomes.
- (C) The Indian government's DIKSHA platform has made private EdTech platforms redundant.
- (D) Post-pandemic regulatory action has successfully resolved the quality and transparency concerns surrounding EdTech companies.

**Q12.** According to the passage, what characterised the EdTech sector in India after 2022?

- (A) A second wave of venture capital investment driven by improved learning outcome data.
- (B) Rapid expansion into rural markets enabled by subsidised smartphone distribution.
- (C) Consolidation of the sector into a single dominant platform backed by the government.
- (D) Falling valuations, widespread layoffs, and heightened scrutiny over pedagogical quality and business practices.

**Q13.** As used in the second paragraph, the word “asynchronous” most nearly means:

- (A) Occurring at the same time and in the same physical location.



- (B) Characterised by a high degree of peer-to-peer interaction and collaboration.
- (C) Not happening in real time or requiring simultaneous participation by instructor and learner.
- (D) Related to government-approved digital content aligned to the national curriculum.

**Q14.** Which of the following accurately describes the DIKSHA platform as presented in the passage?

- (A) It is publicly funded, openly accessible, and designed to supplement rather than replace face-to-face classroom teaching.
- (B) It is a subscription-based platform offering live tutoring to students in Tier-1 cities.
- (C) It was developed by a consortium of private EdTech companies under a government public-private partnership.
- (D) It focuses exclusively on higher education and upskilling of the existing workforce.

**Q15.** The passage implies that children from rural and marginalised communities experienced the pandemic-era EdTech expansion primarily as:

- (A) An unprecedented opportunity to access world-class educational content from home.
- (B) A mildly beneficial supplement to existing school-based learning.



- (C) A neutral development, since EdTech platforms largely bypassed rural markets entirely.
- (D) A deepening of pre-existing inequalities, as structural barriers amplified rather than reduced their disadvantage.

**Q16.** The author's stance on regulation of EdTech platforms is best characterised as:

- (A) Supportive of regulatory intervention but open to the possibility that even stronger systemic reform may be necessary.
- (B) Opposed to regulation, arguing that market competition is sufficient to ensure quality and transparency.
- (C) Convinced that existing draft guidelines are fully adequate to protect student interests.
- (D) Indifferent, presenting regulatory debates as a purely political rather than educational concern.

**Q17.** Based on the passage, which of the following can be inferred about blended learning?

- (A) It is inferior to purely online instruction for students in urban areas with reliable connectivity.
- (B) It was rejected by the government in favour of the fully digital DIKSHA model.
- (C) It combines the advantages of digital tools with human teacher interaction, producing better learning outcomes than fully online approaches.



(D) It is a model pioneered exclusively by private EdTech companies during the pandemic.

**Q18.** The overall tone of the passage can best be described as:

- (A) Enthusiastically celebratory of India's EdTech sector's achievements.
- (B) Analytically balanced, acknowledging EdTech's promise while critically examining its failures and limitations.
- (C) Bitterly hostile toward EdTech companies and their investors.
- (D) Strictly neutral and statistical, avoiding any evaluative judgement.

**Q19.** If the author were to recommend a single overarching policy direction based on the passage's argument, it would most likely be:

- (A) A complete ban on private EdTech companies operating in India.
- (B) Removal of all regulatory oversight to allow the EdTech market to self-correct.
- (C) Mandatory merger of all private EdTech platforms with the DIKSHA infrastructure.
- (D) Simultaneous investment in digital infrastructure for underserved communities, stronger accountability norms for EdTech, and a pedagogical model centred on blended learning.



**Q20.** A critic of EdTech’s democratising promise, drawing on evidence in the passage, would most likely argue that:

- (A) The EdTech sector’s rapid growth and equally rapid correction revealed that commercial incentives were misaligned with genuine learning outcomes, thereby failing the most disadvantaged students.
- (B) EdTech platforms should receive greater government subsidies to accelerate rural market penetration.
- (C) The primary failure of EdTech was its excessive focus on humanities subjects at the expense of STEM content.
- (D) Venture capital investors pulled out of EdTech prematurely, before the platforms could demonstrate sustainable learning impact.

**Para Jumbles (Questions 21–25)**

**Directions:** The sentences labelled P, Q, R, and S are out of order. Choose the option that gives the most logical and coherent sequence.

**Q21.** Arrange the following sentences into a coherent paragraph.

- P.** The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has since tabled a draft regulation proposing mandatory “high in fat, sugar, or salt” front-of-pack labels to aid consumer decision-making.
- Q.** With no standardised system in place, manufacturers freely made unsubstantiated claims such as “natural,” “wholesome,” and “diabetic-friendly” on product packaging.



- R. Consumer surveys revealed widespread confusion, with shoppers unable to distinguish genuinely nutritious products from those with misleading health halos.
- S. Industry lobbyists, however, mounted fierce resistance, arguing that prescriptive labelling would unfairly penalise entire product categories and erode brand equity.

- (A) P – S – R – Q
- (B) R – P – S – Q
- (C) Q – R – S – P
- (D) S – Q – P – R

**Q22.** Arrange the following sentences into a coherent paragraph.

- P. Under this mechanism, private investors fund social programmes upfront, and the government repays them—with a return—only if independently verified outcome targets are met.
- Q. Early pilots in criminal justice reform in the United Kingdom and employment programmes in India demonstrated measurable results, lending credibility to the model.
- R. Social impact bonds represent an innovative instrument for financing public-good interventions while shifting financial risk from the state to outcome-motivated private capital.
- S. Emboldened by these successes, several state governments have begun exploring the expansion of social impact bond



frameworks into health, education, and rural livelihood sectors.

- (A) R – P – Q – S
- (B) Q – S – R – P
- (C) P – R – S – Q
- (D) S – Q – P – R

**Q23. Arrange the following sentences into a coherent paragraph.**

- P.** India's median age is currently under 29, and for the next two decades the working-age population will continue to expand—a demographic profile that few large economies can match.
- Q.** Yet this dividend will materialise only if young entrants to the labour force are equipped with market-relevant skills, a condition that existing vocational and higher education systems inadequately fulfil.
- R.** Without decisive investment in skills infrastructure, India risks translating its youth bulge into a youth unemployment crisis rather than an engine of productivity growth.
- S.** Policymakers have responded with initiatives such as Skill India and the National Education Policy 2020, though implementation pace and quality remain subjects of intense scrutiny.

- (A) Q – P – S – R



- (B) S – R – P – Q
- (C) R – P – Q – S
- (D) P – Q – S – R

**Q24. Arrange the following sentences into a coherent paragraph.**

- P.** Estimates suggest that more than eight million metric tonnes of plastic enter the world's oceans each year, with devastating consequences for marine ecosystems and food chains.
- Q.** Innovative solutions such as autonomous ocean-surface collectors, biodegradable packaging substitutes, and community-led river interception programmes have attracted significant philanthropic and venture funding.
- R.** However, most experts warn that cleanup technologies, however sophisticated, cannot outpace production without parallel regulatory action to reduce single-use plastic at the source.
- S.** Funding constraints, the vast geographic scale of oceanic contamination, and resistance from the petrochemical industry continue to obstruct the systemic shifts needed for lasting progress.

- (A) Q – R – P – S
- (B) P – Q – R – S
- (C) S – P – R – Q
- (D) R – S – Q – P



**Q25.** Arrange the following sentences into a coherent paragraph.

- P.** Soil moisture sensors, weather-linked irrigation controllers, and crop health monitoring drones now allow farmers to apply water and inputs with millimetre precision, dramatically reducing waste.
- Q.** The aggregated data streams from these devices, when processed through machine-learning models, can predict pest outbreaks, forecast yields, and recommend optimal harvest windows weeks in advance.
- R.** Despite this technological promise, smallholder farmers—who cultivate the majority of India’s agricultural land—face steep barriers to adoption, including high device costs, poor rural connectivity, and limited digital literacy.
- S.** The proliferation of Internet of Things devices across agricultural supply chains has opened a new frontier in precision farming.

- (A) Q – P – S – R
- (B) R – S – Q – P
- (C) S – P – Q – R
- (D) P – R – S – Q

**Fill in the Blanks (Questions 26–32)**

**Directions:** Choose the option that best fills the blank in the given sentence.

**Q26.** The decision was made \_\_\_\_\_ consensus after three rounds of negotiation.



- (A) by
- (B) with
- (C) through
- (D) upon

**Q27.** The manager suggested that every team member \_\_\_\_\_ their progress report by Friday.

- (A) submits
- (B) submit
- (C) submitted
- (D) should submitting

**Q28.** The auditors found several \_\_\_\_\_ in the financial statements.

- (A) discrepancy
- (B) differences with
- (C) disparate
- (D) discrepancies

**Q29.** The project was ambitious \_\_\_\_\_ nature; few believed it could succeed within the given timeline.

- (A) by
- (B) of
- (C) in



(D) with

**Q30.** He made \_\_\_\_\_ honest effort to resolve the dispute before it reached arbitration.

(A) an

(B) a

(C) the

(D) (no article)

**Q31.** The new policy is \_\_\_\_\_ stringent than its predecessor.

(A) much more higher

(B) a lot greater

(C) more far

(D) far more

**Q32.** The board decided to \_\_\_\_\_ a comprehensive risk assessment before proceeding.

(A) make

(B) do

(C) conduct

(D) perform

### Synonyms & Antonyms (Questions 33–36)

**Directions:** Questions 33 and 35 ask for a **synonym** (most similar in meaning); Questions 34 and 36 ask for an **antonym** (most nearly opposite in meaning).



**Q33.** Choose the word most **similar in meaning** to: **RECALCI-  
TRANT**

- (A) Obedient
- (B) Stubborn
- (C) Compliant
- (D) Amenable

**Q34.** Choose the word most **nearly opposite in meaning** to: **AME-  
LIORATE**

- (A) Worsen
- (B) Improve
- (C) Enhance
- (D) Alleviate

**Q35.** Choose the word most **similar in meaning** to: **TENACIOUS**

- (A) Fragile
- (B) Wavering
- (C) Indecisive
- (D) Persistent

**Q36.** Choose the word most **nearly opposite in meaning** to: **CO-  
GENT**

- (A) Persuasive
- (B) Unconvincing



(C) Compelling

(D) Forceful

**Error Detection (Questions 37–41)**

**Directions:** Each sentence below has four underlined portions labelled (A), (B), (C), and (D). Identify the portion that contains a grammatical error. If there is no error, choose (D) only where specified.

**Q37.** (A) Its all operations (B) of the multinational firm (C) span six conti  
(D) and employ over ten thousand staff.

(A) (A)

(B) (B)

(C) (C)

(D) (D)

**Q38.** (A) The sales figures (B) released this quarter (C) is significantly hig  
(D) than last year's.

(A) (A)

(B) (B)

(C) (C)

(D) (D)

**Q39.** (A) The conference was attended (B) by eminent scholars (C) from a  
(D) who gave a very insightful and meaning talks.

(A) (A)

(B) (B)



(C) (C)

(D) (D)

**Q40.** (A) Either the director (B) or the managers is (C) responsible for  
(D) this oversight.

(A) (A)

(B) (B)

(C) (C)

(D) (D)

**Q41.** (A) It is one of the better (B) decisions (C) the board has ever  
(D) taken.

(A) (A)

(B) (B)

(C) (C)

(D) (D)

#### Sentence Correction (Questions 42–46)

**Directions:** A sentence is given below, followed by four alternatives. Choose the option that best corrects the underlined error. If the original sentence is correct as it stands, choose option (A) “No correction required.”

**Q42. Original:** She admitted to steal the documents from the cabinet.

(A) No correction required.

(B) She admitted steal the documents from the cabinet.



- (C) She admitted that steal the documents from the cabinet.
- (D) She admitted to stealing the documents from the cabinet.

**Q43. Original:** The scientist which discovered penicillin changed medicine forever.

- (A) No correction required.
- (B) The scientist whom discovered penicillin changed medicine forever.
- (C) The scientist who discovered penicillin changed medicine forever.
- (D) The scientist whose discovered penicillin changed medicine forever.

**Q44. Original:** After the merger of the firm and the trust, it was dissolved within a year.

- (A) No correction required.
- (B) After the merger of the firm and the trust, the trust was dissolved within a year.
- (C) After the merger of the firm and the trust, they was dissolved within a year.
- (D) After the merger of the firm and the trust, these was dissolved within a year.

**Q45. Original:** The spokesperson announced that the company will launch the product next month.



- (A) The spokesperson announced that the company would launch the product the following month.
- (B) The spokesperson announced that the company will be launching the product next month.
- (C) The spokesperson announced that the company shall launch the product next month.
- (D) The spokesperson announced that the company had launched the product next month.

**Q46. Original:** She decided to quickly finish the report before the board meeting.

- (A) No correction required.
- (B) She decided to finish quick the report before the board meeting.
- (C) She decided to finish the report quickly before the board meeting.
- (D) She decided quickly to the finish report before the board meeting.

#### Para Completion (Questions 47–50)

**Directions:** A paragraph is given below with its last sentence missing. Choose the option that best completes the paragraph in terms of logic, tone, and coherence.

**Q47. Paragraph:** Organisational change initiatives fail at an alarming rate—estimates in management literature suggest that between 60 and 70 per cent of transformation programmes do not achieve their intended outcomes. The reasons are



rarely technical; they are almost invariably human. Employees resist not because they are inherently intransigent but because change disrupts established identities, threatens perceived security, and is often imposed without adequate explanation or inclusion. \_\_\_\_\_

- (A) Consequently, organisations should avoid large-scale transformation programmes and focus instead on incremental, barely perceptible operational adjustments that employees are unlikely to notice.
- (B) Leaders who acknowledge the emotional difficulty of transitions, communicate the rationale transparently, and actively involve employees in designing the new ways of working are far more likely to achieve genuine behavioural change than those who simply mandate compliance.
- (C) The most reliable solution to change resistance is to replace resistant employees with new hires who have no attachment to the organisation's previous culture.
- (D) Research confirms that financial incentives alone, if generous enough, are sufficient to overcome even the deepest cultural resistance to organisational transformation.

**Q48. Paragraph:** The linear “take-make-dispose” model of industrial production has reached its ecological limits. Finite resource stocks, mounting waste crises, and the carbon intensity of virgin material extraction have made the status quo untenable. The circular economy offers an alternative logic—one in which products are designed from the outset



for disassembly, repair, reuse, and material recovery, keeping resources in circulation at their highest value for as long as possible. \_\_\_\_\_

- (A) The circular economy remains, however, an idealistic framework with little practical relevance for large-scale manufacturing operations that depend on standardised mass-production techniques.
- (B) Governments should therefore impose punitive taxes on all virgin material use, regardless of the economic consequences for industries that lack viable circular alternatives.
- (C) Consumer behaviour remains the single most important variable; without demand-side transformation, any supply-side circularity initiative is ultimately futile.
- (D) Companies that embed circularity into product design—minimising waste, maximising material recovery, and building closed-loop supply chains—will find that sustainability and profitability are not opposing imperatives but mutually reinforcing ones.

**Q49. Paragraph:** The global demand for data scientists has consistently outpaced supply, creating a hiring market characterised by bidding wars, rapidly escalating compensation, and high attrition as professionals leverage competing offers. Organisations that rely exclusively on external recruitment to meet their data science needs find themselves trapped in an exhausting cycle of acquisition and replacement, paying



premium salaries without building the institutional knowledge that generates lasting competitive advantage. \_\_\_\_\_

- (A) Organisations that invest in building internal data science capabilities—through apprenticeships, cross-functional rotations, and continuous learning platforms—will be more resilient than those perpetually competing in the overheated external hiring market.
- (B) The most pragmatic response is to outsource all data science functions to specialist third-party vendors, eliminating the need for any in-house analytical capability.
- (C) Reducing data science salaries across the board would moderate the talent war and make the external hiring market more sustainable for all participating organisations.
- (D) Since data science skills depreciate rapidly in the face of evolving technology, organisations should treat data scientists as interchangeable contractors rather than strategic long-term assets.

**Q50. Paragraph:** High-stakes negotiations—whether between corporate entities, trading blocs, or sovereign governments—are often characterised by positional bargaining, in which each party opens with extreme demands, concedes reluctantly, and treats the process as a zero-sum contest. This adversarial dynamic frequently produces agreements that neither party genuinely embraces, creating fertile ground for future disputes, renegotiation, and reputational damage. A



growing body of negotiation scholarship advocates instead for interest-based or “principled” negotiation, which seeks to understand the underlying needs and priorities of each party rather than simply contesting stated positions. \_\_\_\_\_

- (A) It follows that negotiators should always open with their absolute bottom line, leaving no room for concession and thereby signalling unambiguous resolve to the counterparty.
- (B) Positional bargaining, for all its drawbacks, remains the most effective strategy in multi-party negotiations involving asymmetric power relationships.
- (C) The most durable agreements are not those extracted through maximum pressure but those crafted through principled negotiation—where each party’s core interests are understood, respected, and creatively addressed.
- (D) Since all negotiations ultimately reduce to power dynamics, investments in communication and empathy yield negligible returns compared with improvements in one’s best alternative to a negotiated agreement.



**Detailed Solutions****Q1.** Answer: (D)**Solution**

**Correct Answer: (D)** — Non-communicable diseases now dominate India's disease burden, necessitating a fundamental policy shift toward prevention-first strategies.

The passage opens by establishing that NCDs account for roughly 60% of India's disease burden and then proceeds to analyse risk factors, the NPCDCS response, and the inadequacy of a treatment-centric spending model. The third paragraph explicitly calls for a "decisive reorientation of resources and political will toward prevention." Option (D) captures both the empirical claim (NCD dominance) and the normative thrust (prevention-first policy).

**Why the others fail:** (A) The passage does not claim NPCDCS has *successfully* reduced CVD incidence; it notes implementation is "uneven." (B) The passage describes a dramatic *shift* in burden, the opposite of stasis. (C) Genetics is mentioned as one interacting factor, not the "primary driver."

**Q2.** Answer: (B)**Solution**

**Correct Answer: (B)** — Tobacco use, ultra-processed food intake, sedentary lifestyles, and urban stress.

The first paragraph explicitly lists these four as the convergent risk factors: "rising tobacco consumption, increasing intake of ultra-processed foods, physically sedentary urban lifestyles, and the chronic psychological stress associated with rapid urbanisation." All four elements of option (B) are textually grounded.

**Why the others fail:** (A) "Infectious disease spillovers" and "declining vaccination rates" are not mentioned. (C) Shortage of oncologists is not discussed as a risk factor. (D) Sanitation and water quality are not mentioned in the passage.

**Q3.** Answer: (A)**Solution**

**Correct Answer: (A)** — A shift in the pattern of diseases prevalent in a population over time.

"Epidemiological transition" is a standard public health term referring to the long-term change in the pattern of mortality and disease in a population—typically the shift from infectious to chronic non-communicable diseases. The passage uses



it precisely in this sense: the transition from the “infectious disease profile that dominated just three decades ago” to the current NCD-dominated burden.

**Why the others fail:** (B) “Transfer of healthcare responsibilities” is a governance term unrelated to the epidemiological context. (C) Hospital infrastructure refers to health system capacity, not disease patterns. (D) Population migration is unrelated to the epidemiological meaning of the phrase.

**Q4.** Answer: (C)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (C)** — Intervening before diseases develop is more cost-effective over the long term than treating advanced conditions.

The second paragraph notes that “epidemiological evidence consistently demonstrates that prevention yields superior long-term returns,” and the third paragraph warns that without reorientation India risks “an escalating cycle of treatment expenditure” that is unsustainable. The implied logic is straightforwardly one of cost-effectiveness and sustainability.

**Why the others fail:** (A) Geographic inaccessibility of tertiary care is not cited as the reason. (B) Genetic causation is mentioned but not as a reason curative care is inadequate. (D) The passage explicitly says NPCDCS implementation is *uneven*, not that universal curative coverage has been achieved.

**Q5.** Answer: (B)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (B)** — Urgent and reform-oriented, pressing for a decisive reallocation of health resources.

Throughout the passage, the author uses evaluative language that conveys urgency: “persistent structural tension,” “concerted shift,” “decisive reorientation,” and the warning about India “locking itself into an escalating cycle.” This is not detached description; it is reform advocacy delivered with urgency.

**Why the others fail:** (A) “Complacent and self-congratulatory” is the opposite of the critical stance taken. (C) The passage is far from “purely academic”—it advocates a policy direction. (D) “Pessimistic and fatalistic” overstates the negativity; the author offers a constructive path forward.

**Q6.** Answer: (C)



**Solution**

**Correct Answer: (C)** — India’s extraordinary linguistic diversity is a precious heritage that faces serious endangerment and demands proactive preservation.

The passage simultaneously celebrates India’s linguistic richness (120 major languages, 1,600+ dialects, millennia of encoded knowledge) and alerts the reader to the threat of language loss (UNESCO’s endangered atlas, dwindling speaker communities, economic pull toward dominant languages). The third paragraph frames the resolution—multilingual pedagogy—as the path forward. Option (C) integrates both the richness and the threat.

**Why the others fail:** (A) The author does not argue all dialects should be added to the Eighth Schedule. (B) English-medium education’s link to economic inequality is not the main argument. (D) The passage explicitly says documentation efforts are “chronically under-funded,” negating any claim of comprehensive success.

**Q7.** Answer: (A)

**Solution**

**Correct Answer: (A)** — To celebrate the richness of India’s linguistic heritage while simultaneously alerting readers to the dangers of language loss.

The dual purpose is evident from the structure: paragraph 1 marvels at linguistic plurality; paragraph 2 catalogues the threat; paragraph 3 explores policy tension and advocates multilingual pedagogy. The author treats both as real and important—the richness worth celebrating, the threat worth combating.

**Why the others fail:** (B) The author explicitly argues against any binary choice that excludes mother-tongue instruction; arguing for English as sole medium is the opposite of the passage’s stance. (C) UNESCO is cited positively as a credible documenting body; the author does not critique its funding. (D) The passage is far from a neutral statistical overview—it has a clear normative message.

**Q8.** Answer: (D)

**Solution**

**Correct Answer: (D)** — UNESCO, through its Atlas of the World’s Languages in Danger.

The second paragraph states explicitly: “UNESCO’s Atlas of the World’s Languages in Danger places dozens of Indian languages on its endangered list.” This is a direct textual retrieval question.

**Why the others fail:** (A) The Ministry of Culture is not mentioned in the passage. (B) The Sahitya Akademi is not mentioned. (C) The Central Institute of Indian



Languages is not mentioned in the passage.

Q9. Answer: (B)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (B)** — The gradual loss or erosion of languages due to dwindling speaker communities.

In the second paragraph, “attrition” is used in the phrase “Community-led documentation projects. . . represent front-line efforts against this attrition.” The “attrition” referred to is the gradual disappearance of endangered languages—precisely the subject of the UNESCO atlas discussion that precedes it.

**Why the others fail:** (A) The military meaning of “attrition” (wearing down an opponent) is not relevant to the linguistic context. (C) Formal removal from a constitutional schedule is not what the passage describes. (D) Funding competition is not the referent of “attrition” in this context.

Q10. Answer: (C)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (C)** — Adopting a sequenced multilingual approach that values linguistic diversity as a national resource.

The third paragraph explicitly rejects both extremes (English-only instruction and rejection of English) and instead advocates “a thoughtfully sequenced multilingual pedagogy that treats linguistic diversity as a national asset rather than an administrative inconvenience.”

**Why the others fail:** (A) Mandating English as the sole medium contradicts the passage’s advocacy for mother-tongue instruction as a scaffold. (B) Eliminating regional language instruction is explicitly the position the author argues against. (D) While the passage acknowledges state autonomy in language policy, it advocates for a principled national framework, not uncoordinated state-by-state decisions.

Q11. Answer: (B)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (B)** — EdTech holds genuine transformative potential, but the digital divide and accountability deficits critically limit its ability to deliver equitable educational outcomes.

The passage follows a consistent structure: acknowledge transformative potential (para 1, explosive growth; para 2, DIKSHA, blended learning), then document



structural failures (para 3, digital divide; para 4, regulatory failures). The central argument is captured in (B)’s acknowledgement of promise alongside critical limitations.

**Why the others fail:** (A) “Comprehensively democratised” is directly contradicted by the digital divide evidence. (C) DIKSHA is positioned as *complementary*, not a replacement for private EdTech. (D) Draft guidelines are described as possibly inadequate—the opposite of “successfully resolved.”

**Q12.** Answer: (D)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (D)** — Falling valuations, widespread layoffs, and heightened scrutiny over pedagogical quality and business practices.

The first paragraph describes the post-2022 landscape explicitly: “valuations plummeted, layoffs proliferated, and questions about pedagogical quality, inflated subscription numbers, and aggressive sales practices cast a long shadow.”

**Why the others fail:** (A) A second wave of venture capital is not mentioned—the passage describes a correction, not recovery. (B) Subsidised smartphone distribution is not mentioned. (C) No consolidation into a single platform is described.

**Q13.** Answer: (C)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (C)** — Not happening in real time or requiring simultaneous participation by instructor and learner.

“Asynchronous online instruction” in the passage refers to pre-recorded, self-paced learning that does not require learners and instructors to be online at the same time—as contrasted with blended learning that includes live teacher interaction. The passage states that blended learning “outperformed purely asynchronous online instruction.”

**Why the others fail:** (A) “Same time and place” describes *synchronous*, not asynchronous, instruction. (B) Peer-to-peer collaboration is not what distinguishes asynchronous instruction. (D) Government-approved content describes DIKSHA’s design philosophy, not the meaning of “asynchronous.”

**Q14.** Answer: (A)



**Solution**

**Correct Answer: (A)** — It is publicly funded, openly accessible, and designed to supplement rather than replace face-to-face classroom teaching.

The second paragraph states: “DIKSHA represented a different philosophical model: publicly funded, openly accessible, and designed to complement classroom instruction rather than replace it.” Option (A) is a near-direct paraphrase.

**Why the others fail:** (B) DIKSHA is not subscription-based and not limited to Tier-1 cities. (C) DIKSHA is a government initiative, not a PPP with private EdTech companies. (D) DIKSHA is aimed at all levels, particularly school-level teachers and students, not exclusively higher education.

**Q15.** **Answer: (D)**

**Solution**

**Correct Answer: (D)** — A deepening of pre-existing inequalities, as structural barriers amplified rather than reduced their disadvantage.

The third paragraph describes how children from marginalised communities “faced compounded disadvantages, with school closures during the pandemic deepening pre-existing learning gaps rather than equalising opportunity.” This directly supports option (D).

**Why the others fail:** (A) “Unprecedented opportunity” is the optimistic EdTech narrative that the passage explicitly says was not realised. (B) “Mildly beneficial” understates the severity of the harm documented. (C) EdTech did not “largely bypass” rural markets; rather, it reached them inadequately due to structural barriers.

**Q16.** **Answer: (A)**

**Solution**

**Correct Answer: (A)** — Supportive of regulatory intervention but open to the possibility that even stronger systemic reform may be necessary.

The fourth paragraph describes policymakers drafting regulatory guidelines approvingly, but the final sentence asks “Whether these measures will prove adequate—or whether a more fundamental rethinking... is warranted.” This signals that the author supports regulation but is open to the need for deeper reform.

**Why the others fail:** (B) Market competition as a self-corrector is the opposite of what the passage argues; it describes market failure. (C) The author explicitly doubts whether draft guidelines are adequate. (D) The author clearly views regulation as a genuinely educational concern, not a purely political one.



Q17. Answer: (C)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (C)** — It combines the advantages of digital tools with human teacher interaction, producing better learning outcomes than fully online approaches.

The second paragraph states directly: “blended learning—combining digital tools with face-to-face teacher interaction—outperformed purely asynchronous online instruction on measures of comprehension, retention, and student engagement.” Option (C) restates this finding accurately.

**Why the others fail:** (A) The passage says blended learning is *superior* to online instruction, the opposite of option (A). (B) DIKSHA itself is designed on blended learning principles; the government did not reject it. (D) Blended learning is a research-supported finding, not a model pioneered exclusively by private EdTech companies.

Q18. Answer: (B)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (B)** — Analytically balanced, acknowledging EdTech’s promise while critically examining its failures and limitations.

The passage alternates between positive observations (explosive growth, DIKSHA’s design, blended learning research) and critical ones (post-2022 correction, digital divide, regulatory gaps). This balanced, evidence-driven, analytical tone is best captured by (B).

**Why the others fail:** (A) “Enthusiastically celebratory” ignores the sustained critical content of paragraphs 3 and 4. (C) “Bitterly hostile” overstates; the author acknowledges genuine promise. (D) “Strictly neutral” is wrong because the author draws evaluative conclusions and implicitly advocates for policy action.

Q19. Answer: (D)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (D)** — Simultaneous investment in digital infrastructure for underserved communities, stronger accountability norms for EdTech, and a pedagogical model centred on blended learning.

Drawing together the passage’s three main lines of argument—the digital divide (para 3), regulatory accountability (para 4), and the efficacy of blended learning (para 2)—option (D) is the only policy recommendation that addresses all three problems identified in the text.



**Why the others fail:** (A) A complete ban on private EdTech is not implied; the passage critiques excesses, not existence. (B) Removing all oversight contradicts the author's approval of regulatory steps. (C) Mandatory merger with DIKSHA is not suggested anywhere in the passage.

**Q20.** Answer: (A)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (A)** — The EdTech sector's rapid growth and equally rapid correction revealed that commercial incentives were misaligned with genuine learning outcomes, thereby failing the most disadvantaged students.

A critic using the passage's own evidence would highlight the contrast between soaring investor valuations and the harm to marginalised students, and point to the misalignment of commercial incentives (subscriber growth, aggressive sales) with educational outcomes. Option (A) precisely synthesises this critical reading of the passage.

**Why the others fail:** (B) Calling for greater subsidies for EdTech is the opposite of a critical stance. (C) No evidence in the passage relates to humanities vs. STEM content bias. (D) Premature investor exit is the opposite of the critique implied by the text, which criticises the sector's business model during its peak growth phase.

**Q21.** Answer: (C)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (C)** — Q – R – S – P

**Logical flow:** Q establishes the problem (no standardised system, manufacturers making unsubstantiated claims). R shows the consequence (consumer confusion, inability to distinguish products). S introduces the counterforce (industry lobbying resisting reform). P concludes with FSSAI's regulatory response (draft front-of-pack labelling regulation).

The sequence follows a problem → impact → resistance → policy response arc that is logically coherent.

**Why the others fail:** (A) P – S – R – Q starts with the regulatory solution before establishing the problem—illogical. (B) R – P – S – Q places the consequence (consumer confusion) before describing the labelling vacuum that caused it. (D) S – Q – P – R puts industry lobbying before the regulatory proposal it was responding to, and misplaces consumer confusion at the end.

**Q22.** Answer: (A)



**Solution**

**Correct Answer: (A)** — R – P – Q – S

**Logical flow:** R introduces social impact bonds as an innovative instrument. P explains the mechanism (private investors fund upfront; government repays on verified outcomes). Q cites early pilots and their credible results. S describes how demonstrated success led to policy expansion into new sectors.

The sequence follows an introduction → mechanism → evidence → expansion arc.

**Why the others fail:** (B) Q – S – R – P places proven results before explaining what the instrument is. (C) P – R – S – Q explains the mechanism before defining what the instrument is—R should precede P. (D) S – Q – P – R opens with policy expansion before the instrument has been introduced.

**Q23.** Answer: (D)

**Solution**

**Correct Answer: (D)** — P – Q – S – R

**Logical flow:** P introduces India's favourable demographic profile (young median age, expanding working-age population). Q introduces the conditionality—the dividend will materialise only if skills training is adequate. S describes the policy response (Skill India, NEP 2020) along with the caveat about implementation quality. R concludes with the risk scenario—if skills investment fails, the youth bulge becomes a crisis.

The arc is opportunity → condition → current response → risk if response is inadequate.

**Why the others fail:** (A) Q – P – S – R places the conditionality before the demographic opportunity has been established. (B) S – R – P – Q puts policy response before the problem and demographic context. (C) R – P – Q – S opens with the risk scenario, depriving it of its rhetorical force as a concluding warning.

**Q24.** Answer: (B)

**Solution**

**Correct Answer: (B)** — P – Q – R – S

**Logical flow:** P establishes the scale of the problem (8 million metric tonnes of plastic enter oceans annually). Q introduces innovative solutions that have attracted funding. R provides the critical caveat from experts (cleanup cannot outpace production without reducing plastic at source). S identifies the structural obstacles blocking systemic change.

The arc is problem scale → solutions → expert caveat on limits → structural bar-



riers.

**Why the others fail:** (A) Q – R – P – S introduces solutions before establishing the problem's scale. (C) S – P – R – Q puts structural obstacles before the problem and solutions are introduced. (D) R – S – Q – P opens with the expert caveat before context for why it matters has been established.

**Q25.** Answer: (C)

### Solution

**Correct Answer:** (C) — S – P – Q – R

**Logical flow:** S introduces the general phenomenon (IoT proliferation opening a precision farming frontier). P gives specific examples of devices and their precision benefits (sensors, drones, irrigation controllers). Q describes the higher-level data analytics capabilities enabled by aggregated IoT data. R introduces the adoption barriers that smallholders face, providing the limiting caveat.

The arc is general introduction → specific technologies → data intelligence layer → adoption barrier.

**Why the others fail:** (A) Q – P – S – R starts with advanced analytics before introducing the IoT devices that generate the data. (B) R – S – Q – P opens with barriers before establishing what the technology is. (D) P – R – S – Q introduces adoption barriers before describing the full capability of the technology being adopted.

**Q26.** Answer: (A)

### Solution

**Correct Answer:** (A) — “by”

The standard English idiom for decision-making through shared agreement is “**by consensus.**” This is the fixed collocation used in formal, legal, and organisational contexts (e.g., “adopted by consensus,” “decided by consensus”).

**Why the others fail:** (B) “with consensus” is not a standard idiom. (C) “through consensus” is sometimes used informally, but “by consensus” is the accepted formal expression. (D) “upon consensus” is not a standard English collocation in this context.

**Q27.** Answer: (B)

### Solution

**Correct Answer:** (B) — “submit”

The verb “suggest” triggers the **subjunctive mood** in a “that-clause”: the base



form of the verb is used regardless of the subject. “The manager suggested that every member **submit**. . .” is grammatically correct. The subjunctive form is identical to the infinitive (without “to”), so it is “submit,” not “submits.”

**Why the others fail:** (A) “submits” is the indicative form—correct in a statement of fact but wrong after a verb of suggestion. (C) “submitted” is the simple past—incorrect because the subjunctive, not the past tense, follows “suggest.” (D) “should submitting” is grammatically incorrect (modal + gerund is not a valid structure here).

**Q28.** Answer: (D)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (D)** — “discrepancies”

The sentence requires a **plural countable noun** to follow “several.” “Discrepancies” (plural of *discrepancy*) is the correct form and the appropriate word meaning inconsistencies or mismatches in the financial statements.

**Why the others fail:** (A) “discrepancy” is singular—grammatically wrong after “several.” (B) “differences with” is not a standard noun phrase and creates a grammatical fragment. (C) “disparate” is an adjective, not a noun, and cannot follow “several” in this slot.

**Q29.** Answer: (C)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (C)** — “in”

The standard fixed phrase is “**ambitious in nature**”, using the preposition “in” before “nature” to convey inherent quality. This is the accepted idiomatic prepositional collocation in English (cf. “complex in nature,” “unprecedented in nature”).

**Why the others fail:** (A) “ambitious by nature” implies an innate personal disposition (used for people), not the character of a project. (B) “ambitious of nature” is not a standard English collocation. (D) “ambitious with nature” is ungrammatical in this context.

**Q30.** Answer: (A)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (A)** — “an”

The indefinite article before a word beginning with a vowel *sound* must be “**an**.” “Honest” begins with a silent ‘h’ and the vowel sound /ɔ/ (as in “on”), so the



correct article is “an honest effort,” not “a honest effort.”

**Why the others fail:** (B) “a” is the indefinite article before consonant sounds—“honest” has a vowel sound, so “a” is wrong. (C) “the” (definite article) implies a specific, previously identified effort—not appropriate here. (D) No article leaves the noun phrase grammatically incomplete in this context.

**Q31.** Answer: (D)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (D)** — “far more”

“Far more” is a grammatically correct and idiomatic comparative intensifier: “The new policy is **far more** stringent than its predecessor.” “Far” can intensify “more + adjective” comparatives.

**Why the others fail:** (A) “much more higher” is a double comparative error—you cannot say “more higher”; “higher” is already comparative. (B) “a lot greater” changes the adjective from “stringent” to “greater,” altering the meaning. (C) “more far” inverts the order incorrectly; the adverb “far” must precede “more,” not follow it.

**Q32.** Answer: (C)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (C)** — “conduct”

The standard professional collocation for carrying out a formal risk assessment is “**conduct a risk assessment.**” This is the preferred verb in business, legal, and governance writing.

**Why the others fail:** (A) “make a risk assessment” is used informally in some contexts but is not the standard professional collocation. (B) “do a risk assessment” is similarly informal. (D) “perform a risk assessment” is sometimes acceptable, but “conduct” is the most precise and widely accepted collocate in formal professional writing, making (C) the best choice.

**Q33.** Answer: (B)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (B)** — Stubborn

**RECALCITRANT** means stubbornly resistant to authority or control; refusing to obey. Its closest synonym is **Stubborn** (unyielding, obstinate).

**Why the others fail:** (A) *Obedient*—means compliant and willing to follow in-



structions; the direct antonym of recalcitrant. (C) *Compliant*—means readily agreeing or conforming; another antonym. (D) *Amenable*—means open to suggestion, cooperative; also an antonym.

Q34. Answer: (A)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (A)** — Worsen

**AMELIORATE** means to make something bad or unsatisfactory better; to improve. Its antonym is **Worsen**—to make or become worse.

**Why the others fail:** (B) *Improve*—is a near-synonym of ameliorate, not its antonym. (C) *Enhance*—also means to improve or intensify positively; a synonym, not antonym. (D) *Alleviate*—means to make suffering less severe; also a synonym of ameliorate.

Q35. Answer: (D)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (D)** — Persistent

**TENACIOUS** means holding firmly to something; persistent, determined, not giving up easily. Its closest synonym is **Persistent**.

**Why the others fail:** (A) *Fragile*—means easily broken or damaged; an antonym relating to physical or temperamental weakness. (B) *Wavering*—means showing indecision or uncertainty; an antonym of tenacious. (C) *Indecisive*—means unable to make decisions; also an antonym.

Q36. Answer: (B)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (B)** — Unconvincing

**COGENT** means powerfully persuasive and logically compelling. Its antonym is **Unconvincing**—failing to persuade or impress.

**Why the others fail:** (A) *Persuasive*—is a near-synonym of cogent, not its antonym. (C) *Compelling*—means evoking strong interest or conviction; also a synonym. (D) *Forceful*—means strong and assertive; similarly a synonym.

Q37. Answer: (A)



**Solution**

**Correct Answer: (A)** — Error in part (A)

**Error:** “Its all operations” should be “**All its operations.**”

When “all” modifies a pronoun-possessive noun phrase, the correct word order is: **all + possessive + noun** (“all its operations”). Placing the possessive before “all” (“its all operations”) is ungrammatical in standard English.

**Why the others are correct:** (B) “of the multinational firm” is a valid postmodifying prepositional phrase. (C) “span six continents” is correct subject-verb agreement (“operations” is plural). (D) “and employ over ten thousand staff” is a correctly parallel verb phrase.

**Q38.** **Answer: (C)**

**Solution**

**Correct Answer: (C)** — Error in part (C)

**Error:** “is significantly higher” should be “**are significantly higher.**”

The grammatical subject of the sentence is “The sales figures”—a plural noun phrase. The verb must therefore agree in the plural: “**are** significantly higher,” not “is significantly higher.” This is a subject-verb agreement error where the singular verb “is” was incorrectly used with a plural subject.

**Why the others are correct:** (A) “The sales figures” is a correctly formed plural noun phrase. (B) “released this quarter” is a valid past-participial postmodifier. (D) “than last year’s” is a correct comparative construction.

**Q39.** **Answer: (D)**

**Solution**

**Correct Answer: (D)** — Error in part (D)

**Error:** “insightful and meaning talks” should be “**insightful and meaningful talks.**”

“Meaning” as used here is a noun (or present participle), not an adjective. The correct adjective form is “**meaningful,**” which functions as a predicate modifier (“full of meaning”). Using “meaning” as an adjective in this context is a word-form error.

**Why the others are correct:** (A) “The conference was attended” is a correct passive construction. (B) “by eminent scholars” is a correctly formed agent phrase. (C) “from across the world” is a standard prepositional phrase.

**Q40.** **Answer: (B)**



**Solution**

**Correct Answer: (B)** — Error in part (B)

**Error:** “or the managers is” should be “**or the managers are.**”

With correlative conjunctions **either...or**, the verb agrees with the subject *closer* to it (the principle of proximity agreement). Here, the nearer subject is “the managers” (plural), so the verb must be “**are,**” not “is.”

**Why the others are correct:** (A) “Either the director” is a correctly placed first element of the correlative conjunction. (C) “responsible for” is the correct adjective + preposition collocation. (D) “this oversight” is a correctly formed noun phrase.

**Q41.** **Answer: (A)**

**Solution**

**Correct Answer: (A)** — Error in part (A)

**Error:** “one of the better decisions” should be “**one of the best decisions.**”

The construction “**one of the + superlative + plural noun**” requires the superlative form. “One of the better” uses the comparative, which is incorrect here. Since we are identifying a decision from among the board’s *entire history* (“ever taken”), the superlative “best” is required.

**Why the others are correct:** (B) “decisions” is correctly placed as a plural noun following “one of the best.” (C) “the board has ever” is a correct relative clause construction. (D) “taken” is the correct past participle of “take.”

**Q42.** **Answer: (D)**

**Solution**

**Correct Answer: (D)** — “She admitted to stealing the documents from the cabinet.”

The verb “**admit**” when followed by a preposition uses the structure **admit to + gerund (-ing form)**. “Admit to steal” incorrectly uses the infinitive bare form. The gerund “stealing” is required: “*admitted to stealing.*”

**Why the others fail:** (A) The original sentence is incorrect—“to steal” should be “to stealing.” (B) “admitted steal” omits both the preposition and the correct verb form. (C) “admitted that steal” is doubly wrong—“that” introduces a finite clause, which would need “she stole” or “stealing” as part of a different construction.

**Q43.** **Answer: (C)**



**Solution**

**Correct Answer:** (C) — “The scientist who discovered penicillin changed medicine forever.”

Relative pronouns in English: “**who**” is used for persons; “which” is used for things. Since “the scientist” is a person, the correct relative pronoun is “**who**,” not “which.”

**Why the others fail:** (A) The original uses “which” for a person, which is incorrect. (B) “whom” is the object form of “who” and is incorrect here because the scientist is the *subject* of “discovered.” (D) “whose” indicates possession—incorrect because the sentence is not describing something belonging to the scientist.

Q44. **Answer:** (B)

**Solution**

**Correct Answer:** (B) — “After the merger of the firm and the trust, the trust was dissolved within a year.”

The original sentence uses “it,” which has an **ambiguous pronoun reference**—“it” could refer to either “the firm” or “the trust.” Option (B) replaces the ambiguous pronoun with the explicit noun “the trust,” eliminating the ambiguity.

**Why the others fail:** (A) The original sentence is ambiguous—“it” does not clearly identify which entity was dissolved. (C) “they was” is ungrammatical (subject-verb disagreement). (D) “these was” is also ungrammatical (plural pronoun with singular verb).

Q45. **Answer:** (A)

**Solution**

**Correct Answer:** (A) — “The spokesperson announced that the company would launch the product the following month.”

In **reported (indirect) speech**, when the reporting verb is in the past tense (“announced”), the tense in the reported clause shifts back: “will” → “**would**”; “next month” → “**the following month**.” Option (A) applies both rules correctly.

**Why the others fail:** (B) “will be launching” retains the future tense, violating the backshift rule. (C) “shall” is an alternative future auxiliary but still violates the tense backshift. (D) “had launched” implies the launch happened *before* the announcement, which contradicts the meaning.

Q46. **Answer:** (C)



**Solution**

**Correct Answer: (C)** — “She decided to finish the report quickly before the board meeting.”

“To quickly finish” is a **split infinitive**, where an adverb (“quickly”) is placed between “to” and the verb. While split infinitives are acceptable in informal English, the preferred formal construction places the adverb *after* the verb phrase: “to finish the report **quickly**.” Option (C) achieves this without changing the meaning.

**Why the others fail:** (A) The original split infinitive is acceptable but not the best formal choice. (B) “to finish quick” uses the adjective “quick” instead of the adverb “quickly”—grammatically incorrect as a modifier for the verb. (D) “to the finish report” is nonsensical and grammatically broken.

**Q47.** **Answer: (B)**

**Solution**

**Correct Answer: (B)** — “Leaders who acknowledge the emotional difficulty of transitions, communicate the rationale transparently, and actively involve employees in designing the new ways of working are far more likely to achieve genuine behavioural change than those who simply mandate compliance.”

The paragraph establishes that change failures are “almost invariably human” and that resistance stems from threats to identity, security, and lack of inclusion. Option (B) directly resolves this by prescribing leader behaviours (emotional acknowledgement, transparent communication, inclusive design) that address exactly the human factors identified. The phrase “genuine behavioural change” contrasts meaningfully with “mandate compliance.”

**Why the others fail:** (A) Recommending “barely perceptible” adjustments contradicts the paragraph’s framing of large-scale transformation. (C) Replacing resistant employees ignores the human dynamics the paragraph identifies; it is also ethically problematic and logically inconsistent with the passage’s thesis. (D) The paragraph says reasons for failure are “rarely technical,” making purely financial incentives an inadequate solution.

**Q48.** **Answer: (D)**

**Solution**

**Correct Answer: (D)** — “Companies that embed circularity into product design—minimising waste, maximising material recovery, and building closed-loop supply chains—will find that sustainability and profitability are not opposing imperatives but mutually reinforcing ones.”



The paragraph outlines the circular economy's logic (disassembly, repair, reuse, material recovery). A logical conclusion should synthesise the business case, affirming that the circular model benefits companies economically as well as ecologically. Option (D) does precisely this, presenting the key insight that sustainability and profitability are “mutually reinforcing.”

**Why the others fail:** (A) Calling the circular economy “idealistic” with “little practical relevance” directly contradicts the paragraph's affirmative framing. (B) Punitive taxation without caveats goes beyond what the paragraph argues and introduces a jarring policy prescription. (C) Consumer behaviour is not mentioned in the paragraph, making this an off-topic conclusion.

**Q49.** Answer: (A)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (A)** — “Organisations that invest in building internal data science capabilities—through apprenticeships, cross-functional rotations, and continuous learning platforms—will be more resilient than those perpetually competing in the overheated external hiring market.”

The paragraph identifies the “exhausting cycle of acquisition and replacement” as the failure mode of externally-focused organisations. The logical conclusion should offer the contrasting path: building internal capability. Option (A) specifies concrete mechanisms (apprenticeships, rotations, continuous learning) and frames the benefit as resilience—a coherent resolution to the problem posed.

**Why the others fail:** (B) Outsourcing all data science functions to third parties avoids building capability; it replicates the dependency problem rather than solving it. (C) Reducing salaries addresses market symptoms, not the strategic problem of capability building. (D) Treating data scientists as interchangeable contractors contradicts the paragraph's implied argument for investing in talent as strategic assets.

**Q50.** Answer: (C)

### Solution

**Correct Answer: (C)** — “The most durable agreements are not those extracted through maximum pressure but those crafted through principled negotiation—where each party's core interests are understood, respected, and creatively addressed.”

The paragraph contrasts positional bargaining (extreme demands, zero-sum, agreements neither party embraces) with principled negotiation (understanding



underlying needs). The logical conclusion should affirm the superiority of principled negotiation in producing durable outcomes. Option (C) completes the contrast by specifying what makes an agreement durable: mutual understanding and creative interest-satisfaction.

**Why the others fail:** (A) Opening with an “absolute bottom line” is the hallmark of positional bargaining—the approach the paragraph critiques. (B) Endorsing positional bargaining as “most effective” in asymmetric power relationships contradicts the passage’s advocacy for interest-based negotiation. (D) Dismissing communication and empathy as yielding “negligible returns” directly contradicts the scholarly position the passage endorses.



## Answer Key

| Q  | Ans | Q  | Ans | Q  | Ans | Q  | Ans | Q  | Ans |
|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|
| 1  | D   | 2  | B   | 3  | A   | 4  | C   | 5  | B   |
| 6  | C   | 7  | A   | 8  | D   | 9  | B   | 10 | C   |
| 11 | B   | 12 | D   | 13 | C   | 14 | A   | 15 | D   |
| 16 | A   | 17 | C   | 18 | B   | 19 | D   | 20 | A   |
| 21 | C   | 22 | A   | 23 | D   | 24 | B   | 25 | C   |
| 26 | A   | 27 | B   | 28 | D   | 29 | C   | 30 | A   |
| 31 | D   | 32 | C   | 33 | B   | 34 | A   | 35 | D   |
| 36 | B   | 37 | A   | 38 | C   | 39 | D   | 40 | B   |
| 41 | A   | 42 | D   | 43 | C   | 44 | B   | 45 | A   |
| 46 | C   | 47 | B   | 48 | D   | 49 | A   | 50 | C   |

