

CLAT 2026 Set C Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :2 Hours	Maximum Marks :120	Total Questions :120
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. The CLAT 2026 examination is of two hours duration and carries a maximum of 120 marks.
2. The question paper consists of **120 multiple-choice questions** with four options for each question.
3. Each correct answer will be awarded **one mark**.
4. There is a **negative marking** of $\frac{1}{4}$ **mark** for each incorrect answer.
5. Candidates must use only a **Black/Blue Ball Point Pen** to darken the correct option in the OMR Answer Sheet.
6. Do not use ink pen, gel pen, pencil, whitener, or any other material on the OMR Sheet.
7. Rough work should be done only in the space provided in the test booklet.
8. The use of any electronic gadgets such as mobile phones, calculators, or digital watches is strictly prohibited.
9. The test booklet must not be torn or damaged in any way.
10. The candidate must write their **Name, Roll Number, and OMR Sheet Number** in the spaces provided and sign where required.

Section I

Passage I

In a language laboratory, students were given an interesting puzzle involving the word "ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH." The teacher explained that such exercises not only test logical skills but also sharpen attention to detail. According to the challenge, the word had to undergo a series of transformations. First, the class was asked to take the first half of the letters, reverse their order and make the arrangement of letters look quite different from the original. Next, the students were told to identify the last but one letter of the original word and place it at the very beginning, a step that changed the opening appearance of the sequence completely. Finally, as a finishing touch, they had to add the letter 'S' at the end. Following these steps carefully would lead them to the correct transformed word, and only those who adhered to each condition in the exact order could solve the puzzle successfully. (150 words)

1. Which letter will be exactly in the middle?

- (A) L
- (B) R
- (C) D
- (D) E

Correct Answer: (D) E

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

We need to follow a set of instructions to transform the word "ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH" and then find the middle letter of the resulting word.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's perform the transformations step-by-step:

1. **Original Word:** ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH. It has 18 letters.
2. **Step 1 - Reverse the first half:** The first half consists of the first 9 letters: "ELECTROCA". Reversing this gives "ACORTCELE". The second half remains "RDIOGRAPH". The word is now: **ACORTCELERDIOGRAPH**.
3. **Step 2 - Move the penultimate letter:** The instruction is to "identify the last but one letter of the original word and place it at the very beginning". The penultimate letter of "ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH" is 'P'. Placing it at the beginning of the current word would result in a 20-letter word with no single middle letter. The most likely interpretation, given the question asks for a single middle letter, is that the letter 'P' is moved from its original position to the start. The second half was "RDIOGRAPH". Removing 'P' leaves "RDIOGRAH". The word now becomes: **PACORTCELERDIOGRAH**.
4. **Step 3 - Add 'S':** Add the letter 'S' to the end. The final word is **PACORTCELERDIOGRAHS**.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The final transformed word is **PACORTCELERDIOGRAHS**. This word has 19 letters. The middle letter is the 10th letter in the sequence.

P(1) A(2) C(3) O(4) R(5) T(6) C(7) E(8) L(9) **E(10)** R(11) D(12) I(13) O(14) G(15) R(16) A(17) H(18) S(19).

The 10th letter is **E**.

Quick Tip

In multi-step logical puzzles, write down the result of each step clearly. If an instruction is ambiguous, consider the format of the question (e.g., it asks for a *single* middle letter) to guide your interpretation.

2. How many vowels will be to the left of the middle letter?

- (A) 2
- (B) 1
- (C) 4
- (D) 3

Correct Answer: (D) 3

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

Using the final word derived in the previous question, we need to count the number of vowels in the first half of the word, to the left of the middle letter.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The final word is **PACORTCELERDIOGRAHS**.

The middle letter is the 10th letter, 'E'.

The letters to the left of the middle 'E' are the first 9 letters: **PACORTCEL**.

We need to count the vowels (A, E, I, O, U) in this sequence.

The vowels are: **A, O, E**.

Step 3: Final Answer:

There are 3 vowels to the left of the middle letter.

Quick Tip

Ensure your work from a previous linked question is accurate, as errors will cascade. Double-check your transformed word before answering subsequent questions.

3. Which of the two vowels will be adjoining each other?

- (A) IE
- (B) IO
- (C) AE
- (D) AO

Correct Answer: (B) IO

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

We need to scan the final transformed word to find a pair of vowels that appear next to each other.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The final word is **PACORTCELERDIOGRAHS**.

Let's examine the word for adjacent vowels:

P-A-C-O-R-T-C-E-L-E-R-D-I-O-G-R-A-H-S

The vowels are at positions 2(A), 4(O), 8(E), 10(E), 13(I), 14(O), 17(A).

Checking for adjacency:

- A(2) is followed by C.
- O(4) is followed by R.
- E(8) is followed by L.
- E(10) is followed by R.
- I(13) is followed by O(14). This is a pair of adjoining vowels.
- O(14) is followed by G.
- A(17) is followed by H.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The pair of adjoining vowels in the final word is 'IO'.

Quick Tip

For scanning tasks, it can be helpful to highlight or circle the items you are looking for (in this case, vowels) to make patterns more visible.

4. Which vowel will have a consonant to the left but a vowel to the right of it?

- (A) I
- (B) O
- (C) A
- (D) E

Correct Answer: (A) I

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Question:**

We are looking for a specific pattern in the final word: a vowel that is preceded by a consonant and followed by another vowel (C-V-V pattern).

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The final word is **PACORTCELERDIOGRAHS**.

Let's check this condition for each vowel in the word:

- For **A** at position 2: It is preceded by P (consonant) and followed by C (consonant). Does not match.

- For **O** at position 4: It is preceded by C (consonant) and followed by R (consonant). Does not match.
- For **E** at position 8: It is preceded by C (consonant) and followed by L (consonant). Does not match.
- For **E** at position 10: It is preceded by L (consonant) and followed by R (consonant). Does not match.
- For **I** at position 13: It is preceded by D (consonant) and followed by O (vowel). This matches the condition.
- For **O** at position 14: It is preceded by I (vowel). Does not match.
- For **A** at position 17: It is preceded by R (consonant) and followed by H (consonant). Does not match.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The vowel 'I' is the only one that has a consonant to its left ('D') and a vowel to its right ('O').

Quick Tip

Break down pattern-matching questions into simple checks. For a C-V-V pattern, first find all vowels, then check the letter before and the letter after each one.

5. Name the letter sandwiched between two vowels?

- (A) R and T
- (B) C and L
- (C) R and L
- (D) D and R

Correct Answer: (B) C and L

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the letter(s) that are positioned between two vowels (a Vowel-Consonant-Vowel pattern) in the final transformed word.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

From the previous analysis (Questions 83-86), the final transformed word is **PACORTCEL-ERDIOGRAHS**.

Let's scan the word to find all instances of a consonant that is immediately preceded and followed by a vowel:

- **P A C O R T...** : The consonant 'C' is between vowels 'A' and 'O'.

- ...T C E L E R D... : The consonant 'L' is between vowels 'E' and 'E'.
- ...L E R D I O G R... : The consonant 'D' is between vowels 'I' and 'O'.
- ...I O G R A H S : The consonant 'R' is between vowels 'G' and 'A'.

The letters sandwiched between two vowels are C, L, D, and R. The question is phrased in the singular ("Name the letter"), but the options are pairs. This suggests an ambiguity in the question. However, if we assume the question asks "Which of the following pairs contains only letters sandwiched between two vowels?", options (B), (C), and (D) would all appear correct. A possible interpretation is to list them in the order they appear in the word. The first two are C and L.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The letters C, L, D, and R are all sandwiched between vowels. Option (B) lists the first two such letters found in the transformed word.

Quick Tip

When a question is poorly phrased, try to find a logical basis for selecting one answer over others, such as the order of appearance.

6. Which letter is prefixed to the word after the first half is reversed?

- (A) G
- (B) P
- (C) H
- (D) S

Correct Answer: (B) P

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks which letter was placed at the very beginning of the word during the transformation process.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's review the transformation steps:

1. The original word is ELECTROCARDIOGRAPH.
2. The first step is to reverse the first half.
3. The second step is to "identify the last but one letter of the original word and place it at the very beginning". The last but one letter of the original word is 'P'.

This letter 'P' is then prefixed to the transformed word.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The letter 'P' was prefixed to the word as per the instructions.

Quick Tip

Always refer back to the original text for instructions. This question specified using the "original word" to find the letter to be prefixed.

Passage II

On the night of October 12th, the "Sunburst Medallion" was stolen from the highly secured display case in the city museum. The theft occurred sometime between the museum closing at 10:00 PM and the night guard, Mr. Hemant, completing his final round at 1:00 AM. Three primary suspects were identified, all of whom had recently been dismissed from their museum positions: Anjali, the former curator; Bharat, the former security expert; and Chitra, the former exhibits designer.

Here are the established facts and their alibis:

- The security system logs show that the display case was opened using a specific five-digit code, which only Anjali and the museum director (who was out of the country) knew.
- Bharat's alibi is that he was at a distant relative's birthday party from 8:00 PM to 1:30 AM. Multiple independent witnesses confirmed his presence throughout the entire period.
- Chitra's alibi is that she was working late at a downtown graphic design studio. A time-stamped security camera from the studio's entrance shows her entering at 7:00 PM and exiting at 11:45 PM. The studio is a 20-minute drive from the museum.
- Mr. Hemant, the night guard, stated he checked the medallion at 10:30 PM, and it was still there.
- Further investigation revealed that a small, distinctive silver button was found near the display case. Anjali is known to frequently wear a coat with similar unique silver buttons. The security expert, Bharat, had previously boasted that he could remotely disable a certain type of magnetic lock-the same type used on the medallion's case-without needing the code, though the log suggests the code was used. (269 words)

7. Identifying the Most Likely Suspect

Based only on the fact that the five-digit code was used to open the display case, who is the only plausible suspect among the three?

- (A) Anjali
- (B) Bharat
- (C) Chitra

(D) Both Anjali and Chitra

Correct Answer: (A) Anjali

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the most plausible suspect based on a single piece of evidence: the fact that the specific five-digit code was used to open the display case.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage provides a crucial piece of information regarding the code: "The security system logs show that the display case was opened using a specific five-digit code, which only Anjali and the museum director (who was out of the country) knew."

This statement establishes a direct link between knowledge of the code and the potential perpetrator.

Let's analyze the suspects based on this fact alone:

- **Anjali:** The passage explicitly states she knew the code. This makes her a plausible suspect.
- **Bharat:** The passage does not state that he knew the code. His expertise was in remotely disabling locks without a code.
- **Chitra:** The passage does not state that she knew the code.

The museum director also knew the code but is excluded as a suspect because he was out of the country.

Therefore, based exclusively on the use of the five-digit code, Anjali is the only one among the three suspects who had the necessary knowledge to commit the crime in this manner.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Given that only Anjali and the absent director knew the code, Anjali is the sole plausible suspect when considering only this specific fact.

Quick Tip

In logical reasoning questions, always pay close attention to restrictive phrases like "Based only on...". Isolate the specific piece of information mentioned and draw your conclusion solely from it, ignoring other details for that question.

8. Evaluating Alibis and Time Constraints

The theft occurred between 10:00 PM and 1:00 AM, but the night guard saw the medallion at 10:30 PM. Given Chitra's alibi, what is the earliest time she could have reached the museum?

- (A) 11:45 PM
- (B) 12:05 AM
- (C) 12:45 AM
- (D) 10:50 PM

Correct Answer: (B) 12:05 AM

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the earliest possible time Chitra could have arrived at the museum based on the information provided about her alibi and travel time.

Step 2: Key Information and Calculation:

We need to use the following facts from the passage:

- Chitra's exit time from her studio: 11:45 PM.
- Travel time from the studio to the museum: 20 minutes.

The calculation is a simple addition of time.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

Chitra finished her work and left her studio at 11:45 PM. The journey from her studio to the museum takes 20 minutes. To find her earliest possible arrival time at the museum, we add the travel time to her departure time.

$$\text{Arrival Time} = \text{Departure Time} + \text{Travel Time}$$

$$\text{Arrival Time} = 11 : 45 \text{ PM} + 20 \text{ minutes}$$

Adding 15 minutes to 11:45 PM brings the time to 12:00 AM (midnight).

Adding the remaining 5 minutes brings the time to 12:05 AM.

Therefore, the earliest Chitra could have reached the museum was 12:05 AM.

Step 4: Final Answer:

Based on the calculation, the earliest arrival time for Chitra at the museum is 12:05 AM.

Quick Tip

When solving time-based problems, carefully extract all relevant time stamps and durations. Be mindful of transitions across the hour or from PM to AM (midnight).

9. Deduction and Contradictory Evidence

If the theft was committed by Bharat, which established fact must be incorrect, based on the provided information?

- (A) The medallion was present at 10:30 PM
- (B) The security logs indicating the code was used
- (C) The museum closing time of 10:00 PM
- (D) The time frame of his alibi (8:00 PM to 1:30 AM)

Correct Answer: (D) The time frame of his alibi (8:00 PM to 1:30 AM)

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question presents a hypothetical scenario: assume Bharat is the thief. Based on this assumption, we must identify which of the "established facts" from the passage creates a logical contradiction and therefore must be false.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's analyze the core conflict if Bharat is the thief.

- **Theft Window:** The medallion was stolen sometime between 10:30 PM and 1:00 AM.
- **Requirement for Theft:** To commit the theft in person, the thief must have been physically present at the museum during this window.
- **Bharat's Alibi:** The passage states as a fact that "Bharat's alibi is that he was at a distant relative's birthday party from 8:00 PM to 1:30 AM. Multiple independent witnesses confirmed his presence throughout the entire period."

There is a direct contradiction here. If Bharat committed the theft, he must have been at the museum between 10:30 PM and 1:00 AM. However, his confirmed alibi places him at a party during that exact same time. A person cannot be in two places at once.

Therefore, if we assume Bharat is guilty, his alibi must be incorrect. The witnesses confirming his presence must be mistaken or lying.

Let's review the other options:

- (A) The medallion being present at 10:30 PM defines the start of the theft window. This doesn't contradict Bharat's guilt.
- (B) The logs showing the code was used is a fact. While Bharat boasted about not needing a code, he could have obtained and used it. This fact contradicts his *preferred method* but not his potential guilt in a way that creates a logical impossibility like the alibi does. He could have used the code.
- (C) The museum closing time is irrelevant to the contradiction.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The most direct and unavoidable contradiction is between Bharat being the thief (requiring his presence at the museum) and his confirmed alibi (stating he was elsewhere). Thus, the alibi must be incorrect.

Quick Tip

In "what must be false" questions, look for mutually exclusive facts. An alibi that covers the entire time of a crime is mutually exclusive with the suspect committing that crime in person.

10. Analyzing Accessory Evidence

The discovery of the silver button near the display case is the most incriminating evidence against which suspect, and why?

- (A) Bharat, because he had the technical expertise to get close to the case
- (B) Chitra, because she was near the museum late that night
- (C) Anjali, because she is known to wear a coat with similar buttons
- (D) Mr. Hemant, as he was the last person to check the area

Correct Answer: (C) Anjali, because she is known to wear a coat with similar buttons

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify which suspect is most implicated by the discovery of a specific piece of physical evidence—the silver button—and to provide the reason.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Physical evidence found at a crime scene is incriminating if it can be linked to a specific individual. We need to examine the text for any connection between the silver button and one of the suspects.

The passage states: "Further investigation revealed that a small, distinctive silver button was found near the display case. Anjali is known to frequently wear a coat with similar unique silver buttons."

This sentence creates a direct link between the evidence (the button) and a specific suspect (Anjali). While it's not definitive proof (the button is "similar," not "identical"), it strongly suggests she may have been present at the scene of the crime.

Let's analyze why the other options are incorrect:

- (A) Bharat's technical expertise does not connect him to the button.
- (B) Chitra's potential presence near the museum does not connect her to the button.
- (D) Mr. Hemant's role as a guard does not connect him to this specific piece of evidence.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The evidence of the silver button is most incriminating for Anjali because the passage explicitly connects her to owning a coat with similar buttons, providing a physical link to the crime scene.

Quick Tip

When evaluating evidence, physical evidence that directly links a suspect to the crime scene is often considered highly incriminating. Look for specific statements in the text that create these links.

11. Identifying the Logical Flaw in the Argument :

A detective argues: "Since Bharat has a confirmed, continuous alibi covering the entire time window of the theft (10:30 PM to 1:00 AM), he cannot be the thief." What principle of logic supports this detective's conclusion?

- (A) Correlation does not imply causation
- (B) If an event requires presence, confirmed absence proves innocence
- (C) The rule of double jeopardy
- (D) The burden of proof lies with the accuser

Correct Answer: (B) If an event requires presence, confirmed absence proves innocence

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the underlying logical principle that validates the detective's argument for Bharat's innocence.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's break down the detective's argument:

- **Premise 1:** The theft required the thief's physical presence at the museum between 10:30 PM and 1:00 AM.
- **Premise 2:** Bharat has a confirmed alibi showing he was physically absent from the museum during that entire period.
- **Conclusion:** Therefore, Bharat cannot be the thief.

This line of reasoning is a classic example of an alibi defense. The core principle is that a person cannot be in two different places at the same time. If the crime requires presence at Location A, and the suspect is proven to be at Location B, then the suspect cannot have committed the crime (at least not in person).

Now let's match this to the given options:

- (A) Correlation does not imply causation: This principle is about the relationship between two variables and is not relevant to this argument about physical location.
- (B) If an event requires presence, confirmed absence proves innocence: This perfectly describes the detective's logic. The event (theft) requires presence, and Bharat's confirmed absence proves his innocence of committing the act himself.

- (C) The rule of double jeopardy: This is a legal principle stating that a person cannot be tried for the same crime twice. It is not a principle of logical deduction about evidence.
- (D) The burden of proof lies with the accuser: This is a legal principle about who must provide evidence in a trial. It does not describe the logical structure of the detective's conclusion based on the alibi.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The principle that directly supports the detective's conclusion is that confirmed absence from a location where one's presence is required for an act proves innocence of that act.

Quick Tip

Familiarize yourself with common logical principles and fallacies. Understanding terms like "alibi," "correlation vs. causation," and legal principles like "double jeopardy" can help you quickly identify the correct reasoning in an argument.

12. Drawing a Strongest Conclusion

Considering all the facts (the code being used, the silver button, and the confirmed alibis), which is the most reasonable inference?

- (A) Bharat must have had an accomplice who knew the code
- (B) Chitra's alibi is false because she had enough time to commit the crime after leaving the studio
- (C) Anjali is the most likely suspect because the code was used and she has a direct link to the physical evidence (the button)
- (D) Mr. Hemant is secretly the thief and is trying to frame the former employees

Correct Answer: (C) Anjali is the most likely suspect because the code was used and she has a direct link to the physical evidence (the button)

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the most reasonable inference or conclusion based on a holistic view of all the evidence and alibis presented in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's synthesize the evidence against each suspect:

- **Anjali:** Has the strongest evidence against her.
 - **Means:** She knew the five-digit code that was used to open the case.
 - **Physical Evidence:** A button similar to those on her coat was found at the scene, suggesting her presence.

- **Motive:** Recently dismissed (shared with others).
- **Alibi:** No alibi is mentioned for her, which is also suspicious.
- **Bharat:** Has a confirmed alibi covering the entire theft window, making his direct involvement highly unlikely. The idea of him having an accomplice (A) is speculative.
- **Chitra:** Has an alibi until 11:45 PM. She had a window of opportunity (from 12:05 AM to 1:00 AM) to commit the crime. However, there is no evidence that she knew the code, which was the method used. Option (B) is incorrect; her alibi for the time before 11:45 PM can be true, and she could still have committed the crime later. Her alibi isn't necessarily "false".
- **Mr. Hemant:** There is no evidence presented in the text to suggest he is the thief (D). This is pure speculation.

Comparing the suspects, the case against Anjali is built on two strong, independent pieces of evidence: her knowledge of the specific method used (the code) and physical evidence linking her to the scene (the button). This combination makes her the most likely suspect.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The most reasonable inference from all the combined facts is that Anjali is the most likely suspect, as she is linked to the crime by both the method used and physical evidence.

Quick Tip

In "strongest conclusion" questions, weigh the evidence for and against each option. The best answer is the one most directly and comprehensively supported by the facts in the text, with the least amount of speculation.

13. Assessing Necessary Conditions

What condition is necessary for Chitra to have stolen the medallion?

- (A) She must know the five digit code
- (B) She must have left the graphic design studio before 11.45 pm
- (C) The theft must have occurred after she left the studio and before 1 am
- (D) She must have worked with Anjali to disable the locks

Correct Answer: (C) The theft must have occurred after she left the studio and before 1 am

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for a "necessary condition" for Chitra to be the thief. A necessary condition is a requirement that absolutely must be true for the conclusion (Chitra's guilt) to be possible.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's evaluate the options as necessary conditions for Chitra's guilt:

- **(A) She must know the five digit code:** This is a very strong candidate. Since the logs show the code was used, whoever committed the theft must have known the code (or had an accomplice who did). If Chitra acted alone, this is necessary.
- **(B) She must have left the graphic design studio before 11:45 pm:** This is not necessary. She could have left exactly at 11:45 PM and still had time to commit the crime.
- **(C) The theft must have occurred after she left the studio and before 1 am:** This is absolutely necessary. Chitra's alibi places her at the studio until 11:45 PM, and she needed 20 minutes to travel, meaning she could only be at the museum from 12:05 AM onwards. The guard's final check was at 1:00 AM. Therefore, for her to be the culprit, the crime must have happened within her window of opportunity: between 12:05 AM and 1:00 AM. This falls within the timeframe described in the option. If the theft had happened at 11:00 PM, she could not have been the thief.
- **(D) She must have worked with Anjali to disable the locks:** This is a possible scenario, but it is not a necessary condition. Chitra could have learned the code some other way, or worked with someone else. Therefore, this specific partnership is not necessary.

Comparing (A) and (C), both seem necessary if she acted alone. However, (C) defines the physical possibility of her presence. Without her being present, she cannot be the thief. The timeline defined in (C) is a hard, physical constraint based on her alibi. She could have potentially obtained the code (fulfilling A) but if the theft happened before she could arrive, she is innocent. Therefore, the timing of the theft is a more fundamental necessary condition for her guilt.

Step 3: Final Answer:

For Chitra to be the perpetrator, the crime absolutely must have taken place during the time she could have physically been at the museum. This time is after she left her studio (11:45 PM + 20 min travel) and before the final check (1:00 AM). Therefore, option (C) is a necessary condition.

Quick Tip

To test for a necessary condition, ask yourself: "If this condition were false, would the outcome still be possible?" If the answer is no, then the condition is necessary. For example, if the theft happened before Chitra left the studio, could she be guilty? No. Thus, the condition is necessary.

Passage III

In a small town lived a close-knit family where every relation could be expressed through simple symbols. For instance, when they said $A \times B$, it meant A is the father of B, while $A \div B$ meant A is the mother of B. The younger ones were often introduced with $A + B$, meaning A was the daughter of B, and the bond of brotherhood was shown by $A - B$ (A is brother of B). One day, the children in the family turned these symbols into a playful code. Instead of

introducing their parents and siblings in words, they spoke only in symbols. "Look," giggled little Meena, " $M + N \div O$!" Everyone laughed, because they knew it meant Meena was the daughter of N, and N was the mother of O, making her O's sister. What started as a code soon became a family game, making the bonds of father, mother, daughter, and brother not just relations, but symbols of love and togetherness. (165 words)

14. If ' $P + Q - R \div T$ ', how is T related to P?

- (A) Aunt
- (B) Father
- (C) Grandmother
- (D) None of these

Correct Answer: (D) None of these

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to determine the relationship of T with respect to P based on a coded expression. We first need to decode the relationships step-by-step.

Step 2: Decoding the Symbols:

From the passage, the symbols are defined as:

- $A + B$ means A is the daughter of B.
- $A - B$ means A is the brother of B.
- $A \div B$ means A is the mother of B.
- $A \times B$ means A is the father of B.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

We are given the expression ' $P + Q - R \div T$ '. Let's break it down:

1. $P + Q$: This means P is the daughter of Q.
2. $Q - R$: This means Q is the brother of R. This tells us that Q is male.
3. $R \div T$: This means R is the mother of T. This tells us that R is female.

Now let's combine these facts to find the relationship between T and P.

- Since P is the daughter of Q and Q is male, Q is P's father.
- Since Q is the brother of R, R is Q's sister. Therefore, R is P's paternal aunt.
- Since R is the mother of T, T is the child of R.
- As R is P's aunt, T (R's child) is P's cousin.

The question asks how T is related to P. T is the cousin of P.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The options are Aunt, Father, and Grandmother. Since 'Cousin' is not an option, the correct choice is (D) None of these.

Quick Tip

For blood relation questions with codes, first write down the meaning of each symbol clearly. Then, draw a family tree or trace the relationships step by step to avoid confusion. Pay attention to the gender revealed by each symbol (e.g., 'brother' implies male, 'mother' implies female).

15. Which of the following means that R is wife of P?

- (A) $P \times R - Q - T$
- (B) $P + T + R - Q$
- (C) $P \div R - Q + T$
- (D) $P \times T - Q + R$

Correct Answer: (D) $P \times T - Q + R$

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks which of the given expressions establishes that R is the wife of P. A "wife" relationship is established if P is the father and R is the mother of the same child.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's analyze each option:

- **(A) $P \times R - Q - T$:** ' $P \times R$ ' means P is the father of R. This cannot lead to R being the wife of P.
- **(B) $P + T + R - Q$:** ' $P + T$ ' means P is the daughter of T. ' $T + R$ ' means T is the daughter of R. This makes R the grandmother of P. This is incorrect.
- **(C) $P \div R - Q + T$:** ' $P \div R$ ' means P is the mother of R. This cannot lead to R being the wife of P.
- **(D) $P \times T - Q + R$:** Let's break this down.
 1. **$P \times T$:** P is the father of T. (P is male).
 2. **$T - Q$:** T is the brother of Q. This implies that P is also the father of Q.
 3. **$Q + R$:** Q is the daughter of R.

We have established that P is the father of Q. We have also established that R is a parent of Q. Since P is the father, R must be the mother of Q. If P is the father of Q and R is the mother of Q, then R and P are husband and wife.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The expression $P \times T - Q + R$ is the only one that establishes P as the father and R as the mother of the same child (Q), thereby making R the wife of P.

Quick Tip

To find a husband-wife relationship, look for an expression that identifies two individuals (e.g., P and R) as the male and female parents of a common child.

16. If ' $P \times T \div Q + R$ ' how is R related to P?

- (A) Daughter
- (B) Husband
- (C) Son-in-law
- (D) None of these

Correct Answer: (C) Son-in-law

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

We need to determine the relationship of R to P based on the expression ' $P \times T \div Q + R$ '.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's decode the expression step by step:

1. $P \times T$: P is the father of T.
2. $T \div Q$: T is the mother of Q. (This implies T is female, so T is the daughter of P).
3. $Q + R$: Q is the daughter of R.

Let's synthesize the information:

- From (2), T is the mother of Q.
- From (3), R is also a parent of Q. Since T is the mother, R must be the father of Q.
- This makes R the husband of T.
- From (1), P is the father of T.

So, if P is the father of T, and R is the husband of T, then R is the son-in-law of P.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Based on the relationships derived, R is P's son-in-law.

Quick Tip

Be careful with gender assignments. ' $P \times T$ ' means P is male, but T's gender is unknown. However, the next part of the expression, ' $T \div Q$ ', defines T as female ('mother'). Always use all parts of the expression to build the complete picture.

17. If ' $P \div R - Q \times T$ ', how is P related to T?

- (A) Grandmother
- (B) Mother-in-law
- (C) Sister
- (D) Grandfather

Correct Answer: (A) Grandmother

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

We need to find the relationship of P to T using the expression ' $P \div R - Q \times T$ '.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's decode the expression:

1. $P \div R$: P is the mother of R. (P is female).
2. $R - Q$: R is the brother of Q. (R is male). This means P is also the mother of Q.
3. $Q \times T$: Q is the father of T. (Q is male).

Let's put the information together:

- P is the mother of Q.
- Q is the father of T.

Therefore, P is the mother of T's father. The mother of one's father is their paternal grandmother.

Step 3: Final Answer:

P is the grandmother of T. Since P is female ('mother'), she cannot be a grandfather. The correct relationship is Grandmother.

Quick Tip

Trace relationships generation by generation. P is one generation above Q, and Q is one generation above T. This means P is two generations above T, indicating a grandparent-grandchild relationship. Use the gender to determine if it's grandmother or grandfather.

18. If ' $R \div Q + R \times T$ ', how is T related to Q?

- (A) Aunt
- (B) Sister
- (C) Brother
- (D) Grandson

Correct Answer: (C) Brother

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

We need to find the relationship of T to Q based on the expression ' $R \div Q + R \times T$ '.

Step 2: Identifying the Issue:

The expression as written (' $R \div Q + R \times T$ ') contains a logical contradiction.

- $R \div Q$ means R is the mother of Q, which implies R is female.
- $R \times T$ means R is the father of T, which implies R is male.

A person cannot be both male and female. This suggests a typo in the question. The most common format for these questions is a chain like P-Q-R-T. The most likely intended question was ' $P \div Q + R \times T$ ' where 'P' is a different person.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation (with corrected assumption):

Let's assume the expression was intended to be ' $P \div Q + R \times T$ '.

1. $P \div Q$: P is the mother of Q.
2. $Q + R$: Q is the daughter of R. Since Q already has a mother (P), R must be the father of Q. So, P and R are the parents of Q.
3. $R \times T$: R is the father of T.

From this, we can conclude that R is the father of both Q and T. This makes Q and T siblings. We know Q is female ('daughter'), but the gender of T is not specified by any of the symbols in the expression. T could be male (brother) or female (sister).

Step 4: Final Answer:

Since both 'Sister' and 'Brother' are options, the question is ambiguous. However, in such competitive exam scenarios, a single answer is expected. Without further information, we cannot

be certain. If we are forced to choose, it may be based on an unstated convention or it could be an error in the question itself. Assuming one of the options is correct, the relationship is sibling. Let's select 'Brother' as the answer. T is the brother of Q.

Quick Tip

Recognize when a question might be flawed. If you find a direct contradiction, state it in your reasoning. Then, make a logical assumption about the intended question (e.g., correcting a likely typo) and solve it, while acknowledging any remaining ambiguity.

19. If ' $R - P \div J \times Q$ ', how is J related to R?

- (A) Son
- (B) Nephew
- (C) Niece
- (D) Grandson

Correct Answer: (B) Nephew

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

We must determine the relationship of J to R from the expression ' $R - P \div J \times Q$ '.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's decode the expression step by step:

1. $R - P$: R is the brother of P. (R is male).
2. $P \div J$: P is the mother of J. (P is female).
3. $J \times Q$: J is the father of Q. (J is male).

Now, let's combine these relationships to find how J is related to R:

- P is the mother of J.
- R is the brother of P.
- Therefore, R is the brother of J's mother.
- The brother of one's mother is their maternal uncle. So, R is J's uncle.

The question asks how J is related to R. If R is J's uncle, then J is R's nephew or niece. From step 3 (' $J \times Q$ '), we know that J is the father of Q, which means J is male. Therefore, J is the nephew of R.

Step 3: Final Answer:

J is the son of R's sister, and J is male, which makes him R's nephew.

Quick Tip

Always read the question carefully. "How is J related to R?" is different from "How is R related to J?". After establishing the relationship (Uncle-Nephew), make sure you provide the answer from the correct perspective.

Passage IV

Four teams - Red (R), Blue (B), Green (G), and Yellow (Y) are competing in the final four rounds of the Inter-School Science Olympiad, labeled Round A, Round B, Round C, and Round D. Each round consists of one match between two teams, and every team plays exactly two matches. No team plays the same opponent more than once. The final schedule must adhere to the following rules:

- **Rule 1 (Consecutive Play):** The Green team (G) must play their two matches in consecutive rounds.
- **Rule 2 (Fixed Appearance):** The Yellow team (Y) must play in Round B.
- **Rule 3 (Positional Constraint):** The Red team (R) must play against the Blue team (B) in a round that is immediately before a round in which neither R nor B is playing.
- **Rule 4 (Timing):** The Blue team's (B) first match must occur in an earlier round than the Green team's (G) first match.
- **Rule 5 (Opponent Link):** The team that plays against the Red team (R) in the round that is not against the Blue team (B), is the same team that plays in Round D.

20. Determining the Green Team's Schedule

Considering Rules 1 and 2, which of the following pairs of rounds contains the Green team's two matches?

- (A) Round A and Round D
- (B) Round B and Round C
- (C) Round C and Round D
- (D) Round A and Round B

Correct Answer: (B) Round B and Round C

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the two rounds in which the Green team plays.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Based on the logical deduction of the full schedule:

- Rule 1 requires Green (G) to play in consecutive rounds.
- Rule 4 requires Blue's (B) first match to be before Green's, which eliminates the A-B pair for Green.
- Rule 2 places Yellow (Y) in Round B.
- For Green to play consecutively and also play Yellow in Round B, Green's matches must be in Round B and Round C.
- Our final schedule confirms this: Green plays Yellow in Round B and Blue in Round C.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Green team's two matches are in Round B and Round C.

Quick Tip

In logic grid puzzles, solving the entire puzzle first often makes answering individual questions much faster and more accurate.

21. Applying the Positional Constraint

Based on all the rules, particularly Rule 3, which of the following matches must be scheduled for Round A?

- (A) Red vs. Green
- (B) Red vs. Yellow
- (C) Red vs. Blue
- (D) Blue vs. Yellow

Correct Answer: (C) Red vs. Blue

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the specific match that takes place in Round A.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

From our deduction of the schedule:

1. We established that Blue's first match must be in Round A and Green's first match must be in Round B.
2. Rule 3 states that R vs. B must occur just before a round where neither R nor B plays.
3. Placing R vs. B in Round A fulfills this perfectly, as the match in Round B is G vs. Y, which does not involve R or B.

Therefore, the match in Round A must be Red vs. Blue.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The match scheduled for Round A is Red vs. Blue.

Quick Tip

Look for rules that create a strong positional link between events. Rule 3, linking the R vs. B match to the very next round, is a powerful constraint for fixing parts of the schedule.

22. Identifying the Blue Team's First Opponent

Who is the Blue team's first opponent in the tournament?

- (A) Green
- (B) Red
- (C) Yellow
- (D) The opponent cannot be determined

Correct Answer: (B) Red

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the name of the team that Blue plays against in its first match.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Our deduced schedule shows Blue's matches are:

- Round A vs. Red
- Round C vs. Green

Since Round A comes before Round C, Blue's first match is in Round A, and its opponent is the Red team.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Blue team's first opponent is Red.

Quick Tip

Once a valid schedule is created, questions about "first opponent" or "last match" can be answered by simply reading the schedule in chronological order (A, B, C, D).

23. Finding the Match in Round C

What is the match scheduled for Round C?

- (A) Red vs. Green
- (B) Green vs. Blue
- (C) Blue vs. Yellow
- (D) Red vs. Yellow

Correct Answer: (B) Green vs. Blue

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

This question asks to identify the teams playing in Round C.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Referring to the solved schedule:

- Round A: Red vs. Blue
- Round B: Green vs. Yellow
- **Round C: Green vs. Blue**
- Round D: Red vs. Yellow

The match in Round C is Green vs. Blue. This was the final step in our deduction before determining the Round D match using Rule 5.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The match scheduled for Round C is Green vs. Blue.

Quick Tip

Keep your solved schedule clear and accessible. A correctly deduced schedule is the key to answering all subsequent questions with confidence.

24. Identifying the Teams Excluded from a Round

Which pair of rounds contains matches where the Yellow team does not participate?

- (A) Round A and Round C
- (B) Round A and Round D
- (C) Round B and Round C
- (D) Round C and Round D

Correct Answer: (A) Round A and Round C

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

We need to find the two rounds in which the Yellow team does not play.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's examine the schedule to see when the Yellow team plays:

- Round A: Red vs. Blue (Yellow does not play)
- Round B: Green vs. Yellow (Yellow plays)
- Round C: Green vs. Blue (Yellow does not play)
- Round D: Red vs. Yellow (Yellow plays)

The Yellow team does not participate in Round A and Round C.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct pair of rounds is Round A and Round C.

Quick Tip

For questions asking where a team **doesn't** play, it's often easiest to first identify where they **do** play and then select the remaining options.

25. Team Opponent Check

Which team does the Yellow team NOT play against over the course of the four rounds?

- (A) Red
- (B) Blue
- (C) Green
- (D) The Yellow team plays against all other teams

Correct Answer: (B) Blue

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify which of the other three teams is not an opponent of the Yellow team.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

From the deduced schedule, the Yellow team plays two matches:

1. In Round B, Yellow plays against Green.
2. In Round D, Yellow plays against Red.

The Yellow team's opponents are Green and Red. The team it does not play against is Blue.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Yellow team does not play against the Blue team.

Quick Tip

To check opponents, list a team's matches from your solved schedule and note the teams they played against. The team not on that list is the correct answer.

26. Assessing a Rule Violation

If the match in Round D was (Blue vs. Yellow), which of the original rules would be violated by this schedule change?

- (A) Rule 1 (Consecutive Play)
- (B) Rule 3 (Positional Constraint)
- (C) Rule 4 (Timing)
- (D) Rule 5 (Opponent Link)

Correct Answer: (D) Rule 5 (Opponent Link)

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

This is a hypothetical question. It proposes a new match for Round D and asks which of the five rules would be broken if a valid schedule could be constructed with this new condition.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's try to build a valid schedule with the new constraint: the match in Round D is B vs. Y.

1. **Constraint:** Round D = Blue vs. Yellow.
2. **Rule 2:** Yellow must play in Round B.
3. **Rule 4 & 1:** Blue's first match must be before Green's first match. Green must play consecutively. As deduced before, this forces Green into rounds B-C and Blue's first match into Round A.
4. **Putting it together so far:**
 - Round A: Blue plays its first match.
 - Round B: Green vs. Yellow (satisfies Rule 1 for G, Rule 2 for Y).
 - Round C: Green plays its second match.

- Round D: Blue vs. Yellow.

5. **Filling in opponents:**

- In Round A, Blue's opponent cannot be Y (plays B in D) or G (plays Y in B). So, Blue's opponent in A must be Red. Match: **R vs. B**.
- In Round C, Green's second opponent cannot be Y (played in B). B has already played its two matches (in A and D). So, Green's opponent must be Red. Match: **G vs. R**.

6. **The hypothetical schedule is:**

- Round A: Red vs. Blue
- Round B: Green vs. Yellow
- Round C: Green vs. Red
- Round D: Blue vs. Yellow

7. **Checking the rules against this new schedule:**

- **Rule 1 (G consecutive):** Yes, G plays in B and C. (Satisfied)
- **Rule 2 (Y in B):** Yes. (Satisfied)
- **Rule 3 (R-B before no R/B):** R vs. B is in A. Round B is G vs. Y, which has no R or B. (Satisfied)
- **Rule 4 (B first ; G first):** B's first match is in A. G's first match is in B. (Satisfied)
- **Rule 5 (Opponent Link):** This rule states that R's non-B opponent must play in Round D. In this new schedule, R's opponents are B (in A) and G (in C). So, R's non-B opponent is G. Rule 5 requires G to play in Round D. However, the match in Round D is B vs. Y. Therefore, this rule is **violated**.

Step 3: Final Answer:

If the match in Round D were Blue vs. Yellow, a schedule can be constructed that satisfies rules 1, 2, 3, and 4, but it explicitly violates Rule 5.

Quick Tip

For "what if" questions that change a condition, don't just check the original schedule. Re-build a new, consistent schedule based on the new condition and then test all the original rules against it to find the one that breaks.

Section II

Passage V

Health insurance plays a vital role in ensuring financial protection and access to quality health-care. In India, however, the extent and nature of health insurance coverage vary significantly between urban and rural areas. While urban populations often have better access to organized insurance schemes, employer-provided coverage, and awareness about health policies,

rural populations face challenges such as limited outreach of insurance schemes, inadequate infrastructure, and lower awareness levels. This urban-rural divide in health insurance coverage highlights the broader issue of healthcare inequality, making it essential to analyze the factors contributing to this gap and explore strategies for more inclusive health protection. A state-level health survey was conducted.

The survey covered 1,80,000 adults across urban and rural areas. Urban residents formed 55% of the sample (that is, 99,000 people) while rural residents made up 45% (that is, 81,000 people). In each area, coverage was classified under four heads – Public schemes, Private insurance, Employer-provided coverage, and Uninsured. In urban areas, Public coverage accounted for 28% of the urban population, Private for 22%, Employer for 18%, and the remaining 32% were Uninsured. In rural areas, where formal coverage is generally lower, Public coverage stood at 35%, Private at 10%, Employer at 8%, while 47% were Uninsured. For this survey, "Insured" includes everyone covered by Public + Private + Employer schemes, and "Uninsured" indicates those with no coverage at all. Officials noted that public schemes remain the backbone of rural coverage, while employer and private plans are relatively more prevalent in urban centres. (250 words)

27. The ratio of insured adults in Urban: Rural is:

- (A) 82:65
- (B) 748:477
- (C) 65:82
- (D) 477:748

Correct Answer: (B) 748:477

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the ratio of the number of insured adults in urban areas to the number of insured adults in rural areas.

Data Interpretation Table

First, we calculate the absolute numbers for each category based on the percentages given in the passage.

Total Population = 1,80,000.

Category	Urban (55% = 99,000)		Rural (45% = 81,000)	
	Percentage	Number of Adults	Percentage	Number of Adults
Public	28%	27,720	35%	28,350
Private	22%	21,780	10%	8,100
Employer	18%	17,820	8%	6,480
Total Insured	68%	67,320	53%	42,930
Uninsured	32%	31,680	47%	38,070
Total	100%	99,000	100%	81,000

Overall Totals:

- **Total Publicly Insured:** $27,720 + 28,350 = 56,070$
- **Total Privately Insured:** $21,780 + 8,100 = 29,880$
- **Total Employer-covered:** $17,820 + 6,480 = 24,300$
- **Total Insured Population:** $67,320 + 42,930 = 1,10,250$
- **Total Uninsured Population:** $31,680 + 38,070 = 69,750$

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

From our data interpretation table:

- Number of insured adults in Urban areas = 67,320.
- Number of insured adults in Rural areas = 42,930.

We need to find the ratio 67,320 : 42,930.

To simplify the ratio, we find the greatest common divisor (GCD). Let's start by dividing by 10.

$$6732 : 4293$$

The sum of digits for 6732 is 18 (divisible by 9).

The sum of digits for 4293 is 18 (divisible by 9).

Let's divide both numbers by 9.

$$6732 \div 9 = 748$$

$$4293 \div 9 = 477$$

The simplified ratio is 748 : 477.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The ratio of insured adults in Urban to Rural is 748:477.

Quick Tip

When simplifying large number ratios, check for divisibility by common small numbers (2, 3, 5, 10) first. Divisibility rules (like the sum of digits for 3 and 9) are very helpful.

28. By what percentage is the number of Uninsured in Rural higher than Uninsured in Urban?

- (A) 18.75%
- (B) 20.17%
- (C) 22.50%
- (D) 25.00%

Correct Answer: (B) 20.17%

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the percentage increase from the number of uninsured urban adults to the number of uninsured rural adults.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

The formula for percentage increase is:

$$\text{Percentage Increase} = \left(\frac{\text{New Value} - \text{Original Value}}{\text{Original Value}} \right) \times 100$$

Here, "New Value" is Uninsured Rural and "Original Value" is Uninsured Urban.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

From our data table:

- Number of Uninsured in Rural areas = 38,070.
- Number of Uninsured in Urban areas = 31,680.

Using the formula:

$$\text{Percentage Increase} = \left(\frac{38,070 - 31,680}{31,680} \right) \times 100$$

$$\text{Percentage Increase} = \left(\frac{6,390}{31,680} \right) \times 100$$

$$\text{Percentage Increase} = 0.2017045... \times 100$$

$$\text{Percentage Increase} \approx 20.17\%$$

Step 4: Final Answer:

The number of uninsured in Rural areas is approximately 20.17% higher than in Urban areas.

Quick Tip

Be careful with the base of the percentage. "Higher than Uninsured in Urban" means the urban number is the denominator (the base for comparison).

29. If the total population grows by 5% next year and all percentage shares remain the same (including the Urban-Rural split), how many additional privately insured people will there be (vs. this year)?

- (A) 1,494
- (B) 1,560
- (C) 1,620

(D) 1,650

Correct Answer: (A) 1,494

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the increase in the number of privately insured people if the total population increases by 5%, assuming all underlying proportions remain constant.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

Since all percentage shares remain the same, if the total population grows by 5%, then every sub-group within that population will also grow by 5%. We can simply calculate the current number of privately insured people and find 5% of that number.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

From our data table, the total number of privately insured people this year is:

$$\text{Total Privately Insured} = \text{Private (Urban)} + \text{Private (Rural)} = 21,780 + 8,100 = 29,880$$

The number of additional privately insured people will be 5% of this current number.

$$\text{Additional People} = 5\% \text{ of } 29,880$$

$$\text{Additional People} = 0.05 \times 29,880$$

$$\text{Additional People} = 1,494$$

Step 4: Final Answer:

There will be 1,494 additional privately insured people next year.

Quick Tip

When a total population and all its sub-group percentages scale by a certain factor, you can find the change in a sub-group by applying that same scaling factor directly to the sub-group's current number. This is much faster than recalculating everything from the new total population.

30. The total number of Employer-covered adults is:

- (A) 22,800
- (B) 23,100
- (C) 24,300
- (D) 25,200

Correct Answer: (C) 24,300

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Question:**

The question asks for the total number of adults covered by employer-provided insurance across both urban and rural areas.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

We can find this by adding the number of employer-covered adults from both regions, as calculated in our data table.

- Number of Employer-covered in Urban areas = 17,820.
- Number of Employer-covered in Rural areas = 6,480.

$$\text{Total Employer-covered} = 17,820 + 6,480 = 24,300$$

Step 3: Final Answer:

The total number of Employer-covered adults is 24,300.

Quick Tip

Creating a summary table at the beginning for data interpretation sets is a great strategy. It organizes the information and turns subsequent questions into simple lookups or additions.

31. What percentage of all insured adults are Publicly insured?

- (A) 48.50%
- (B) 49.75%
- (C) 50.86%
- (D) 52.00%

Correct Answer: (C) 50.86%

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Question:**

The question asks what percentage of the total insured population is covered by public schemes.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

$$\text{Percentage} = \left(\frac{\text{Number of Publicly Insured}}{\text{Total Number of Insured Adults}} \right) \times 100$$

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

From our overall totals calculated from the data table:

- Total Number of Publicly Insured Adults = 56,070.
- Total Number of Insured Adults = 1,10,250.

Using the formula:

$$\text{Percentage} = \left(\frac{56,070}{1,10,250} \right) \times 100$$

$$\text{Percentage} = 0.5085714... \times 100$$

$$\text{Percentage} \approx 50.86\%$$

Step 4: Final Answer:

Approximately 50.86% of all insured adults are Publicly insured.

Quick Tip

Pay close attention to the denominator in percentage questions. Here, it is "all insured adults," not the total surveyed population.

32. What percentage of the total surveyed population was insured?

- (A) 52.15%
- (B) 56.25%
- (C) 61.25%
- (D) 64%

Correct Answer: (C) 61.25%

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the overall insurance coverage rate for the entire surveyed population.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

$$\text{Percentage} = \left(\frac{\text{Total Number of Insured Adults}}{\text{Total Surveyed Population}} \right) \times 100$$

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

From our overall totals:

- Total Number of Insured Adults = 1,10,250.
- Total Surveyed Population = 1,80,000.

Using the formula:

$$\text{Percentage} = \left(\frac{1,10,250}{1,80,000} \right) \times 100$$

To simplify the calculation, we can reduce the fraction:

$$\frac{110250}{180000} = \frac{11025}{18000} = \frac{441}{720} = \frac{49}{80}$$

$$\text{Percentage} = \left(\frac{49}{80} \right) \times 100 = 49 \times 1.25 = 61.25\%$$

Alternatively, we could find the overall uninsured rate and subtract from 100%.

Total Uninsured = 69,750.

Uninsured % = $(69,750 / 1,80,000) \times 100 = 38.75\%$.

Insured % = $100\% - 38.75\% = 61.25\%$.

Step 4: Final Answer:

61.25% of the total surveyed population was insured.

Quick Tip

Sometimes calculating the complement (e.g., the uninsured percentage) and subtracting from 100% can be a useful way to check your work or an alternative way to solve the problem.

Passage VI

A state electricity report serves as an important tool to assess energy production and track progress in the power sector. By providing quarterly data on generation measured in gigawatt hours (GWh), the report highlights the contribution of different energy sources such as coal, gas, hydro, solar, and wind. This not only helps in understanding the overall energy mix and dependence on conventional versus renewable sources but also enables policymakers, planners, and stakeholders to evaluate trends, address gaps, and promote sustainable energy development. A state electricity report provides quarterly generation (in GWh) by source – Coal, Gas, Hydro, Solar, and Wind.

In Q1 Generation from Coal is 2,200 GWh, Gas contributes 800 GWh, Hydro 900 GWh, Solar 700 GWh, and Wind 400 GWh, for a total of 5,000 GWh.

In Q2 Coal rises to 2,400 GWh, while Gas dips to 700 GWh; Hydro improves to 1,000 GWh, Solar to 800 GWh, and Wind to 600 GWh, bringing the quarterly total to 5,500 GWh.

In Q3 Coal moderates to 2,100 GWh, Gas increases to 900 GWh, Hydro softens to 800 GWh, but Solar advances to 1,000 GWh and Wind to 700 GWh, keeping the total at 5,500 GWh.

In Q4 Coal moves to 2,300 GWh, Gas to 850 GWh, Hydro to 1,100 GWh, Solar to 900 GWh, and Wind to 850 GWh, for a total of 6,000 GWh.

For analysis, Renewables are taken as Hydro + Solar + Wind. A carbon policy scenario proposes cutting Q4 Coal by 10%, shifting the entire reduction equally into Solar and Wind. (255 words)

33. The total annual generation (GWh) is :

- (A) 20,500
- (B) 21,500
- (C) 22,000
- (D) 22,500

Correct Answer: (C) 22,000

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the total electricity generation for the entire year, which is the sum of the generation from all four quarters.

Data Interpretation Table

First, we summarize the provided data and calculate totals and percentages for easier analysis. All values are in GWh.

Definition: Renewables = Hydro + Solar + Wind.

Source	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual Total
Coal	2,200	2,400	2,100	2,300	9,000
Gas	800	700	900	850	3,250
Hydro	900	1,000	800	1,100	3,800
Solar	700	800	1,000	900	3,400
Wind	400	600	700	850	2,550
Total Renewables	2,000	2,400	2,500	2,850	9,750
Quarterly Total	5,000	5,500	5,500	6,000	22,000
Renewable %	40.00%	43.64%	45.45%	47.50%	44.32%

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

From the passage, the quarterly totals are given:

- Q1 Total = 5,000 GWh
- Q2 Total = 5,500 GWh
- Q3 Total = 5,500 GWh
- Q4 Total = 6,000 GWh

The annual total generation is the sum of these quarterly totals.

$$\text{Annual Total} = 5,000 + 5,500 + 5,500 + 6,000 = 22,000 \text{ GWh}$$

This result is also calculated and shown in the summary table.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The total annual generation is 22,000 GWh.

Quick Tip

For data sets, summing up the given totals is usually the most direct way to find the grand total. Always double-check your addition.

34. The overall renewable share (as % of annual generation) is closest to:

- (A) 42.5%
- (B) 43.8%
- (C) 44.3%
- (D) 45.0%

Correct Answer: (C) 44.3%

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the percentage of the total annual generation that comes from renewable sources (Hydro + Solar + Wind).

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

$$\text{Renewable Share \%} = \left(\frac{\text{Total Annual Renewable Generation}}{\text{Total Annual Generation}} \right) \times 100$$

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

From our summary table, we have the annual totals:

- Total Annual Renewable Generation = 9,750 GWh.
- Total Annual Generation = 22,000 GWh.

Now, we apply the formula:

$$\text{Renewable Share \%} = \left(\frac{9,750}{22,000} \right) \times 100$$

$$\text{Renewable Share \%} = \left(\frac{975}{2200} \right) \times 100 = \frac{975}{22} \approx 44.318\%$$

The value closest to 44.318% is 44.3%.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The overall renewable share is closest to 44.3%.

Quick Tip

When asked for the "closest" value, perform the calculation to at least one more decimal place than the options to ensure you choose the correct one.

35. The quarter with the highest renewable percentage share is:

- (A) Q1
- (B) Q2
- (C) Q3
- (D) Q4

Correct Answer: (D) Q4

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

We need to compare the renewable generation as a percentage of the total generation for each quarter and identify the quarter with the highest percentage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

We have already calculated these percentages in the last row of our summary table:

- **Q1 Renewable %** = $(2,000 / 5,000) \times 100 = 40.00\%$
- **Q2 Renewable %** = $(2,400 / 5,500) \times 100 \approx 43.64\%$
- **Q3 Renewable %** = $(2,500 / 5,500) \times 100 \approx 45.45\%$
- **Q4 Renewable %** = $(2,850 / 6,000) \times 100 = 47.50\%$

Comparing these values: 47.50% $\succ$ 45.45% $\succ$ 43.64% $\succ$ 40.00%.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The highest renewable percentage share is in Q4.

Quick Tip

Systematically calculating and tabulating key metrics (like percentages) for each period at the beginning can make comparison questions very easy to answer.

36. A carbon policy reduces Q4 Coal by 10% and shifts the entire reduction equally to Solar and Wind. The new Q4 Solar (GWh) is:

- (A) 975
- (B) 1,000
- (C) 1,015
- (D) 1,030

Correct Answer: (C) 1,015

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

This question describes a hypothetical scenario where Q4 coal generation is reduced, and that reduced amount is reallocated to solar and wind. We need to find the new solar generation value for Q4.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

1. **Find the original Q4 Coal generation:** From the data, Q4 Coal = 2,300 GWh.
2. **Calculate the reduction amount:** The reduction is 10% of the Q4 Coal generation.

$$\text{Reduction} = 10\% \text{ of } 2,300 = 0.10 \times 2,300 = 230 \text{ GWh}$$

3. **Calculate the amount shifted to Solar:** The reduction is shifted equally to Solar and Wind.

$$\text{Shift to Solar} = \frac{\text{Total Reduction}}{2} = \frac{230}{2} = 115 \text{ GWh}$$

4. **Calculate the new Q4 Solar generation:** Add the shifted amount to the original Q4 Solar generation.

Original Q4 Solar = 900 GWh.

$$\text{New Q4 Solar} = \text{Original Q4 Solar} + \text{Shift to Solar} = 900 + 115 = 1,015 \text{ GWh}$$

Step 3: Final Answer:

The new Q4 Solar generation would be 1,015 GWh.

Quick Tip

Break down "what if" scenarios into sequential steps. Calculate the change first, then determine how the change is distributed, and finally apply it to the original numbers.

37. The annual Gas: Hydro generation ratio is:

- (A) 13:15
- (B) 65:76
- (C) 5:6
- (D) 26:31

Correct Answer: (B) 65:76

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

We need to find the simplified ratio of the total annual generation from Gas to the total annual generation from Hydro.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

From our summary table, we find the annual totals:

- Total Annual Gas Generation = 3,250 GWh.
- Total Annual Hydro Generation = 3,800 GWh.

The ratio is 3,250 : 3,800.

To simplify the ratio, we can find the greatest common divisor (GCD). Let's start by dividing both sides by 10.

$$325 : 380$$

Now, we can see both numbers are divisible by 5.

$$325 \div 5 = 65$$

$$380 \div 5 = 76$$

The simplified ratio is 65:76.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The annual Gas: Hydro generation ratio is 65:76.

Quick Tip

When simplifying a ratio, divide both numbers by their common factors until no common factors (other than 1) remain.

38. The quarter with the lowest renewable percentage share is:

- (A) Q1
- (B) Q2
- (C) Q3
- (D) Q4

Correct Answer: (A) Q1

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

We need to compare the renewable generation as a percentage of the total generation for each

quarter and identify the quarter with the lowest percentage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

This is the inverse of question 117. We use the same calculated percentages from our summary table:

- Q1 Renewable % = 40.00%
- Q2 Renewable % $\approx$ 43.64%
- Q3 Renewable % $\approx$ 45.45%
- Q4 Renewable % = 47.50%

Comparing these values, the smallest percentage is 40.00%, which corresponds to Q1.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The quarter with the lowest renewable percentage share is Q1.

Quick Tip

A well-organized summary table allows you to answer multiple related questions (like highest/lowest values) from the same set of pre-calculated results, saving significant time and effort.

Section III

Passage VII

US president Donald trump has landed a triple whammy on India by torpedoing the H-1B visa programme, days after revoking sanctions waiver on Chabahar port in Iran and weeks after imposing a 50% tariff on Indian exports to the US. The White House also maintained a conspicuous silence on the Pakistan-Saudi Arabia mutual defence treaty amid reports that neither country informed Washington of the pact, suggesting a growing US indifference to India's concerns. The triple blow has shaken US-India ties to the foundation, mystifying experts who expected a reset after an exchange of friendly messages between Modi and Trump. While some observers see in the crackdown on H-1B a pressure tactic to make India bend on the trade deal, sources familiar with the dynamics of the current White House say the two issues are unrelated and Trump was convinced of the need to "reform" the guest worker visa programme ever since MAGA hardliners persuaded him that American workers were being gamed out of jobs by foreign companies and US big tech acting in tandem. (174 words)

[Extracted from the newspaper, The Times of India, September 21, 2025]

39. What percentage tariff did President Trump initially impose on Indian imports in 2025?

- (A) 15%
- (B) 25%
- (C) 40%
- (D) 50%

Correct Answer: (D) 50%

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for a specific factual detail from the passage: the percentage of the tariff imposed on Indian exports.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The first sentence of the passage lists three actions taken by the US president. The third action mentioned is "...and weeks after imposing a **50% tariff** on Indian exports to the US." This is a direct retrieval of information from the text.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The passage explicitly states that a 50% tariff was imposed on Indian exports.

Quick Tip

For questions that ask for specific numbers, dates, or names, quickly scan the text to locate the exact phrase or sentence containing that detail.

40. What strategic reason did Donald Trump cite for penalizing India with additional tariffs apart from trade imbalances?

- (A) India's IT service exports
- (B) Indian Banknote Demonetization
- (C) India's immigration policies
- (D) India's defense and energy ties with Russia

Correct Answer: (D) India's defense and energy ties with Russia

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for a strategic reason for the tariffs, other than trade imbalances. Note: This question cannot be answered from the provided passage. The passage does not state the reason for the tariffs. It only mentions the H-1B visa issue, and explicitly states that sources claim the two issues are "unrelated". The solution below is based on general knowledge of US-India

relations during the Trump administration, as the passage itself does not provide the answer.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The provided text does not contain the answer. Based on external general knowledge:

- A significant point of friction in US-India relations has been India's purchase of the S-400 missile defense system from Russia.
- The US has a law called CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act) which can trigger sanctions against countries that have significant defense and energy deals with Russia.
- Therefore, India's strategic ties with Russia have been a major point of contention and a reason for potential penalties from the US. Options (A) and (C) are related to the H-1B visa, which the passage says is separate from the trade deal. Option (B) is a domestic Indian policy from 2016 and is irrelevant.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Although not mentioned in the text, a major strategic issue between the US and India has been India's defense relationship with Russia. This is the most plausible strategic reason among the choices.

Quick Tip

Be aware that some questions in a comprehension test may require external general knowledge, or they may be flawed. If the answer is not in the text, use logical reasoning and your existing knowledge to find the most likely correct option.

41. What is the strategic significance of Chabahar Port for India?

- (A) Provides trade access to China through Pakistan
- (B) Acts as counterbalance to China's presence in nearby Gwadar Port, Pakistan
- (C) Serves as the primary naval base for India
- (D) Connects India directly to the Mediterranean Sea

Correct Answer: (B) Acts as counterbalance to China's presence in nearby Gwadar Port, Pakistan

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks about the strategic importance of the Chabahar Port for India. This requires

general knowledge as the passage only mentions the port but does not explain its significance.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- Chabahar Port is located in Iran and is crucial for India's geopolitical interests.
- It provides India a way to bypass Pakistan and access Afghanistan and Central Asia for trade.
- Critically, it is located very close to Gwadar Port in Pakistan, which has been developed by China as part of its Belt and Road Initiative.
- India's development of Chabahar is widely seen as a strategic response to China's growing influence in the region and its investment in Gwadar. Therefore, it acts as a strategic counterbalance.
- (A), (C), and (D) are factually incorrect statements about the port's function and location.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The primary strategic significance of Chabahar Port for India is to counter China's influence, particularly its development of the nearby Gwadar Port in Pakistan.

Quick Tip

For questions on geopolitics and international relations, think about the rivalries and alliances between major countries in the region.

42. What is the primary purpose of the H-1B Visa?

- (A) Exchange Visitor Visa
- (B) Employment Visa
- (C) Immigrant visa for permanent residence in the U.S.
- (D) Non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to hire foreign professionals in specialized field

Correct Answer: (D) Non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to hire foreign professionals in specialized field

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the main purpose of the H-1B visa, which is mentioned in the passage. This is a general knowledge question.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- The H-1B is a specific type of visa in the United States.
- It is a **non-immigrant** visa, meaning it is temporary and does not initially grant permanent residency.
- Its purpose is to allow U.S. employers to temporarily employ foreign workers in **specialty occupations**. These occupations generally require a bachelor's degree or higher in a specific field.
- Option (D) is the most precise and complete definition. Option (A) refers to the J-1 visa. Option (B) is too general. Option (C) is incorrect because H-1B is a non-immigrant visa, though it can be a step towards immigration.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The primary purpose of the H-1B visa is to enable U.S. companies to hire foreign professionals for jobs that require specialized skills.

Quick Tip

When dealing with technical terms like visa types, look for the most specific and accurate definition among the options.

43. The acronym 'MAGA' mentioned in the above passage refers to:

- (A) Multilateral Agencies Global Association
- (B) Make America Great Again
- (C) Mutual Agreements for Global Advantage
- (D) Monetary Advantage For Great America

Correct Answer: (B) Make America Great Again

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Question:**

The question asks for the full form of the acronym 'MAGA', which appears in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The acronym 'MAGA' is widely known as the political slogan of Donald Trump. The passage mentions "MAGA hardliners" persuading Trump. The full form of this acronym is "Make America Great Again," which was the centerpiece of his presidential campaigns.

Step 3: Final Answer:

MAGA stands for Make America Great Again.

Quick Tip

Familiarity with major political slogans and acronyms is helpful for general knowledge and current events sections in exams.

Passage VIII

Directions: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Indian Chess recorded yet another great moment on Monday; as Divya Deshmukh won the Women's World Cup in Georgian city of Batumi. In the final, the 19-year-old defeated fellow-Indian Koneru Humpy in the tiebreakers. While Humpy contesting the final wasn't much of a surprise-she is the World No. 5 and has been one of the best female players for the last couple of decades-not many would have anticipated Divya's stunning show. But, given her obvious talent and the way she has been playing for the past two years, it didn't come as a big surprise. By winning the World Cup, one of the biggest events organized by the world chess governing body FIDE, Divya also achieved another significant milestone. She became India's 88th Grandmaster and is only the fourth Indian Woman after Humpy, D. Harika and R. Vaishali to get that coveted title. Last year, Divya won the World junior championship in Ahmedabad with a dominant display. She also played a key role in India's historic gold in the Chess Olympiad at Budapest. India was the top seed there, though. At the World Cup, the Indian women exceeded expectations, with four of them making it to the quarterfinals. (198 words)

[Extracted from the newspaper, The Hindu July 29, 2025]

44. Where is the origin of chess believed to be?

- (A) China
- (B) Russia
- (C) India
- (D) Egypt

Correct Answer: (C) India

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks about the historical origin of the game of chess. This is a general knowledge

question not answered in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The predominant theory among historians is that chess originated in northern India during the Gupta empire around the 6th century AD. The early form of the game was known as 'Chaturanga', which translates to 'four divisions' of the military: infantry, cavalry, elephantry, and chariotry. These pieces evolved into the modern pawn, knight, bishop, and rook, respectively. From India, the game spread to Persia, then to the Muslim world, and eventually to Europe.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Chess is widely believed to have originated in India as the game 'Chaturanga'.

Quick Tip

Knowing the origins of major games, sports, and cultural practices is a common topic in general knowledge tests.

45. Who was the first Indian to earn the title of chess Grandmaster?

- (A) D. Gukesh
- (B) Praveen Thipsay
- (C) Dibyendu Barua
- (D) Vishwanathan Anand

Correct Answer: (D) Vishwanathan Anand

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify India's first chess Grandmaster. This is a general knowledge question. The passage mentions Divya became the 88th GM, but does not name the first.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Viswanathan Anand, often called "Vishy," is a legendary figure in Indian and world chess. He became India's first Grandmaster (GM) in 1988. He also went on to become the FIDE World Chess Champion from 2000 to 2002 and the undisputed World Chess Champion from 2007 to 2013. His achievements single-handedly sparked a chess revolution in India, inspiring generations of players, including those mentioned in the passage. Dibyendu Barua became India's second GM, and D. Gukesh is a young prodigy from the current generation.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Viswanathan Anand was the first chess player from India to be awarded the title of Grandmaster.

Quick Tip

For questions about "firsts" in a country's history (e.g., first astronaut, first Prime Minister, first Grandmaster), it's useful to remember the key pioneering figures.

46. Who was the first official World Chess Champion?

- (A) Bobby Fischer
- (B) Gary Kasparov
- (C) Vishwanathan Anand
- (D) Wilhelm Steinitz

Correct Answer: (D) Wilhelm Steinitz

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the first official World Chess Champion in history. This requires general knowledge of chess history.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

While there were unofficial "best players" in the world for centuries, the concept of an official World Chess Championship began in the late 19th century. The first official match for the title was held in 1886 between Wilhelm Steinitz and Johannes Zukertort. Wilhelm Steinitz won the match decisively and is universally recognized as the first official World Chess Champion. The other players listed were champions much later: Bobby Fischer (11th), Garry Kasparov (13th), and Viswanathan Anand (15th).

Step 3: Final Answer:

Wilhelm Steinitz became the first official World Chess Champion after winning his match against Zukertort in 1886.

Quick Tip

The history of championships often distinguishes between "unofficial" top players of an era and the start of an "official", formally recognized title lineage.

47. Which of the following computers successfully defeated Garry Kasparov, the reigning world chess champion, in a tournament match?

- (A) Deep AI
- (B) Deep Thought

- (C) Deep Blue
- (D) Deep Water

Correct Answer: (C) Deep Blue

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to name the computer that famously defeated World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

This was a landmark event in the history of artificial intelligence. In 1997, a chess-playing supercomputer developed by IBM called **Deep Blue** played a six-game match against Garry Kasparov, the reigning world champion and arguably the greatest player of all time. Deep Blue won the match 3.5 - 2.5, marking the first time a computer had defeated a reigning world champion in a standard tournament match format. Deep Thought was an earlier version of the computer that Kasparov had defeated.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The IBM supercomputer that defeated Garry Kasparov in 1997 was named Deep Blue.

Quick Tip

Remembering key milestones in the history of technology and artificial intelligence, such as the Kasparov vs. Deep Blue match, is important for general knowledge.

48. Which of the following cities is the venue for hosting the 11th edition of Chess World Cup 2025?

- (A) Paris, France
- (B) Baku, Azerbaijan
- (C) Goa, India
- (D) Chennai, India

Correct Answer: (B) Baku, Azerbaijan

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the host city of the 11th Chess World Cup in 2025. This question is based on a future event and cannot be answered from the passage. The passage mentions the

Women's World Cup was in Batumi, Georgia, not the general World Cup.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

As of late 2025, the official venue for the FIDE Chess World Cup 2025 has not been announced. The question is therefore flawed as it refers to a decision that has not yet been made. However, we can analyze the options based on past events:

- **Baku, Azerbaijan** hosted the FIDE World Cup in 2015 and again in 2023. It is a major center for world chess and a frequent host of top-level events.
- **Chennai, India** hosted the 44th Chess Olympiad in 2022 and is a major chess hub in India.
- Given its recent history of hosting the event, Baku is a strong and plausible candidate, though this is speculative.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The official venue has not been determined. Among the given choices, Baku, Azerbaijan is a highly plausible candidate having hosted the event twice, including the most recent edition in 2023.

Quick Tip

Be cautious with questions about future events. If an official decision has not been made, analyze the options for the most likely candidate based on historical precedent or recent trends.

Passage IX

Directions: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

I rise to apprise this august House of the foreign policy dimension of our response to the Pahalgam terrorist attack, going into the preparations for Operation Sindoor and how foreign policy was handled during Operation Sindoor. As all the honourable members would appreciate, it was important to send a clear, strong and resolute message after the Pahalgam attack. Our red lines had been crossed and we had to make it very apparent that there would be serious consequences. As a result, the first step which was taken was that a meeting of the Cabinet Committee of Security took place on the 23rd of April, and that meeting decided that:

- One, the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 will be held in abeyance with immediate effect until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism.
- Two, the integrated checkpost Attari would be closed with immediate effect.
- Three, Pakistani nationals who were traveling under SAARC visa exemption scheme would no longer be allowed to do that.

- Four, the Defence, Naval and Air Advisors of the Pakistani High Commission would be declared persona non-grata and,
- Five, the overall strength of the High Commission would be brought down to 30 from the number of 55. (207 words)

(Excerpts from Statement made by Minister of External Affairs Dr. S Jaishankar on special discussion in Lok Sabha on Operation Sindoor dated 28th Jul 2025)

49. Where is Pahalgam situated in India?

- (A) Punjab
- (B) Himachal Pradesh
- (C) Jammu & Kashmir
- (D) Uttarakhand

Correct Answer: (C) Jammu & Kashmir

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the geographical location of Pahalgam, a place mentioned in the passage. This is a general knowledge question.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Pahalgam is a popular tourist destination and hill station in India. It is located in the Anantnag district of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. It is also famous as the starting point for the annual Amarnath Yatra pilgrimage.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Pahalgam is situated in Jammu & Kashmir.

Quick Tip

Familiarity with major towns, tourist destinations, and strategically important locations mentioned in the news is crucial for geography-based general knowledge questions.

50. The Checkpost Attari is located in

- (A) Near Amritsar Punjab
- (B) Near Baramulla in Jammu & Kashmir
- (C) Near Kutch in Gujarat
- (D) Near Barmer in Rajasthan

Correct Answer: (A) Near Amritsar Punjab

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the location of the Attari checkpost, which the passage mentions will be closed. This is a general knowledge question.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Attari Integrated Check Post (ICP) is located on the India-Pakistan border. It is situated in the state of Punjab, near the historic city of Amritsar. It is the Indian side of the famous Wagah-Attari border crossing, known for its daily flag-lowering ceremony.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Attari checkpost is located near Amritsar in Punjab.

Quick Tip

Major international border crossings are important geographical and political locations. Knowing their names and the states they are in is often tested in exams.

51. Which amongst the following is not a SAARC Nation?

- (A) Afghanistan
- (B) Maldives
- (C) Mauritius
- (D) Bangladesh

Correct Answer: (C) Mauritius

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the country that is not a member of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation). The passage refers to a SAARC visa exemption scheme.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

SAARC is a regional intergovernmental organization of states in South Asia. Its member states are:

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan

- India
- Maldives
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka

Mauritius is an island nation in the Indian Ocean, geographically part of Africa. It holds observer status in SAARC but is not a full member.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Among the given options, Mauritius is not a member nation of SAARC.

Quick Tip

Remember the acronym APNIMBBS (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, India, Maldives, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka) to easily recall the eight member countries of SAARC.

52. Expression 'Persona Non Grata' means:

- (A) An ungrateful person
- (B) An unwelcome person
- (C) An untrustworthy person
- (D) A displaced person

Correct Answer: (B) An unwelcome person

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the meaning of the Latin phrase 'Persona Non Grata', which is used in the passage in a diplomatic context.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

'Persona non grata' is a formal term in international diplomacy. It translates literally to "person not appreciated" or "unwelcome person." When a country declares a foreign diplomat as persona non grata, it is asking for them to be recalled to their home country as they are no longer welcome. It is the most serious form of censure a country can apply to foreign diplomats.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The expression 'Persona Non Grata' means an unwelcome person.

Quick Tip

Key terms from diplomacy, law, and international relations, especially Latin phrases like 'persona non grata', 'status quo', or 'de facto', are common in general knowledge sections.

53. The Indus Water Treaty signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan was facilitated by:

- (A) The United Nations General Assembly
- (B) The United Nations Security Council
- (C) The World Bank
- (D) The permanent Indus Commission

Correct Answer: (C) The World Bank

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks which international body helped broker the Indus Water Treaty of 1960, which is mentioned in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Indus Waters Treaty is a water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan concerning the use of waters of the Indus River system. After years of negotiations, the treaty was signed in 1960. The negotiations were mediated and facilitated by the World Bank. The Permanent Indus Commission (D) was created by the treaty itself to implement it, not facilitate its signing.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Indus Water Treaty was facilitated by the World Bank.

Quick Tip

Major international treaties, their signatories, dates, and the organizations that mediated them are important topics for history and international relations.

54. Which amongst the following is not a tributary of River Indus?

- (A) Ravi
- (B) Jhelum
- (C) Tapti
- (D) Chenab

Correct Answer: (C) Tapti

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the river that is not a tributary of the Indus River. This relates to the Indus Water Treaty mentioned in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Indus River system is a major river system in the Indian subcontinent. Its principal tributaries, which form the basis of the Indus Water Treaty, are the Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej. The Tapti (or Tapi) River is a major peninsular river in central India. It flows westward and drains into the Arabian Sea, and it is not part of the Indus river basin.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Tapti river is not a tributary of the Indus.

Quick Tip

Knowing the major river systems of India and their key tributaries is fundamental for Indian geography. Remember the "five rivers" of Punjab (Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) are all part of the Indus system.

Passage X

Directions: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), held in Tianjin, China, from 31 August to 1 September 2025. The Summit witnessed productive discussions on SCO Development Strategy, Reform of Global Governance, Counter-Terrorism, Peace and Security, Economic and Financial Cooperation, and Sustainable Development. Addressing the Summit, Prime Minister highlighted India's approach to strengthening cooperation under the SCO framework. In this regard, he noted that India seeks greater action under three pillars Security, Connectivity and Opportunity. Emphasising that peace, security and stability remain key to progress and prosperity, he called upon member countries to take firm and decisive action to fight terrorism in all its manifestations. Prime Minister underlined the need for coordinated action against terror financing and radicalization. Thanking member countries for their strong solidarity in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, he emphasized that there should be no double standards in dealing with terrorism and urged the group to hold countries who perpetrate and support cross-border terrorism accountable. Highlighting the role of connectivity in fostering development and building trust, Prime Minister stated that India strongly supported projects such as Chabahar port and International North-South Transport Corridor. He also spoke about opportunities in the fields of start-ups, innovation, youth empowerment and shared heritage, which must be pursued under the SCO umbrella. Prime Minister proposed commencing a Civilizational Dialogue Forum within the group to foster greater people-to-people ties and

cultural understanding. (246 words)

(Excerpts from the Press release issued by Press Information Bureau Govt of India, dated 1st September 2025)

55. The civilizational dialogue forum (CDF) proposed by the Prime Minister of India at the 25th Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, is intended to promote

- (A) Peace and security
- (B) Sustainable development
- (C) Reform of Global governance
- (D) Cultural Understanding

Correct Answer: (D) Cultural Understanding

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the purpose of the "Civilizational Dialogue Forum" proposed by the Indian Prime Minister.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The last sentence of the passage provides the answer directly. It states, "Prime Minister proposed commencing a Civilizational Dialogue Forum within the group to foster greater people-to-people ties and **cultural understanding**."

Step 3: Final Answer:

The proposed forum is intended to promote cultural understanding.

Quick Tip

For questions about the purpose of a proposal or action mentioned in a text, look for phrases like "in order to," "to foster," "so that," or "intended to."

56. The next Presidency of SCO is taken over by:

- (A) Kyrgyzstan
- (B) Tajikistan
- (C) Uzbekistan
- (D) Kazakhstan

Correct Answer: (A) Kyrgyzstan

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks which country will hold the next presidency of the SCO after the summit mentioned in the passage. The passage states the 2025 summit was in China. This is a general knowledge question about the functioning of the SCO.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) rotates annually among its member states. The rotation follows the Russian alphabetical order of the member states' names. After China (中国), the next country in this alphabetical order is Kyrgyzstan (吉尔吉斯斯坦). Therefore, after China's presidency in 2025, Kyrgyzstan would take over for 2026.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Based on the SCO's rotational presidency protocol, Kyrgyzstan would take over after China.

Quick Tip

Understanding the basic functioning of major international organizations, such as their membership, headquarters, and how their leadership rotates, is important for general knowledge.

57. Prime Minister of India stated that India strongly supported projects such as Chabahar port. Where is this port located?

- (A) Oman
- (B) Iran
- (C) Afghanistan
- (D) Saudi Arabia

Correct Answer: (B) Iran

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the location of Chabahar port. This is a general knowledge question on geography and international relations.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Chabahar Port is a seaport in the Sistan and Baluchestan province of Iran, on the Gulf of Oman. It is a port of significant strategic importance for India, as it provides a sea-land access route to Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Chabahar port is located in Iran.

Quick Tip

Major infrastructure projects that are part of international cooperation, like ports, corridors, and pipelines, are frequently asked about in exams.

58. Which of the following countries is not a member of SCO?

- (A) Belarus
- (B) Iran
- (C) Pakistan
- (D) Myanmar

Correct Answer: (D) Myanmar

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Question:**

The question asks to identify which of the given countries is not a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

As of the time frame of the passage (2025), the full members of the SCO are China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

- **Iran** became a full member in 2023.
- **Pakistan** became a full member in 2017.
- **Belarus** is an observer state currently in the process of acceding to full membership.
- **Myanmar** is a dialogue partner, which is a lower level of engagement than an observer state or a full member.

Therefore, among the choices, Myanmar is the country that is definitively not a member.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Myanmar is not a member of the SCO; it is a dialogue partner.

Quick Tip

International organizations have different levels of participation (e.g., full member, observer, dialogue partner). Be aware of these distinctions.

59. The Secretariat of SCO is located in:

- (A) Beijing, China
- (B) Tianjin, China
- (C) Shanghai, China
- (D) Wuhan, China

Correct Answer: (A) Beijing, China

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the location of the main administrative body (Secretariat) of the SCO.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation has two permanent bodies. The SCO Secretariat is the primary executive body and is located in Beijing, the capital of China. The other permanent body is the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), which is based in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Although the organization is named after Shanghai, its headquarters are in Beijing. The summit in the passage was held in Tianjin, which is a different city.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Secretariat of the SCO is located in Beijing, China.

Quick Tip

Don't assume an organization's headquarters is in the city it's named after. Always verify the location of the main secretariat or headquarters.

60. At the conclusion of 25th SCO summit, the member countries adopted the:

- (A) Beijing Declaration
- (B) Tianjin Declaration
- (C) Shanghai Declaration
- (D) Wuhan Declaration

Correct Answer: (B) Tianjin Declaration

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks what the concluding declaration of the 25th SCO summit would be named.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

It is a standard diplomatic convention to name the final joint statement or declaration of a major international summit after the host city. The passage explicitly states that the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO was "held in Tianjin, China". Therefore, the declaration adopted at the conclusion of the summit would logically be called the "Tianjin Declaration".

Step 3: Final Answer:

Given the summit was held in Tianjin, the member countries would have adopted the Tianjin Declaration.

Quick Tip

The final communiqué of an international summit is almost always named after the city where the event was held. This is a reliable pattern in international diplomacy.

Passage XI

Directions: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Air India stands in solidarity with the families and those affected by the AI-171 accident. We continue to mourn their loss and remain fully committed to providing support during this difficult time. Over a month ago, Air India started releasing interim payment of Rs 25 lakh to the affected families, to help them meet their immediate financial needs. The interim payment will be adjusted against any final compensation.

Air India has, so far, released the interim compensation to the families of 147 of the 229 deceased passengers and also the 19 who lost their lives at the accident site. In addition, the requisite documents of 52 others have been verified, to whose families the interim compensation will be released progressively. The Tata Group has also registered 'The AI-171 Memorial and Welfare Trust', dedicated to the victims of the unfortunate accident. The Trust has pledged an ex-gratia payment of Rs 1 crore in respect of each of the deceased, and support for rebuilding the B.J. Medical College Hostel infrastructure, which was damaged in the accident.

The Trust will also provide aid and assistance for alleviation of any trauma or distress suffered by the first responders, medical and disaster relief professionals, social workers, and governmental staff who provided invaluable institutional support and service in the aftermath of the accident. (217 words)

(Excerpts from the Press Release published by Air India, on July 26, 2025)

61. Air India flight AI-171 was operating from Ahmedabad to:

- (A) London Gatwick airport
- (B) Heathrow Airport
- (C) London Luton Airport
- (D) London Stansted Airport

Correct Answer: (B) Heathrow Airport

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the destination of the Air India flight AI-171 originating from Ahmedabad. This information is not provided in the passage and requires external general knowledge.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The flight number AI-171 is a real flight designator used by Air India. The actual route for this flight is from Ahmedabad (AMD) to London's Heathrow Airport (LHR). Therefore, based on real-world flight information, the destination was Heathrow Airport.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Air India's flight AI-171 operates on the Ahmedabad to London Heathrow route.

Quick Tip

For questions involving specific details like flight numbers or locations not in the text, you may need to rely on general knowledge. Real-world details are often used to add authenticity to comprehension passages.

62. Who is the Minister of Civil Aviation of India?

- (A) Shri Piyush Goyal
- (B) Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia
- (C) Shri Ram Mohan Naidu
- (D) Shri Prafulla Patel

Correct Answer: (C) Shri Ram Mohan Naidu

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the Minister of Civil Aviation of India. Although the passage is dated hypothetically in 2025, the question tests knowledge of the current cabinet.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Following the 2024 general elections and the formation of the new government, Shri Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu assumed office as the Union Minister of Civil Aviation. Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia was the previous minister in this portfolio. Shri Piyush Goyal and Shri Prafulla Patel have held other ministerial roles but are not the current Minister of Civil Aviation.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The current Minister of Civil Aviation of India is Shri Ram Mohan Naidu.

Quick Tip

Knowledge of the current Union Cabinet of India is a very common topic in general awareness sections of competitive exams. Always stay updated, especially after a cabinet reshuffle or general election.

63. 'The AI-171 Memorial and Welfare Trust' is registered by Tata Group as a public charitable trust in:

- (A) Ahmedabad
- (B) Gandhinagar
- (C) Mumbai
- (D) Delhi

Correct Answer: (A) Ahmedabad

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Question:**

The question asks where the fictional 'AI-171 Memorial and Welfare Trust' is registered. The passage does not state this directly, so it requires a logical inference based on the text.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage mentions that the trust has pledged "support for rebuilding the B.J. Medical College Hostel infrastructure, which was damaged in the accident." B.J. Medical College is a well-known institution located in Ahmedabad. It is logical to infer that a trust dedicated to the victims of an accident in Ahmedabad and involved in rebuilding local infrastructure would be registered in the same city. While Tata Group's headquarters are in Mumbai (C), and Delhi (D) is the national capital, the most direct contextual link is to Ahmedabad.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Based on the reference to rebuilding infrastructure at B.J. Medical College in Ahmedabad, it is most logical to conclude the trust was registered in Ahmedabad.

Quick Tip

When a direct answer is not available in the text, look for contextual clues or geographical references that can help you make a logical deduction.

64. The sole survivor of 'The Air India flight AI-171 accident is:

- (A) British National of Indian Origin
- (B) Canadian National of Indian origin
- (C) Portuguese National of Indian Origin
- (D) Indian National

Correct Answer: (D) Indian National

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks about the nationality of a sole survivor of the accident. This information is not present in the given passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage states there were "229 deceased passengers and also the 19 who lost their lives at the accident site." It makes no mention of any survivors. Therefore, this question cannot be answered from the provided text and is based on external (fictional) information associated with the hypothetical event. In the absence of specific information, we cannot definitively determine the answer. However, for the purpose of selecting an answer from the given options in an exam context, one might have to rely on information from a broader, unprovided context or make a logical guess. Given that the flight originated in India, the probability of a survivor being an Indian national is high.

Step 3: Final Answer:

This question is unanswerable from the text. Assuming it relies on the most probable scenario for an ex-India flight, an Indian National is a plausible answer.

Quick Tip

Recognize when a question cannot be answered from the provided text. In a real exam, this might indicate an error in the question paper or that it relies on a different source.

65. The agency that probes the fatal crash of AI-171 is:

- (A) DGCA
- (B) AAI
- (C) AAIB
- (D) FIP

Correct Answer: (C) AAIB

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the official agency in India responsible for investigating aircraft accidents.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **AAIB (Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau):** This is the correct body. The AAIB of India is responsible for the investigation of aircraft accidents and incidents in India. It functions independently of the regulatory authority.
- **DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation):** This is the primary regulatory body for civil aviation in India, responsible for safety oversight, regulation of air transport services, airworthiness standards, etc. It does not conduct the formal investigation of major accidents.
- **AAI (Airports Authority of India):** This organization manages civil airport infrastructure in India.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is the designated agency for probing fatal air crashes in India.

Quick Tip

It's important to know the specific roles of different government bodies in a sector. Differentiating between the regulator (DGCA) and the investigator (AAIB) in aviation is a common point of confusion.

66. The Air India flight AI-171 was:

- (A) Boeing 737-800 aircraft
- (B) Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner
- (C) Boeing 737 Max aircraft
- (D) Boeing Next Generation 737

Correct Answer: (B) Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the type of aircraft used for flight AI-171. This information is not in the passage and requires external knowledge.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Air India flight AI-171 from Ahmedabad to London Heathrow is a long-haul international flight. Airlines typically deploy wide-body aircraft for such routes. Air India operates the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner on this specific route. The Boeing 737 models listed are narrow-body aircraft, generally used for short to medium-haul flights and would not have the range for a non-stop flight from Ahmedabad to London.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The aircraft typically used for Air India flight AI-171 is the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner.

Quick Tip

For questions about aircraft types, consider the route. Long-haul international flights are usually operated by wide-body jets like the Boeing 777, Boeing 787, or Airbus A350.

Section IV

Passage XII

One of the central motifs of the past decade of governance under Indian Prime Minister has been the embrace of policy measures that seek to apply uniform solutions to disparate policy dilemmas facing the country. These measures, often termed One Nation policies, are motivated by a desire to replace the existing patchwork of state-specific policies, regulations, and regimes with measures that are identical across the length and breadth of India.

There are numerous examples of such One Nation policies being propagated and, in several cases, implemented in the eleven years since this Government came to power. For instance, in 2016, Parliament passed a series of constitutional amendments to introduce a new Goods and Services Tax (GST), which introduced a unified value-added tax in place of state-specific levies. This reform, known informally as One Nation, One Tax, had been debated and discussed for nearly two decades and was widely touted as an important precursor to forging a common market across India's twenty-eight states.

In a similar vein, the government rolled out a new initiative to allow Indian citizens to take advantage of subsidized food rations irrespective of their state of residence. This scheme, commonly termed One Nation, One Ration Card, was intended to increase access to welfare benefits, especially for the millions of internal migrants in India without a fixed place of residence.

Earlier this year, the government announced the launch of a new online portal that will provide

students, faculty, and researchers across the country's public higher education institutions with open access to international scholarly journals and articles under a scheme it has dubbed One Nation, One Subscription.

Most notably, the government recently signalled its intention to pursue a monumental One Nation policy that has been long discussed but only recently outlined in detail. This measure, known as One Nation, One Election, would do away with India's current system of staggered elections for state and national assemblies, replacing it with a framework of simultaneous elections. The proposal, which has featured in many of PM's speeches in the past, was advanced by a high-level committee (HLC) established by the government in 2023. (351 words)

[Excerpts from Does "One Nation, One Election" Make Sense for India? by Milan Vaishnav, Caroline Mallory, and Annabel Richter Published on July 28, 2025]

67. What is the underlying idea behind the "One Nation" policies of the government?

- (A) To strengthen federalism by empowering states with greater autonomy
- (B) To apply uniform solutions across India, replacing state-specific variations
- (C) To decentralize governance to local self-government institutions
- (D) To promote diversity by encouraging state-specific policies

Correct Answer: (B) To apply uniform solutions across India, replacing state-specific variations

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the core concept or motivation behind the "One Nation" policies described in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The first paragraph of the passage provides a clear answer. It states that these policies "seek to apply uniform solutions to disparate policy dilemmas" and are "motivated by a desire to replace the existing patchwork of state-specific policies, regulations, and regimes with measures that are identical across the length and breadth of India." This is a direct description of applying uniformity and replacing state-level differences. Option (B) is an accurate summary of this statement. Options (A), (C), and (D) describe concepts that are the opposite of the policy's stated intent.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The underlying idea of the "One Nation" policies is to create uniformity by replacing state-specific policies with common national solutions.

Quick Tip

The main idea or underlying concept of a passage is often stated clearly in the introductory paragraph. Always read the first paragraph carefully for thesis statements.

68. Which of the following Constitution Amendment Bill deals with empowerment of the Election Commission of India (ECI) to implement simultaneous state and national elections.

- (A) One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment
- (B) One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment
- (C) One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Amendment
- (D) One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Amendment

Correct Answer: (B) One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify a specific Constitution Amendment Bill related to simultaneous elections. This is a general knowledge question based on current affairs.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The concept of 'One Nation, One Election' would require significant constitutional amendments. While no bill has been passed, several have been discussed in the context of legal reforms. The most recent significant bill is the 128th Amendment Bill, which pertains to women's reservation in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies (the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam). The question seems to misattribute the 128th amendment to the election topic. However, in an exam context, it might be testing recent amendment numbers. The High-Level Committee on 'One Nation, One Election' did recommend a constitutional amendment, but a bill has not yet been introduced with a specific number for this purpose. The 128th Amendment is the most recent prominent one, making it a likely, though factually mismatched, choice in a multiple-choice question format.

Step 3: Final Answer:

While the 128th Amendment Bill is for women's reservation, it is the most recent numerically high-profile amendment, which might be why it is an option. The 'One Nation, One Election' proposal would indeed require a new constitutional amendment. There might be an error in the question's premise.

Quick Tip

Stay updated on major proposed and passed Constitutional Amendment Bills, as their numbers and subjects are common questions in competitive exams.

69. Which committee or report has discussed the feasibility of simultaneous elections in India?

- (A) Justice Verma Committee 2013
- (B) Law Commission of India Report 2018
- (C) Sarkaria Commission Report 1988
- (D) Punchhi Commission Report 2010

Correct Answer: (B) Law Commission of India Report 2018

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks which of the given reports or committees has examined the idea of simultaneous elections.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **(B) Law Commission of India Report 2018:** The Law Commission of India, in its draft report released in August 2018, dealt extensively with the subject of 'Simultaneous Elections' and concluded that it was a feasible idea, though it would require significant constitutional and legal amendments.
- **(A) Justice Verma Committee 2013:** This committee was formed to recommend amendments to Criminal Law to deal with crimes against women.
- **(C) Sarkaria Commission Report 1988 and (D) Punchhi Commission Report 2010:** Both of these commissions dealt with the broader topic of Centre-State relations.

The most direct and focused examination of simultaneous elections among the options is the 2018 Law Commission Report.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Law Commission of India Report of 2018 specifically discussed the feasibility of holding simultaneous elections in India.

Quick Tip

Knowing the specific mandates of major commissions (like Sarkaria, Punchhi, Law Commission) is essential for polity and governance questions.

70. A High-Level Committee was constituted by the government to examine the policy of One Nation One Election. The Committee was led by:

- (A) Shri Ram Nath Kovind
- (B) Shri Jagdip Dhankar
- (C) Shri Pranab Mukherjee
- (D) Smt. Draupadi Murmu

Correct Answer: (A) Shri Ram Nath Kovind

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the chairperson of the High-Level Committee (HLC) on 'One Nation, One Election', which is mentioned in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage mentions that the proposal for 'One Nation, One Election' was "advanced by a high-level committee (HLC) established by the government in 2023." In September 2023, the Government of India indeed constituted a High-Level Committee to examine this issue. The committee was chaired by the former President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind. The committee submitted its report in March 2024.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The High-Level Committee on 'One Nation, One Election' was led by Shri Ram Nath Kovind.

Quick Tip

Current affairs questions often focus on the chairpersons of important government-appointed committees and commissions.

71. As per the new GST reforms introduced in September 2025, the structure of new GST rates are as follows

- (A) 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%
- (B) 5%, 12% and 18%
- (C) 5%, 12% and 40%
- (D) 5%, 18% and 40%

Correct Answer: (A) 5

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks about a new GST rate structure hypothetically introduced in September

2025.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

This question is based on a future, fictional event. There have been no new GST reforms announced for September 2025. Therefore, the question is likely designed to test the knowledge of the *current* Goods and Services Tax (GST) structure in India. The current structure consists of four main slabs for most goods and services. These slabs are 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%. There are also special rates like 0% for essential items and 3% for gold, and a cess is applied on top of the 28% slab for certain luxury or sin goods. Option (A) correctly represents the primary current GST slabs.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Assuming the question is testing knowledge of the existing GST framework, the primary rate structure is 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%.

Quick Tip

When faced with a question about a future event that hasn't happened, consider if it's testing your knowledge of the current situation. The fundamental structure is less likely to change drastically.

72. The object of One Nation, One Ration Card scheme is to benefit:

- (A) The rural population
- (B) The Farmers
- (C) The Migrant labourers
- (D) The ration shopkeepers

Correct Answer: (C) The Migrant labourers

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the primary beneficiaries of the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The third paragraph of the passage explicitly explains the purpose of this scheme. It states that the scheme "was intended to increase access to welfare benefits, especially for the millions of **internal migrants** in India without a fixed place of residence." Migrant labourers are the primary example of this demographic. The scheme allows them to access their entitled subsidized food rations from any Fair Price Shop in the country, regardless of their home state, thus ensuring food security when they move for work.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme is primarily intended to benefit migrant labourers.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to keywords like "especially," "primarily," or "notably" in a passage, as they often highlight the main target or purpose of a policy or scheme.

Passage XIII

Directions: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

I may here trace the history of the shaping of the Preamble because this would show that the Preamble was in conformity with the Constitution as it was finally accepted. Not only was the Constitution framed in the light of the Preamble but the Preamble was ultimately settled in the light of the Constitution. In the earliest draft the Preamble was something formal and read: "We, the people of India, seeking to promote the common good, do hereby, through our chosen representatives, enact, adopt and give to ourselves this Constitution.

After the plan of June 3, 1947, which led to the decision to partition the country and to set up two independent Dominions of India and Pakistan, on June 8, 1947, a joint sub-committee of the Union Constitution and Provincial Constitution Committees, took note that the objective resolution would require amendment in view of the latest announcement of the British Government. The announcement of June 3 had made it clear that full independence, in the form of Dominion Status, would be conferred on India as from August 15, 1947. After examining the implications of partition the sub-committee thought that the question of making changes in the Objectives Resolution could appropriately be considered only when effect had actually been given to the June 3 Plan. Later on July 12, 1947, the special sub-committee again postponed consideration of the matter. The Union Constitution Committee provisionally accepted the Preamble as drafted by B.N. Rao and reproduced it in its report of July 4, 1947 without any change, with the tacit recognition at that stage that the Preamble would be finally based on the Objectives Resolution. In a statement circulated to members of the Assembly on July 18, 1947 Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru inter alia, observed that the Preamble was covered more or less by the Objectives Resolution which it was intended to incorporate in the final Constitution, subject to some modification on account of the political changes resulting from partition. (327 words)

(Extracted with edits and revision from B Shiva Rao's-Framing of India's Constitution)

73. According to the passage, the relationship between the Constitution and the Preamble can best be described as:

- (A) The Preamble was drafted in isolation
- (B) The Constitution and the Preamble were framed independent of each other
- (C) Both the Constitution and the Preamble were shaped in light of each other
- (D) The Preamble had no relevance to the Constitution

Correct Answer: (C) Both the Constitution and the Preamble were shaped in light of each other

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to describe the relationship between the Indian Constitution and its Preamble based on the provided text.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The first paragraph of the passage explicitly states, "Not only was the Constitution framed in the light of the Preamble but the Preamble was ultimately settled in the light of the Constitution." This sentence clearly indicates a mutual and interdependent relationship where each influenced the other's final form. This directly supports option (C). Options (A), (B), and (D) are all contradicted by this central statement.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The passage establishes a symbiotic relationship where the Constitution was framed based on the Preamble's ideals, and the Preamble's final wording was settled to reflect the contents of the Constitution.

Quick Tip

When a question asks for the "best description" of a relationship, look for a sentence in the passage that summarizes this relationship directly. The first paragraph often contains the main argument.

74. What did the earliest draft of the Preamble emphasize?

- (A) Liberty, equality, and fraternity
- (B) Sovereign, socialist, secular democratic republic
- (C) Formal enactment by the people through representatives
- (D) Unity and integrity of the nation

Correct Answer: (C) Formal enactment by the people through representatives

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks about the main focus of the initial draft of the Preamble as mentioned in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage quotes the earliest draft: "'We, the people of India, seeking to promote the common good, do hereby, through our chosen representatives, enact, adopt and give to ourselves

this Constitution.” The key phrases here are ”through our chosen representatives,” ”enact, adopt and give,” which all point to the legal and formal act of the people establishing the Constitution via their elected representatives. It was a statement of enactment. The other options (A), (B), (D) list substantive ideals that were incorporated later, largely from the Objectives Resolution.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The earliest draft was a formal declaration focusing on the act of the people, through their representatives, creating and adopting the Constitution.

Quick Tip

Pay close attention to direct quotations in a passage, as they often contain the precise answer to detail-oriented questions.

75. Which of the following is not enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution of India?

- (A) Equality of status and of opportunity
- (B) Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship
- (C) Justice -moral, ethical and legal
- (D) Fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual

Correct Answer: (C) Justice -moral, ethical and legal

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the concept that is not part of the final Preamble of the Indian Constitution. This requires knowledge of the Preamble’s text.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let’s examine the text of the Preamble concerning the options:

- **(A) Equality:** The Preamble secures for all citizens ”EQUALITY of status and of opportunity”. This is present.
- **(B) Liberty:** The Preamble secures ”LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship”. This is present.
- **(D) Fraternity:** The Preamble aims to promote ”FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation”. This is present.

- **(C) Justice:** The Preamble secures "JUSTICE, social, economic and political". The terms "moral, ethical and legal" are not used to describe the type of justice the Preamble seeks to secure.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Preamble promises social, economic, and political justice, not moral, ethical, and legal justice. Therefore, option (C) is not enshrined in the Preamble.

Quick Tip

The Preamble of the Indian Constitution is a foundational text. Memorizing its key terms (Justice, Liberty, Equality, Fraternity) and their specific qualifiers is essential for polity questions.

76. Which has been rightly arranged according to the Preamble of the Constitution of India-

- (A) Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic
- (B) Sovereign Secular Socialist Democratic Republic
- (C) Sovereign Socialist Democratic Secular Republic
- (D) Secular, Socialist, Sovereign and Democratic Republic

Correct Answer: (A) Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the correct sequence of the descriptive words for India as they appear in the Preamble. This requires knowledge of the Preamble's text, specifically after the 42nd Amendment of 1976.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Preamble declares India to be a "SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC". The words 'Socialist' and 'Secular' were added by the 42nd Amendment and placed between 'Sovereign' and 'Democratic'. Option (A) presents this sequence correctly.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct arrangement of the terms in the Preamble is Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic.

Quick Tip

Remember the order of the five key descriptive words for the Indian state in the Preamble: SSSDR (Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic).

77. The Preamble of the Constitution of India is finally based on:

- (A) The Objectives Resolution
- (B) The Report of the Union Constitution Committee
- (C) The June 3 plan of the British Government
- (D) The Report of special Sub-committee of the Constituent Assembly

Correct Answer: (A) The Objectives Resolution

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the foundational document or idea upon which the Preamble was ultimately based.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage repeatedly emphasizes the importance of the Objectives Resolution. It mentions there was "tacit recognition at that stage that the Preamble would be finally based on the Objectives Resolution." Furthermore, it quotes Jawaharlal Nehru stating that "the Preamble was covered more or less by the Objectives Resolution." The Objectives Resolution, moved by Nehru in 1946, laid down the philosophy and guiding principles for framing the Constitution, which were then reflected in the Preamble.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Preamble's philosophy and content are derived primarily from the Objectives Resolution.

Quick Tip

The Objectives Resolution is considered the philosophical cornerstone of the Indian Constitution, and its spirit is encapsulated in the Preamble. This is a key fact in Indian constitutional history.

78. What was the role of Sir B. N. Rau in the making of the Indian Constitution?

- (A) Chairman of the Drafting Committee
- (B) Constitutional Advisor to the Constituent Assembly
- (C) President of the Constituent Assembly

(D) Member of the Union Powers Committee

Correct Answer: (B) Constitutional Advisor to the Constituent Assembly

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the specific role played by Sir B. N. Rau. The passage mentions him as the drafter of an early version of the Preamble.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

This is a question based on historical fact. Sir Benegal Narsing Rau was a pre-eminent Indian civil servant, jurist, and diplomat. He was appointed as the Constitutional Advisor to the Constituent Assembly. In this capacity, he prepared the initial draft of the Constitution in February 1948, which was later debated and amended by the Drafting Committee.

- (A) Chairman of the Drafting Committee was Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.
- (C) President of the Constituent Assembly was Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Sir B. N. Rau's official role was that of the Constitutional Advisor to the Constituent Assembly.

Quick Tip

Remember the key figures of the Constituent Assembly and their specific roles: Dr. Rajendra Prasad (President), Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Chairman, Drafting Committee), and Sir B. N. Rau (Constitutional Advisor).

Passage XIV

Directions: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Good governance is only in the hands of good men. No doubt, what is good or bad is not for the court to decide: but the court can always indicate the constitutional ethos on goodness, good governance and purity in administration remind the constitutional functionaries to preserve, protect and promote the same. That ethos are the unwritten words in our Constitution. However, as the Constitution makers stated, there is a presumption that the Prime Minister/Chief Minister would be well advised and guided by such unwritten yet constitutional principles as well. According to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, such things were only to be left to the good sense of the Prime Minister, and for that matter, the Chief Minister of State, since it was expected that the two great constitutional functionaries would not dare to do any infamous thing by inducting an otherwise unfit person to the Council of Ministers. It appears, over a period of time, at least in some cases, it was only a story of great expectations. Some of the instances

pointed out in the writ petition indicate that Dr. Ambedkar and other great visionaries in the Constituent Assembly have been bailed out. Qualification has been wrongly understood as the mere absence of prescribed disqualification. Hence, it has become the bounden duty of the court to remind the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of the State of their duty to act in accordance with the constitutional aspirations.

No doubt, it is not for the court to issue any direction to the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister, as the case may be, as to the manner in which they should exercise their power while selecting the colleagues in the Council of Ministers. That is the constitutional prerogative of those functionaries who are called upon to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution. But it is the prophetic duty of this Court to remind the key duty holders about their role in working the Constitution. Hence, I am of the firm view, that the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of the State, who themselves have taken oath to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India and to discharge their duties faithfully and conscientiously, will be well advised to consider avoiding any person in the Council of Ministers, against whom charges have been framed by a criminal court in respect of offences involving moral turpitude and also offences specifically referred to in Chapter III of The Representation of the People Act, 1951. (416 words)

[Extract from the Supreme Court Judgement Manoj Narula v. Union of India]

79. According to the passage, the Court cannot decide what is "good" or "bad" governance, but it can:

- (A) Disqualify Ministers from holding office
- (B) Indicate constitutional ethos on governance and remind functionaries of their duty
- (C) Frame rules on qualifications of Ministers
- (D) Amend the Constitution to insert explicit standards of morality

Correct Answer: (B) Indicate constitutional ethos on governance and remind functionaries of their duty

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks what the Court's role is, given its inability to define "good" or "bad" governance.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage draws a clear line. It says, "what is good or bad is not for the court to decide: **but the court can always indicate the constitutional ethos on goodness, good governance and purity in administration remind the constitutional functionaries to preserve, protect and promote the same.**" This directly corresponds to option (B). The passage also explicitly states it's "not for the court to issue any direction," which rules out actions like disqualifying ministers (A) or framing rules (C).

Step 3: Final Answer:

While the Court cannot make executive decisions, it can highlight the constitutional principles

(ethos) and remind the Prime Minister and Chief Minister of their duties.

Quick Tip

Look for "but" or "however" clauses in legal or philosophical texts. They often clarify the boundaries of a power or concept, showing what can be done versus what cannot.

80. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar believed that the working of the Constitution ultimately depends on:

- (A) The rigidity of the constitutional text
- (B) The good sense and integrity of those who are going to administer this constitution
- (C) The presence of a strong opposition
- (D) Judicial intervention in governance

Correct Answer: (B) The good sense and integrity of those who are going to administer this constitution

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for Dr. Ambedkar's view on what makes a constitution work effectively.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage states, "According to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, such things were only to be left to the **good sense of the Prime Minister, and for that matter, the Chief Minister of State**, since it was expected that the two great constitutional functionaries would not dare to do any infamous thing..." This indicates his belief that the ultimate success of the Constitution rests on the character and wisdom of the people running the government. This aligns with the broader historical knowledge that Dr. Ambedkar often stated that a constitution's effectiveness depends more on the men who operate it than on the text itself.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Dr. Ambedkar's view, as cited in the passage, is that the Constitution's functioning depends on the good sense and integrity of its administrators.

Quick Tip

Quotes or attributed beliefs of key historical figures like Dr. Ambedkar are important. They often represent a core principle or argument within the text.

81. The Court, while respecting the prerogative of the Prime Minister and Chief Minister to select Ministers emphasized that:

- (A) They should avoid appointing persons against whom criminal charges involving moral turpitude are framed
- (B) They must appoint Ministers strictly from the ruling party only
- (C) They should consult the Supreme Court before finalizing appointments
- (D) They are bound to appoint only members of the Lok Sabha/Legislative Assembly

Correct Answer: (A) They should avoid appointing persons against whom criminal charges involving moral turpitude are framed

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the specific advice or emphasis given by the Court regarding ministerial appointments.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The last sentence of the passage contains the Court's final view and advice. It states that the Prime Minister and Chief Minister "will be well advised to consider **avoiding any person in the Council of Ministers, against whom charges have been framed by a criminal court in respect of offences involving moral turpitude...**". This is a direct match with option (A). The passage does not mention the other options.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Court's key recommendation is that individuals who have had criminal charges involving moral turpitude framed against them should be avoided for ministerial positions.

Quick Tip

The concluding sentences of a legal judgment or passage often contain the core finding, recommendation, or final observation. Pay special attention to this part.

82. What role does the Court assume, as described in the passage, regarding governance and appointments to the Council of Ministers?

- (A) Judicial review of all ministerial appointments
- (B) Prophetic duty to remind key functionaries of their constitutional role
- (C) Power to veto ministerial selections made by the Prime Minister
- (D) Directing Parliament to amend the law on disqualification

Correct Answer: (B) Prophetic duty to remind key functionaries of their constitutional role

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to define the specific role the Court sees itself playing, based on the language in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage explicitly defines the court's role with a unique phrase. It says, "But it is the **prophetic duty of this Court to remind the key duty holders about their role** in working the Constitution." This is a direct quote that perfectly matches option (B). The passage clarifies that the court does not have the power to veto (C) or issue directions (which would be part of a judicial review of appointments, ruling out A).

Step 3: Final Answer:

The court describes its own role as a "prophetic duty" to remind the executive of its constitutional responsibilities.

Quick Tip

When a passage uses very specific or unusual terminology (like "prophetic duty"), it's often a key concept that is likely to be tested.

83. Who are the constitutional functionaries, this passage primarily refers to?

- (A) Council of Ministers
- (B) Prime Minister and Council of Ministers
- (C) Chief Minister and Council of Ministers
- (D) Prime Minister and Chief Minister

Correct Answer: (D) Prime Minister and Chief Minister

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the main "constitutional functionaries" being addressed in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Throughout the passage, the focus is on the power of appointment, which rests with the heads of the executive. The text repeatedly and specifically names the "Prime Minister" and the "Chief Minister of the State" as the key duty holders responsible for selecting the Council of Ministers and upholding constitutional principles. While the Council of Ministers is the subject, the functionaries being reminded of their duty are the PM and CM.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The passage primarily refers to the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister as the key constitutional functionaries with the prerogative and duty of appointing ministers.

Quick Tip

Identify the subject of the action in a passage. Here, the action is "appointing" and "being reminded of a duty," and the subjects doing these things are the PM and CM.

84. Who, according to the above passage shall not be appointed as a Minister?

- (A) Against whom charges have been framed in a court of law
- (B) Against whom charges involving moral turpitude have been framed in a court of law
- (C) Against whom charges have been proved in a court of law
- (D) Against whom case is pending in a court of law

Correct Answer: (B) Against whom charges involving moral turpitude have been framed in a court of law

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the specific condition, mentioned in the passage, under which a person should not be appointed as a Minister.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The last sentence of the passage provides the most specific and complete answer. The Court advises the PM/CM to avoid appointing any person "against whom **charges have been framed** by a criminal court in respect of **offences involving moral turpitude**".

- Option (A) is too broad; the passage specifies the charges must involve moral turpitude.
- Option (C) is incorrect; the passage refers to the stage of "charges being framed," which is before proof or conviction.
- Option (D) is less precise; "case is pending" is a broad term, whereas "charges have been framed" is a specific and significant stage in a criminal trial that the Court highlights.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The passage specifically advises against appointing individuals against whom a court has framed charges for offenses that involve moral turpitude.

Quick Tip

In legal passages, precision is key. Pay attention to specific legal stages mentioned (e.g., "charges framed" vs. "pending" vs. "proved") and qualifying terms (e.g., "moral turpitude").

Passage XV

Directions: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The recent Supreme Court judgment in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu* (2025) affirmed that a Governor cannot exercise an absolute or "pocket" veto on bills, holding that if assent is withheld, the bill must be returned to the legislature "as soon as possible" for reconsideration, with the Governor having no discretion to withhold assent again. The court established that inaction or indefinite delay is illegal and unconstitutional, prescribing timelines for the Governor's decision and even "deeming assent" on pending bills in the Tamil Nadu case, establishing a critical precedent for judicial review of gubernatorial powers. The Supreme Court explicitly rejected the Governor's power to an absolute or "pocket" veto, which allows for bills to be indefinitely delayed. If a Governor withholds assent to a bill, they are constitutionally obligated to return it to the State Assembly for reconsideration, according to the proviso in Article 200 of the Constitution. If the State Assembly re-enacts a bill after it has been returned by the Governor, the Governor has no choice but to give assent to it and cannot withhold it for a second time. The Court held that indefinitely delaying or remaining silent on bills is unconstitutional and that Governors must act "as soon as possible" on bills. The judgment expanded the scope of judicial review by setting timelines for the Governor's actions on bills, allowing state governments to approach courts if these timelines are breached. In the case of the Tamil Nadu, the Court used its powers under Article 142 to "deem assent" on the long-pending bills, which had the effect of making any subsequent decision by the President on those bills void. (276 words)

[Extracted with edits & revisions from "The Hindu", dated 8th April 2025]

85. The Legislative Assembly of State X passes a controversial bill and sends it to the Governor for assent. The Governor, strongly disagreeing with the bill's provisions, decides to neither give assent nor return the bill, hoping it will be forgotten over the time. Which of the following statements accurately describes the legal position of the Governor's action?

- (A) The Governor's action is a legitimate exercise of a "pocket veto", allowing for indefinite delay of bills
- (B) The Governor's inaction is unconstitutional, as the Supreme Court has explicitly rejected the power to an absolute or "pocket" veto, and they are obligated to return the bill "as soon as possible" if assent is withheld
- (C) The Governor is within their rights to delay the bill indefinitely as long as they do not explicitly reject it, reflecting the true spirit of gubernatorial discretion
- (D) The bill will automatically lapse after six months of gubernatorial inaction, making the delay a de facto rejection

Correct Answer: (B) The Governor's inaction is unconstitutional, as the Supreme Court has explicitly rejected the power to an absolute or "pocket" veto, and they are obligated to return the bill "as soon as possible" if assent is withheld

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question presents a scenario where a Governor indefinitely delays a bill by taking no action. We need to evaluate the legality of this action based on the provided passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage clearly states the Supreme Court's position on this issue. Key points from the text are:

- "The court established that inaction or indefinite delay is illegal and unconstitutional."
- "The Supreme Court explicitly rejected the Governor's power to an absolute or 'pocket' veto, which allows for bills to be indefinitely delayed."
- If assent is withheld, the bill must be returned "as soon as possible".

The Governor's action of neither assenting nor returning the bill is a form of indefinite delay, which the passage identifies as an unconstitutional "pocket veto". Therefore, the action is illegal, and the Governor is obligated to return the bill. This directly matches the reasoning in option (B).

Step 3: Final Answer:

Based on the precedent described in the passage, the Governor's inaction is unconstitutional.

Quick Tip

When applying a legal precedent from a passage to a scenario, identify the core principle of the ruling (e.g., "inaction is unconstitutional") and match it to the scenario's facts.

86. Governor Y receives a bill from the State Assembly and, after careful consideration, decides to withhold assent, promptly returning it with a message for reconsideration. The State Assembly then re-enacts the bill without any change and sends it back to Governor Y. What is the constitutional obligation of Governor Y at this point?

- (A) Governor Y has no choice but to give assent to the re-enacted bill, as the Supreme Court has ruled that the Governor cannot withhold assent for a second time
- (B) Governor Y can again withhold assent if they continue to disagree with the bill's content, sending it back for further reconsideration
- (C) Governor Y can refer the bill to the President of India for a final decision, exercising a higher discretionary power

(D) Governor Y can dissolve the State Assembly for consistently passing erroneous bills

Correct Answer: (A) Governor Y has no choice but to give assent to the re-enacted bill, as the Supreme Court has ruled that the Governor cannot withhold assent for a second time

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks about the Governor's duty when a bill, which was returned once, is passed again by the Assembly without changes.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage provides a very specific rule for this situation: "If the State Assembly re-enacts a bill after it has been returned by the Governor, the Governor has **no choice but to give assent to it and cannot withhold it for a second time.**" This is an absolute obligation. Therefore, Governor Y must give assent. Option (A) perfectly captures this constitutional requirement as described in the text. Options (B), (C), and (D) are incorrect as they suggest the Governor has other discretionary powers in this specific situation, which the passage says they do not.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Governor is constitutionally bound to give assent to a bill that has been re-enacted by the State Assembly.

Quick Tip

Constitutional procedures often have specific rules for second considerations or re-enactments. Pay close attention to these "if-then" scenarios in legal passages.

87. After the Supreme Court's judgment in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu* (2025), a State Governor holds a bill for eight months without taking any action—neither assenting nor returning it. The State Government believes that this delay is unconstitutional. Based on the precedent set by the judgment, what recourse is available to the State Government?

(A) The State Government must wait for a full year before any action can be taken, as gubernatorial delays are typically permitted for this duration

(B) The bill automatically lapses after six months of inaction, making any further action by the State Government unnecessary

(C) The State Government's only recourse is to re-enact the bill, which would then compel the Governor to act

(D) The State Government can approach the courts, as the judgment had prescribed timelines for the Governor's actions on bills since indefinite delay was construed unconstitutional

Correct Answer: (D) The State Government can approach the courts, as the judgment had prescribed timelines for the Governor's actions on bills since indefinite delay was construed unconstitutional

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks what a State Government can do if a Governor unconstitutionally delays a bill, based on the precedent in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage highlights how the judgment empowered State Governments in such situations: "The judgment expanded the scope of judicial review by setting timelines for the Governor's actions on bills, **allowing state governments to approach courts if these timelines are breached.**" An eight-month delay without action clearly constitutes an "indefinite delay" which the court ruled unconstitutional. Therefore, the State Government's appropriate recourse is to seek a judicial remedy. This is stated in option (D). The other options suggest incorrect timelines, procedures, or limitations.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The judgment allows State Governments to approach the courts to seek redress against unconstitutional delays by the Governor.

Quick Tip

When a passage discusses a court judgment, look for how it changed the status quo or what new powers or remedies it created for the parties involved.

88. In a situation mirroring the Tamil Nadu case, a Supreme Court bench is reviewing several instances where a particular Governor has indefinitely delayed assent on multiple bills passed by the State Assembly, despite Constitutional obligations. If the Supreme Court decides to follow the precedent established in State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu (2025) regarding pending bills, what would be a likely outcome for these delayed bills?

- (A) The Supreme Court would order the Governor to explicitly reject all the delayed bills
- (B) The Supreme Court would direct the State Assembly to conduct a public referendum on each delayed bill
- (C) The Supreme Court could deem assent on the pending bills, establishing a critical precedent for judicial review of gubernatorial powers in such cases, as it did in the Tamil Nadu case
- (D) The Supreme Court would advise the Governor to seek legal counsel and then re-evaluate each bill individually without a set timeline

Correct Answer: (C) The Supreme Court could deem assent on the pending bills, establishing

a critical precedent for judicial review of gubernatorial powers in such cases, as it did in the Tamil Nadu case

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the likely action the Supreme Court would take for delayed bills if it follows the precedent set in the Tamil Nadu case.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage describes the specific and powerful remedy the Supreme Court used in the original case: "In the case of the Tamil Nadu, the Court used its powers under Article 142 to '**deem assent**' on the long-pending bills...". Following this precedent means the Court would likely apply the same remedy again in a similar situation. Option (C) accurately describes this outcome of "deeming assent." The other options propose actions that are not mentioned in the passage as part of the precedent.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Following the precedent, a likely outcome is that the Supreme Court would use its extraordinary powers to "deem assent," effectively making the bills law.

Quick Tip

"Following a precedent" means applying the same legal principle or remedy from a past case to a current case with similar facts. Identify the specific remedy from the past case to predict the outcome.

89. A newly appointed Governor publicly declares that he intend to use his discretion to permanently halt any legislation he deems inappropriate, by simply not acting on the bills, citing an inherent gubernatorial power. How does this declaration align with the constitutional interpretation provided by the Supreme Court of India?

- (A) The Governor's declaration is consistent with the broad discretionary powers traditionally afforded to Governors, allowing them significant influence over state legislation
- (B) The Governor's declaration is valid only for non-money bills, as money bills have different Constitutional protocols
- (C) The Governor's declaration is partially valid, as indefinite delay is permissible only if the State Assembly is not in session
- (D) The Governor's declaration is unconstitutional; the Supreme Court explicitly rejected the Governor's power to an absolute or "pocket" veto

Correct Answer: (D) The Governor's declaration is unconstitutional; the Supreme Court explicitly rejected the Governor's power to an absolute or "pocket" veto

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to evaluate a Governor's statement about using inaction to stop bills against the backdrop of the Supreme Court judgment described in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Governor's declaration describes the exact action that the Supreme Court ruled against. The passage states, "The Supreme Court explicitly rejected the Governor's power to an absolute or 'pocket' veto, which allows for bills to be indefinitely delayed." and "inaction or indefinite delay is illegal and unconstitutional". The Governor's plan to "permanently halt" legislation by "simply not acting" is a classic pocket veto. Therefore, his declaration is in direct violation of the Supreme Court's constitutional interpretation. This is correctly stated in option (D).

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Governor's declaration is unconstitutional as it claims a power (the pocket veto) that the Supreme Court has explicitly rejected.

Quick Tip

Compare the action or statement in the question directly with the rules or principles laid out in the passage. A direct contradiction indicates that the action is invalid or unconstitutional.

90. What are the three primary courses of action for a Governor when a Bill is enacted by the State Assembly and sent to him/her for his/her assent. Which option correctly lists these three courses?

- (A) (i) Give assent, (ii) Veto absolutely, or (iii) Refer to the Supreme Court
- (B) (i) Give assent, (ii) Withhold assent (allowing the Bill to fail, unless the proviso is followed), or (iii) Recommend amendments
- (C) (i) Give assent, (ii) Withhold assent (with the option to return for reconsideration), or (iii) Reserve for the consideration of the President
- (D) (i) Give assent, (ii) Return for reconsideration, or (iii) Refer to the Union Government

Correct Answer: (C) (i) Give assent, (ii) Withhold assent (with the option to return for reconsideration), or (iii) Reserve for the consideration of the President

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the main constitutional options available to a Governor regarding a bill passed by the state legislature. This is a question of constitutional procedure, partly

illuminated by the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Under Article 200 of the Indian Constitution, when a bill is presented to the Governor, he has three main choices:

1. **Give assent** to the bill, at which point it becomes law.
2. **Withhold assent.** The passage clarifies that withholding assent is not an absolute veto. The Governor is "constitutionally obligated to return it to the State Assembly for reconsideration".
3. **Reserve the bill for the consideration of the President.** This is a discretionary power used in specific circumstances (e.g., if the bill derogates the powers of the High Court).

Option (C) correctly lists these three primary courses of action. Option (A) is incorrect because an absolute veto is unconstitutional, and bills are not referred to the Supreme Court. Option (B) is incorrect because recommending amendments is part of the process of returning the bill, not a separate primary option. Option (D) is incorrect because referral is to the President, not the Union Government in general.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The three primary courses of action for a Governor are to give assent, withhold assent (and return for reconsideration), or reserve the bill for the President.

Quick Tip

Knowing the key provisions of articles like Article 200 (Governor's assent to bills) and Article 201 (Bills reserved for President) is crucial for Indian Polity questions.

Passage XVI

Directions: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Same-sex marriage has no legal recognition in India as per the recent Supreme Court's judgment, where it was decided that this is an issue for Parliament to address. While Hindu marriages between transgender persons and cisgender men are permissible, and the Court acknowledged systemic discrimination and the right to choose a partner, it held that there is no fundamental right to marry. The government has been urged to form a panel to consider granting more legal rights to same-sex couples, but the legal status of marriage remains unchanged for now. The five-judge bench of the Supreme Court of India in *Supriyo @ Supriya Chakraborty & Anr. v. Union of India* (2023), in a majority verdict, ruled that there is no fundamental right to marry under the Indian Constitution, making it beyond the court's scope to legislate on same-sex marriage.

The Court stated that the power to legislate on same-sex marriage rests with the Parliament and state legislatures. The judgment affirmed constitutional rights for LGBTQ+ citizens and the right to choose a partner. The government agreed to set up a panel to explore legal rights

and benefits for same-sex couples, though these benefits are not the same as those conferred by marriage. Same-sex couples cannot legally marry and do not receive the same legal rights, such as automatic inheritance, pension, or adoption rights, that legally married couples do. Despite the ruling, LGBTQ+ couples continue to face legal discrimination and have no social recognition of marriage. The Court affirmed the right of same-sex couples to cohabit privately. While the Supreme Court's verdict brought limited benefits and acknowledgments, it has not legalized same-sex marriage in India, deferring the ultimate decision to the Parliament. (279 words)

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from "The Hindu", dated 27th October 2023]

91. In October 2023, two individuals in India, Ramesh and Sameer, who identify as a same-sex couple, sought to legally solemnize their marriage. Based on the Supreme Court's ruling, what is the current legal standing of their ability to marry?

- (A) Their marriage is legally recognized nationwide under a new constitutional right
- (B) Their marriage is not legally recognized, as the Supreme Court ruled that this issue is for Parliament to address
- (C) Their marriage is recognized only if both of them identify as transgender
- (D) Their marriage is temporarily recognized until Parliament decides otherwise

Correct Answer: (B) Their marriage is not legally recognized, as the Supreme Court ruled that this issue is for Parliament to address

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the legal status of a same-sex couple's marriage in India, based on the Supreme Court judgment described in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage is very clear on this point. It states, "Same-sex marriage has no legal recognition in India as per the recent Supreme Court's judgment". It further clarifies that the court decided "this is an issue for Parliament to address" and that the verdict "has not legalized same-sex marriage in India, deferring the ultimate decision to the Parliament." This directly supports the conclusion in option (B). The other options are explicitly contradicted by the text.

Step 3: Final Answer:

According to the ruling, Ramesh and Sameer's marriage is not legally recognized, and the authority to create such a law lies with the Parliament.

Quick Tip

Look for definitive statements in the passage like "has no legal recognition" or "it has not legalized" to answer questions about the legal status of an issue.

92. During a legal proceeding in India, an advocate argues that the Supreme Court should directly legislate on same-sex marriage because the right to choose a partner inherently implies a fundamental right to marry for all citizens. How would the Supreme Court's judgment likely to counter this argument?

- (A) The Court acknowledged the right to choose a partner, therefore it would agree to legislate on marriage
- (B) The Court held that there is no fundamental right to marry under the Indian Constitution, and such a policy can be made only by the Parliament
- (C) The Court has held that it will set up a panel to look into the fundamental right to marry
- (D) The Court upheld the fundamental right to marry, but declined to recognise same sex marriage

Correct Answer: (B) The Court held that there is no fundamental right to marry under the Indian Constitution, and such a policy can be made only by the Parliament

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks how the Supreme Court's judgment would respond to the argument that the 'right to choose a partner' implies a 'right to marry'.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage shows that the Supreme Court considered and distinguished between these two rights. While it "affirmed... the right to choose a partner," it simultaneously "held that there is no fundamental right to marry." The Court's reasoning for not legislating was based on this distinction and the principle of separation of powers, stating that "the power to legislate on same-sex marriage rests with the Parliament and state legislatures." Option (B) accurately summarizes this two-part counter-argument: there is no fundamental right to marry, and creating such a right is a legislative, not a judicial, function.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Supreme Court's judgment would counter the argument by stating that while the right to choose a partner exists, the right to marry is not a fundamental right, and legislating on it is a task for the Parliament.

Quick Tip

In legal reasoning, pay attention to how courts distinguish between different but related rights. Acknowledging one right does not automatically mean acknowledging another.

93. Following the Supreme Court's decision, an LGBTQ+ advocacy group in India aims to achieve legal recognition for same-sex marriage. To which governmental

body or bodies should this group primarily direct its lobbying efforts to secure the necessary legislation?

- (A) The Supreme Court of India, as they are ultimately responsible for interpreting constitutional rights
- (B) The President of India as head of the Union legislature
- (C) The Parliament and state legislatures, as the power to legislate on same-sex marriage rests with them
- (D) The National Commission for Human Rights, to advocate for a new directive

Correct Answer: (C) The Parliament and state legislatures, as the power to legislate on same-sex marriage rests with them

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks where an advocacy group should focus its efforts to legalize same-sex marriage, based on the Supreme Court's ruling.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage explicitly states the Supreme Court's position on who has the authority to make this law. It says the Court decided that legalizing same-sex marriage is "an issue for Parliament to address" and that "the power to legislate on same-sex marriage rests with the Parliament and state legislatures." The court deferred the decision, meaning it placed the responsibility squarely on the legislative bodies. Therefore, any lobbying efforts must be directed at these institutions. This directly corresponds with option (C).

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Supreme Court has directed that the issue of legislating on same-sex marriage is the responsibility of the Parliament and state legislatures.

Quick Tip

When a court defers a decision to another branch of government (like the legislature), it's applying the principle of separation of powers. This means the correct path for change is through that designated branch.

94. While same-sex marriage is not legally recognized in India, however, the Supreme Court's verdict did offer some acknowledgments of rights for same-sex couples. Which of the following rights was specifically affirmed by the Court?

- (A) The automatic right to inheritance for same-sex partners
- (B) The right of same-sex couples to adopt children jointly
- (C) The right of same-sex couples to cohabit privately

(D) The right to maintenance for same-sex partners

Correct Answer: (C) The right of same-sex couples to cohabit privately

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify a specific right that the Supreme Court did affirm for same-sex couples, even while denying the right to marry.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage explicitly mentions several rights. It states that rights like "automatic inheritance, pension, or adoption rights" are what same-sex couples "do not receive". This rules out options (A) and (B). However, the passage also says, "The Court affirmed the right of same-sex couples to **cohabit privately**." This is a direct statement from the text, making option (C) the correct answer. The right to maintenance is not mentioned.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The Supreme Court specifically affirmed the right of same-sex couples to live together privately.

Quick Tip

For "which of the following" questions, carefully check each option against the text. The passage often explicitly includes the correct answer while also mentioning and negating the incorrect ones.

95. Ramesh and Suresh, a same-sex couple in India, have lived together for a decade and want to ensure they receive legal benefits equivalent to those of married couples, such as automatic inheritance and pension rights. Based on the Supreme Court's judgment, what is the primary obstacle they face in achieving these benefits?

- (A) They must first register their union with the government panel that was urged to be formed
- (B) They cannot legally marry and therefore cannot automatically be entitled to these specific legal rights
- (C) These rights are only available to same-sex couples where one partner is transgender
- (D) They can receive these benefits if they convert to a religion that recognizes same-sex unions

Correct Answer: (B) They cannot legally marry and therefore cannot automatically be entitled to these specific legal rights

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the main barrier preventing a same-sex couple from getting marriage-equivalent rights like inheritance and pensions.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage directly links specific legal rights to the institution of marriage. It states, "Same-sex couples cannot legally marry and **do not receive the same legal rights, such as automatic inheritance, pension, or adoption rights**, that legally married couples do." The primary obstacle is therefore the lack of legal recognition of their marriage, which is the gateway to these automatic benefits. Option (B) accurately summarizes this obstacle. Option (A) is incorrect because the panel was only urged to be formed and its recommendations are not yet law. Options (C) and (D) are not supported by the passage.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The fundamental obstacle is that since same-sex marriage is not legal, the automatic legal rights and benefits that come with marriage are not available to them.

Quick Tip

Identify the cause-and-effect relationship in the text. Here, the cause is "cannot legally marry," and the effect is "do not receive the same legal rights." The obstacle is the cause.

96. The new acronym that is evolved after LGBTQ+ is an acronym called LGBTQIA+. In this new acronym 'IA' refers to:

- (A) Intersex and Asexual
- (B) Initialisms and Agender
- (C) Intersex and Ally
- (D) Intrasex and Androgynous

Correct Answer: (A) Intersex and Asexual

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the meaning of the letters 'I' and 'A' in the expanded acronym LGBTQIA+. This is a general knowledge question.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The acronym LGBTQIA+ is used to be more inclusive of different identities within the queer community. Each letter stands for:

- **L** - Lesbian

- **G** - Gay
- **B** - Bisexual
- **T** - Transgender
- **Q** - Queer or Questioning
- **I - Intersex**: People born with variations in sex characteristics that do not fit the typical definitions for male or female bodies.
- **A - Asexual**: People who lack sexual attraction to others. It can also stand for Aromantic or Agender. 'Ally' is sometimes included in the 'A' but Asexual is the primary term.
- **+** - Represents other identities not explicitly named.

Therefore, 'IA' refers to Intersex and Asexual.

Step 3: Final Answer:

In the acronym LGBTQIA+, 'I' stands for Intersex and 'A' stands for Asexual.

Quick Tip

Staying aware of evolving social and cultural terminology, including acronyms related to identity, is increasingly important for general knowledge.

Section V

Passage XVII

The adoption of the Non-Cooperation Movement by the Congress gave it a new energy and from January 1921 it began to register considerable success all over the country. Gandhiji undertook a nation-wide tour during which he addressed hundreds of meetings and met a large number of political workers. In the first month, thousands of students left their educational institutions and joined more than 800 national schools and colleges that had sprung up all over the country. Gandhiji had promised Swaraj within a year, if his programme was adopted.

The Non-Cooperation Movement demonstrated that it commanded the support and sympathy of vast sections of the Indian people. Its reach among many sections of Indian peasants, workers, artisans etc, had been demonstrated. The spatial spread of the movement was also nation-wide. Some areas were more active than others, but there were few that showed no signs of activity at all.

The capacity of the 'poor dumb millions' of India to take part in modern nationalist politics was also demonstrated. This was the first time that nationalists from the towns, students from schools and colleges or even the educated and politically aware in the villages had made a serious attempt to bring the ideology and the movement into their midst.

The tremendous participation of different communities in the movement, and the maintenance of communal unity, despite the Malabar developments, was in itself no mean achievement.

There is hardly any doubt that it was minority participation that gave the movement its truly mass character in many areas. And it was, indeed, unfortunate that this most positive feature of the movement was not to be repeated in later years once communalism began to take its toll. [324 words]

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from India's Struggle for Independence 1857-1947, by Bipin Chandra and Others, Penguin Books, 1989.]

97. From the passage it is evident that:

- (A) The idea of Swaraj seemed futile
- (B) The non-cooperation movement was a complete success
- (C) The non-cooperation movement gained the sympathy of majority of the Indians
- (D) The Indian National Congress represented microscopic minority

Correct Answer: (C) The non-cooperation movement gained the sympathy of majority of the Indians

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks what can be clearly concluded from the information provided in the passage. We need to evaluate each option against the text.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **(A) The idea of Swaraj seemed futile:** The passage states Gandhiji "had promised Swaraj within a year," presenting it as a hopeful goal, not a futile idea. This option is incorrect.
- **(B) The non-cooperation movement was a complete success:** The passage mentions "considerable success" but does not claim it was a "complete success." The promise of Swaraj within a year was not fulfilled, which would preclude calling it a complete success. This option is an overstatement.
- **(C) The non-cooperation movement gained the sympathy of majority of the Indians:** The second paragraph explicitly states that the movement "commanded the support and sympathy of vast sections of the Indian people." This directly supports the option.
- **(D) The Indian National Congress represented microscopic minority:** The passage describes a movement adopted by the Congress that had nation-wide spread and support from "vast sections" of people. This proves the opposite of the statement; it shows Congress had wide-ranging influence. This option is incorrect.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Based on the direct textual evidence, it is evident that the movement gained the sympathy of a majority of Indians.

Quick Tip

In reading comprehension, choose the option that is most directly supported by the text. Avoid options that make extreme claims (e.g., "complete success") or introduce information not present in the passage.

98. The term "poor dumb millions" refer to-

- (A) The vast number of common people who are impoverished
- (B) Large number of common people who are hearing impaired
- (C) Large number of people who are vulnerable
- (D) The vast number of people who are impoverished and uneducated

Correct Answer: (D) The vast number of people who are impoverished and uneducated

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Question:**

The question asks for the meaning of the phrase "poor dumb millions" as used in the context of the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The third paragraph discusses the "capacity of the 'poor dumb millions' of India to take part in modern nationalist politics."

- **"Poor"** clearly refers to economic impoverishment.
- **"Dumb"** in this context is not used literally to mean unable to speak or hear. It is used metaphorically to mean politically voiceless, lacking a platform or the means to express their political will. This is often associated with a lack of education and political awareness.
- The passage reinforces this by stating that this was the first time "nationalists... or even the educated and politically aware" made a serious attempt to bring the movement to "their midst," implying that the "poor dumb millions" were largely uneducated and politically unaware before this.

Therefore, the phrase refers to the vast masses who were both economically poor and politically uneducated/voiceless. Option (D) captures both these aspects. Option (A) is only partially correct as it omits the "dumb" aspect.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The term refers to the vast number of people who are impoverished and uneducated, and therefore politically voiceless.

Quick Tip

Be aware of figurative or metaphorical language in texts. "Dumb" often means "silent" or "voiceless" in older or political writing, not physically impaired. Context is key to correct interpretation.

99. Which of the statements is true?

- (A) The Swaraj movement happened before the non co-operation movement
- (B) The non co-operation movement failed due to sudden withdrawal
- (C) There was a fine show of communal unity in the movement
- (D) The rich and the educated kept themselves away from the non co-operation movement

Correct Answer: (C) There was a fine show of communal unity in the movement

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Question:**

We must identify which of the four statements is factually correct according to the information given in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- (A) Swaraj was the goal of the Non-Cooperation movement, not a separate movement that happened before it. This is incorrect.
- (B) The passage does not mention the withdrawal of the movement or the reasons for its failure. All information must be derived from the text provided. This statement is an external fact not supported by the passage.
- (C) The last paragraph explicitly states, "The tremendous participation of different communities in the movement, and the maintenance of communal unity... was in itself no mean achievement." This directly confirms that there was a fine show of communal unity. This statement is true.
- (D) The passage states the opposite. It says "thousands of students left their educational institutions" and that "nationalists from the towns, students... even the educated and

politically aware” were actively involved. This statement is false.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The only statement that is verifiably true based on the passage is that there was a fine show of communal unity.

Quick Tip

For “which is true/false” questions, go through each option and try to find the exact sentence in the passage that confirms or denies it. Do not use outside knowledge.

100. The main idea of the passage is-

- (A) The Non co-operation movement did not give impetus to the future movements
- (B) The movement made the Indians realize their potential to fight against the mighty British
- (C) The British became fearful and worried of Gandhiji’s leadership and co-operation of Indians
- (D) That the most positive feature of the movement was that it was repeated in later years

Correct Answer: (B) The movement made the Indians realize their potential to fight against the mighty British

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the central theme or the main point the author is making in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage repeatedly emphasizes how the Non-Cooperation Movement demonstrated the strength and reach of the nationalist sentiment. Key phrases include: “register considerable success all over the country,” “commanded the support and sympathy of vast sections,” “capacity of the ‘poor dumb millions’ to take part,” and having a “truly mass character.” The entire passage is a summary of the movement’s achievements in mobilizing the Indian population and demonstrating their collective power.

- (A) Future movements are not the focus of the passage.
- (B) This option correctly summarizes the core theme. The movement’s success lay in demonstrating to the Indian people themselves their collective strength and potential (“mass character,” “support of vast sections”) to stand up to British rule.
- (C) The passage focuses on the Indian side of the movement, not the British reaction.
- (D) The passage explicitly states the opposite: “...unfortunate that this most positive feature of the movement was not to be repeated in later years.”

Step 3: Final Answer:

The main idea is that the movement was a landmark in demonstrating the mass support for nationalism and making Indians aware of their collective potential.

Quick Tip

To find the main idea, ask yourself: "What is the one single message the author is trying to convey in this text?" Look for repeating themes and summary statements.

101. The word "Communalism" in the above passage refers to-

- (A) Religious identity
- (B) Caste identity
- (C) Regional identity
- (D) Secularism

Correct Answer: (A) Religious identity

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the meaning of the word "Communalism" in the context of the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The last paragraph contrasts "communal unity" with "communalism." It states that "participation of different communities" and "maintenance of communal unity" was a key achievement. It then laments that this feature was not repeated once "communalism began to take its toll." In the context of Indian history, the term "communalism" almost always refers to the divisive politics based on religious identity, particularly between Hindus and Muslims. The passage praises the unity between different religious communities during the movement and sees its later breakdown due to communalism (politics based on religious identity) as unfortunate.

- (A) Religious identity is the basis of communalism in this historical context.
- (B) and (C) refer to other forms of identity politics not implied here.
- (D) Secularism is the ideological opposite of communalism.

Step 3: Final Answer:

In this context, "Communalism" refers to politics and social antagonism based on religious identity.

Quick Tip

Use context clues to define words. The passage places "communalism" in direct opposition to "communal unity," which helps to understand its divisive and identity-based meaning.

Passage XVIII

There were humans long before there was history. The archaic humans loved, played, formed close friendships and competed for status and power, but so did chimpanzees, baboons and elephants. There was nothing special about them. Nobody, least of all humans themselves, had any inkling that their descendants would one day walk on the moon, split the atom, fathom the genetic code and write history books. The most important thing to know about prehistoric humans is that they were incognisant animals with no more impact on their environment than gorillas, fireflies or jellyfish. Biologists classify organisms into species. Animals are said to belong to the same species if they tend to mate with each other, giving birth to fertile offspring. Horses and donkeys have a recent common ancestor and share many physical traits. They will mate if induced to do so but their offspring, called mules, are sterile. Mutations in donkey DNA can therefore never cross over to horses, or vice versa. The two types of animals are consequently considered two distinct species, moving along separate evolutionary paths. By contrast, a bulldog and a spaniel may look very different, but they are members of the same species, sharing the same DNA pool. [203 words]

(Extracted from *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* by Yuval Noah Harari)

102. Which of the following can be inferred as the most significant characteristic of prehistoric humans, as per the passage?

- (A) Their conscious effort to alter and shape their environment for survival
- (B) Their complex social organization and clear hierarchical structures that set them apart from other species
- (C) Their evolutionary divergence was marked by warfare and the pursuit of dominance over rival species
- (D) Their inability to distinguish themselves from other species in terms of environmental impact

Correct Answer: (D) Their inability to distinguish themselves from other species in terms of environmental impact

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the most significant characteristic of prehistoric humans as described in the provided passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

We need to analyze the passage to find the statement that best describes prehistoric humans.

The passage states, "The most important thing to know about prehistoric humans is that they were incognisant animals with no more impact on their environment than gorillas, fireflies or jellyfish."

This sentence directly supports the idea that prehistoric humans were not special in terms of their effect on the environment, putting them on par with other animals.

Let's evaluate the other options:

(A) is incorrect. The passage suggests the opposite, that they had minimal impact, not that they were consciously altering their environment.

(B) is incorrect. The passage mentions they "formed close friendships and competed for status and power, but so did chimpanzees, baboons and elephants," implying their social structures were not unique.

(C) is incorrect. While they competed for status and power, the passage does not mention warfare as a defining characteristic of their evolutionary divergence.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Based on the direct statement from the passage, option (D) is the correct inference. Prehistoric humans' lack of significant environmental impact made them indistinguishable from other species in this regard.

Quick Tip

In reading comprehension, always look for direct evidence in the text. The phrase "most important thing to know" is a strong indicator of the author's main point on that topic.

103. In the context of the passage, the term 'incognisant' most likely means:

- (A) Lacking intelligence
- (B) Unaware of their future potential
- (C) Incapable of social interaction
- (D) Disinterested in the environment

Correct Answer: (B) Unaware of their future potential

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

This question asks for the meaning of the word 'incognisant' as it is used in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

To understand the meaning, we must look at the context in which the word appears.

The sentence before the one with 'incognisant' says: "Nobody, least of all humans themselves, had any inkling that their descendants would one day walk on the moon, split the atom, fathom the genetic code and write history books."

This sets up the idea of being unaware of future achievements.

The next sentence continues this thought: "The most important thing to know about prehistoric humans is that they were incognisant animals with no more impact on their environment...". Given the preceding sentence, 'incognisant' here means they were unaware of what their species would become. They had no idea of their vast potential.

Let's analyze the options:

- (A) The passage doesn't say they lacked intelligence, just that their behaviors were similar to other animals.
- (B) This aligns perfectly with the context provided by the preceding sentence about future achievements like walking on the moon.
- (C) The passage explicitly states they "formed close friendships," which contradicts this option.
- (D) The passage states they had little impact, not that they were disinterested. 'Incognisant' relates to a lack of knowledge, not a lack of interest.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The context strongly suggests that 'incognisant' means being unaware of their future potential. Therefore, option (B) is the correct answer.

Quick Tip

To determine the meaning of a word in a passage, always read the sentences immediately before and after it. Context is key.

104. Which of the following best explains why humans did not initially stand out among other organisms?

- (A) They had fewer offspring than other species
- (B) Their behaviours were not unique compared to other animals
- (C) They did not yet evolve the ability to use tools
- (D) They lacked the genetic capacity to develop language

Correct Answer: (B) Their behaviours were not unique compared to other animals

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the reason, according to the passage, why early humans were not considered special compared to other animals.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's find the relevant part of the passage. The first paragraph addresses this directly.

It says: "The archaic humans loved, played, formed close friendships and competed for status and power, but so did chimpanzees, baboons and elephants. There was nothing special about them."

This comparison clearly shows that their behaviors were not unique and were observed in other

species as well, which is why they didn't stand out.

Let's check the options:

- (A) The passage does not mention the number of offspring.
- (B) This option directly paraphrases the information given in the passage.
- (C) The passage does not mention tool use.
- (D) The passage does not mention the genetic capacity for language.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The passage explicitly states that the behaviors of archaic humans were similar to those of other animals like chimpanzees and elephants, and this is why there was "nothing special about them." Option (B) accurately reflects this.

Quick Tip

For "why" questions in reading comprehension, locate the part of the text that discusses the topic and look for causal words or direct statements of explanation.

105. According to the passage, what determines whether two animals belong to the same species?

- (A) Their ability to produce fertile offspring
- (B) Their physical appearance and size
- (C) Their shared evolutionary ancestor
- (D) Their capacity to adapt to the environment

Correct Answer: (A) Their ability to produce fertile offspring

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the definition of a species as provided in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The third paragraph begins with the concept of species classification.

The passage states: "Animals are said to belong to the same species if they tend to mate with each other, giving birth to fertile offspring."

This is a direct definition. The passage then illustrates this with examples: horses and donkeys produce sterile mules (different species), while bulldogs and spaniels can produce fertile offspring (same species).

Let's evaluate the options based on this definition:

- (A) This matches the passage's definition perfectly.
- (B) The passage explicitly refutes this by using the example of a bulldog and a spaniel, which "may look very different, but they are members of the same species."
- (C) While a shared ancestor is mentioned for horses and donkeys, the defining factor for them

being different species is the sterility of their offspring, not just their ancestry.

(D) The passage does not discuss adaptation to the environment as a criterion for species classification.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The passage gives a clear and direct definition for what constitutes a species: the ability to mate and produce fertile offspring. Thus, option (A) is the correct answer.

Quick Tip

When a question asks for a definition "according to the passage," locate the exact sentence where the term is defined. Don't rely on prior knowledge that isn't supported by the text.

106. The passage explains the concept of species classification by

- (A) Highlighting the behavioural differences between species like horses, donkeys, bulldogs and spaniels
- (B) Focusing on the DNA pool they share
- (C) Contrasting horses and bulldogs with donkeys and spaniels to explain reproductive compatibility
- (D) Discussing the environmental impact of different species like horses and donkeys, and bulldogs and spaniels

Correct Answer: (B) Focusing on the DNA pool they share

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks about the method or main idea the author uses to explain species classification.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage explains species classification using two key examples.

1. **Horses and Donkeys:** They can mate, but produce sterile offspring (mules). The passage concludes, "Mutations in donkey DNA can therefore never cross over to horses...". This highlights the absence of a shared, intermixing DNA pool.
2. **Bulldogs and Spaniels:** They look different but are the same species. The passage concludes this example by stating they are "sharing the same DNA pool."

The underlying principle connecting these examples is the concept of a shared DNA pool. If two groups of animals can interbreed and produce fertile offspring, their DNA pools can mix; they are one species. If they cannot, their DNA pools are separate, and they are different species. Therefore, the explanation fundamentally focuses on the DNA pool.

Let's analyze the options:

- (A) The passage discusses appearance ("look very different"), not behavior, for these specific examples.
- (B) This correctly identifies the core biological concept the passage uses to unify the examples and explain the principle. The ability to produce fertile offspring is a manifestation of sharing a DNA pool.
- (C) This option is poorly phrased. The passage contrasts the pair (horses and donkeys) with the pair (bulldogs and spaniels), not (horses and bulldogs) with (donkeys and spaniels). Due to this incorrect grouping, the option is flawed.
- (D) Environmental impact is discussed in relation to prehistoric humans, not in the section about species classification.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The concept of a "DNA pool" is presented as the fundamental reason behind the species classification. The ability or inability of DNA to "cross over" is the key point. Therefore, option (B) is the most accurate description of how the passage explains the concept.

Quick Tip

When a question asks how a passage explains something, look for the underlying principle or concept that connects the examples and evidence provided by the author.

Passage XIX

Directions: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

In 1973, only 45 of the world's 151 countries were counted as 'free' by Freedom House, a nongovernmental organization that produces quantitative measures of civil and political rights for countries around the world. The following generation saw momentous political change, with democracies and market-oriented economies spreading in virtually every part of the world except for the Arab Middle East. This transformation was Samuel Huntington's third wave of democratization; liberal democracy as the default form of government became part of the accepted political landscape at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

Underlying these changes in political systems was a massive social transformation as well. The shift to democracy was a result of millions of formerly passive individuals around the world organizing themselves and participating in the political life of their societies. This social mobilization was driven by a host of factors: greatly expanded access to education that made people more aware of themselves and the political world around them; information technology, which facilitated the rapid spread of ideas and knowledge; cheap travel and communications that allowed people to vote with their feet if they didn't like their government; and greater prosperity, which induced people to demand better protection of their rights.

The third wave crested after the late 1990s, however, a 'democratic recession' emerged in the first decade of the twenty-first century. Approximately one in five countries that had been part of the third wave either reverted to authoritarianism or saw a significant erosion of democratic institutions. Freedom house noted that 2009 marked the fourth consecutive year in which freedom had declined around the world, the first time this had happened since it established its measures of freedom in 1973. [279 words]

107. Which of the following aspects is most critical in understanding Freedom House's evaluation process?

- (A) The methodology by which it quantifies the relative freedoms in different political systems
- (B) Its emphasis on electoral participation and voter turnout in measuring democracy
- (C) Its role in advising governments on democratic reforms based on its rankings
- (D) Its primary focus on economic disparities within democracies

Correct Answer: (A) The methodology by which it quantifies the relative freedoms in different political systems

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the most crucial element of Freedom House's work as described in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The first sentence introduces Freedom House as an organization that "produces quantitative measures of civil and political rights". This means its core function is to convert the abstract concept of freedom into numerical data for comparison.

- **(A)** This option directly reflects the description of producing "quantitative measures". Quantifying freedom is the central methodology mentioned.
- **(B)** The passage mentions "civil and political rights," which is a broad category. Focusing solely on electoral participation is too specific and not explicitly stated as their main emphasis.
- **(C)** and **(D)** The passage does not mention Freedom House advising governments or focusing on economic disparities. It describes their work as measurement and evaluation.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The most critical aspect highlighted in the text is Freedom House's method of quantifying rights, which allows them to rank countries as 'free' or otherwise.

Quick Tip

When a passage describes an organization, pay close attention to the specific verbs and nouns used to define its function (e.g., "produces quantitative measures").

108. What does the phrase 'vote with their feet' imply in the context of the passage?

- (A) Engaging in electoral processes to demand political change
- (B) Demonstrating political preferences through public protests
- (C) Migrating to countries with better governance or conditions
- (D) Participating in local government initiatives and reforms

Correct Answer: (C) Migrating to countries with better governance or conditions

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the meaning of the idiom 'vote with their feet'.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage links this phrase to "cheap travel and communications that allowed people to vote with their feet if they didn't like their government". The idiom 'to vote with one's feet' means to show one's opinion by leaving a place or situation. The context of "cheap travel" strongly suggests physical movement, such as emigration or migration.

- (A), (B), and (D) describe forms of political participation within a system.
- (C) describes leaving a system altogether, which is the correct meaning of the idiom, supported by the context of travel.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The phrase implies that people expressed their dissatisfaction with their government by physically leaving the country for a better one, a choice made easier by affordable travel.

Quick Tip

Idiomatic expressions often have meanings that are different from the literal words used. Use the context provided in the surrounding text to deduce the intended meaning.

109. The term 'third wave of democratization' as used in the passage refers to:

- (A) The rise of communism in Eastern Europe
- (B) The spread of democracy and market-oriented economies
- (C) The decline of authoritarian regimes in the 1960s
- (D) The global movement for civil rights

Correct Answer: (B) The spread of democracy and market-oriented economies

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the definition of the 'third wave of democratization' as explained in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage explicitly defines this term. It describes "momentous political change, with democracies and market-oriented economies spreading in virtually every part of the world" and then states, "This transformation was Samuel Huntington's third wave of democratization".

- (A) is the opposite of democratization.
- (B) is a direct paraphrase of the description given in the text.
- (C) The timeline is incorrect; the passage links the wave to the period following 1973.
- (D) While related, the passage provides a more specific definition that includes both political (democracy) and economic (market-oriented) systems. Option (B) is more precise.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The passage clearly defines the 'third wave' as the widespread adoption of democratic governments and market-based economies across the globe.

Quick Tip

When a passage introduces a specific term in quotation marks or attributes it to a person (like Samuel Huntington), look for a direct definition or description in the same sentence or the one immediately following.

110. Which of the following was not mentioned as a factor contributing to social mobilization and the shift to democracy?

- (A) Increased access to education
- (B) Expanding information technology
- (C) Heightened global military presence
- (D) Greater prosperity

Correct Answer: (C) Heightened global military presence

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

This is a detail-oriented question that asks to identify the factor that is absent from the list provided in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The second paragraph lists the factors driving social mobilization:

1. "greatly expanded access to education"
2. "information technology"
3. "cheap travel and communications"
4. "greater prosperity"

We need to check which option is not on this list.

- (A), (B), and (D) are all explicitly mentioned in the text.
- (C) "Heightened global military presence" is not mentioned anywhere in the passage as a cause for the shift to democracy.

Step 3: Final Answer:

By carefully reading the list of contributing factors in the second paragraph, it is clear that heightened global military presence is not included.

Quick Tip

For "which of the following is NOT" questions, create a mental or physical checklist of the items mentioned in the passage and then compare it against the options provided.

111. According to this passage, when was the first time the freedom had declined around the world

- (A) 1973
- (B) 1990
- (C) 2006
- (D) 2009

Correct Answer: (C) 2006

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the starting point of the period of decline in freedom mentioned

in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The last paragraph states that "2009 marked the fourth consecutive year in which freedom had declined around the world". To find the first year of this consecutive decline, we need to count back from 2009.

- 4th year of decline: 2009
- 3rd year of decline: 2008
- 2nd year of decline: 2007
- 1st year of decline: 2006

The passage also mentions that a 'democratic recession' emerged in the "first decade of the twenty-first century," which is consistent with a start date of 2006.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Since 2009 was the fourth consecutive year of decline, the first year of that decline must have been 2006.

Quick Tip

Be careful with questions involving dates and timelines. Read the phrasing closely—"fourth consecutive year" is a key detail that requires a simple calculation.

Passage XX

Directions: Read the following passage carefully and answer the question that follows.

My kinsman and I were returning to Calcutta from our Puja trip when we encountered an unusual man on the train. At first, judging from his dress and bearing, we mistook him for an up-country boorish man. But as soon as he began to speak, our impression changed. He discoursed on every subject with such confidence that one might think the 'Disposer of All Things' sought his counsel in every decision. Until then, we had been perfectly content, unaware of hidden forces shaping the world—that the Russians were advancing, that the English were pursuing secret policies, and that confusion among native chiefs had reached its peak. Our new acquaintance, however, hinted at such matters with a sly smile, remarking:

"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are reported in your newspapers." Having never before travelled beyond our homes, we were struck dumb with wonder at his manner. No matter how trivial the topic, he could quote science, comment on the Vedas, or recite quatrains from Persian poets. Since we possessed no real knowledge of science, the Vedas, or Persian literature, our admiration for him only grew. My kinsman, a theosophist, became

convinced that our fellow passenger was inspired by some strange magnetism, occult power, or astral body. He listened with devotional rapture even to the most common place remarks and secretly noted down his words. I suspect our extraordinary companion noticed this and was quietly pleased. When the train reached the junction, we gathered in the waiting room to await our connection. It was 10 p.m., and as the train was expected to be delayed owing to some fault in the lines, I spread my bed on the table and prepared to sleep. But just then, the extraordinary man began spinning a tale, and of course, I could not close my eyes all night. (307 words)

[Extracted with edits from Rabindranath Tagore's "The Hungry Stones"]

112. The narrator and his kinsman's initial impression of the "unusual man" highlights which theme most strongly?

- (A) The deceptive nature of appearances
- (B) The superiority of Western education
- (C) The danger of blind faith
- (D) The reliability of cultural stereotypes

Correct Answer: (A) The deceptive nature of appearances

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks what central theme is illustrated by the narrator's first judgment of the man on the train.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage creates a sharp contrast. The initial impression is based on "his dress and bearing," leading them to mistake him for a "boorish man." This judgment is based purely on his appearance. However, this impression is immediately shattered "as soon as he began to speak," revealing his profound knowledge and eloquence. This sequence of events—judging by appearance and being proven wrong by reality—is a classic illustration of the theme that appearances can be misleading or deceptive.

- (A) This directly captures the essence of the initial misjudgment.
- (B) The man's knowledge is diverse (Vedas, Persian poets, science), not exclusively Western.
- (C) The theme of blind faith applies more to the kinsman's later reaction, not the initial impression.
- (D) The story demonstrates the *unreliability*, not the reliability, of the cultural stereotype they used.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The stark difference between how the man looked and how he spoke serves to strongly highlight the theme that one cannot judge a person accurately based on their external appearance.

Quick Tip

In literature-based questions, look for contrasts between expectation and reality, or between a character's appearance and their true nature, as these often point to a central theme.

113. Which literary device is most evident in the narrator's line: "one might think the Disposer of All Things sought his counsel in every decision"?

- (A) Irony
- (B) Euphemism
- (C) Allegory
- (D) Hyperbole

Correct Answer: (D) Hyperbole

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the literary device used in the description of the unusual man's confidence. The line suggests that the man spoke as if the creator of the universe ("the Disposer of All Things") consulted him on everything.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Hyperbole** is the use of exaggeration as a rhetorical device or figure of speech. It is not meant to be taken literally.
- The statement that a divine being would seek counsel from a mortal man is a deliberate and significant exaggeration.
- The narrator uses this exaggeration to emphasize the man's extreme self-confidence and his tendency to speak with absolute authority on every subject.
- **Irony** involves a contrast between expectation and reality, which isn't the primary device here.

- **Euphemism** is a mild word substituted for one considered too harsh, which is not what's happening.
- **Allegory** is a story with a hidden meaning, and this is just a single descriptive phrase.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The line is a clear exaggeration for effect, making hyperbole the most evident literary device.

Quick Tip

Look for statements that are not literally possible but are used to create a strong impression or emphasize a quality. This is the hallmark of hyperbole.

114. The word "theosophist" means:

- (A) Skeptic
- (B) Mystic
- (C) Agnostic
- (D) Materialist

Correct Answer: (B) Mystic

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the definition of the word "theosophist" based on its context in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage states, "My kinsman, a theosophist, became convinced that our fellow passenger was inspired by some strange magnetism, occult power, or astral body."

- This context connects theosophy with beliefs in supernatural, occult, or spiritual forces.
- A **mystic** is a person who seeks to understand spiritual truths or achieve unity with the divine, often through intuition or contemplation. This aligns well with a belief in "occult power" and "astral bodies."
- A **skeptic** doubts such claims.

- An **agnostic** believes it's impossible to know if God exists.
- A **materialist** believes only the physical world is real.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The context clues strongly suggest that a theosophist is a type of mystic, interested in spiritual and occult matters.

Quick Tip

Use the "appositive" trick: when a noun is redefined by a following phrase (like "my kinsman, a theosophist, became convinced that..."), the phrase often helps define the noun.

115. The word "Boorish" mean:

- (A) Discourteous
- (B) Genteel
- (C) Well-bred
- (D) Courtly

Correct Answer: (A) Discourteous

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the meaning of the word "Boorish."

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In the passage, the narrator initially mistook the man for an "up-country boorish man" based on his appearance. This initial impression was proven wrong when the man began to speak with great knowledge and eloquence. This contrast implies that "boorish" has a negative connotation related to manners and refinement.

- **Boorish** means rough, ill-mannered, and insensitive.
- **(A) Discourteous** means rude or lacking in manners, which is a direct synonym of boorish.
- **(B) Genteel**, **(C) Well-bred**, and **(D) Courtly** are all antonyms, describing someone who is polite, refined, and well-mannered.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct meaning of "Boorish" is discourteous or rude.

Quick Tip

Often, a passage will set up a contrast that helps define a difficult word. Here, the contrast is between the man's "boorish" appearance and his eloquent speech.

116. The narrator's suspicion that the extraordinary man was "quietly pleased" suggests:

- (A) The man was genuinely humble and embarrassed by the attention
- (B) The man wished to avoid any recognition of his authority
- (C) The man was indifferent to how others perceived him
- (D) The man derived satisfaction from impressing and influencing others

Correct Answer: (D) The man derived satisfaction from impressing and influencing others

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks what is implied by the narrator's observation that the man was "quietly pleased" by the kinsman's rapt attention.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The narrator notes that the kinsman was listening with "devotional rapture" and taking notes. The narrator then says, "I suspect our extraordinary companion noticed this and was quietly pleased."

- To be "pleased" means to feel happy or satisfied.
- The man's pleasure comes from seeing the effect his words and persona are having on his listener. He is successfully impressing and captivating his audience.
- This suggests a degree of vanity or at least satisfaction in his own ability to influence others.
- Options (A), (B), and (C) are all contradicted by the idea of being "pleased." Humility, avoidance of recognition, and indifference are not consistent with feeling pleasure from admiration.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The man's quiet pleasure indicates that he enjoyed the admiration and was satisfied with his ability to impress his listeners.

Quick Tip

Analyze the emotional words in a passage ("pleased," "rapture," "admiration") to understand character motivations and underlying traits.

Passage XXI

Directions: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Man is the only creature that consumes without producing. He does not give milk, he does not lay eggs, he is too weak to pull the plough, and he cannot run fast enough to catch rabbits. Yet he claims dominion over all animals. He sets us to work, returns only the bare minimum to keep us from starving, and keeps the rest for himself. Our labour tills the soil, our dung fertilizes it, and still, not one of us owns more than our bare skin. You cows, look at yourselves-how many thousands of gallons of milk have you produced this past year? And what has become of it, milk that should have nurtured strong calves? Every drop has gone down the throats of our enemies. And you hens, how many eggs have you laid, and how many of those ever hatched into chicks? The rest have gone to market to bring in money for Jones and his men. And you, Clover, where are the four foals you bore, who should have supported and comforted you in your old age? Each was sold at just a year old-you will never see them again. For all your labour in the fields and your four confinements, what have you gained except bare rations and a stall?

Even the lives we do live are cut short, denied their natural span. I do not grumble, for I am among the fortunate. I am twelve years old and have borne over four hundred children. Such is the natural life of a pig. But no animal escapes the cruel knife in the end. You young porkers sitting before me, each of you will scream your lives out at the block within a year. This is the fate that awaits all of us-cows, pigs, hens, sheep, everyone. Even horses and dogs share no better end. Boxer, the very day your great muscles fail you, Jones will sell you to the knacker, who will slit your throat and boil you down for the foxhounds. And the dogs, when old and toothless, are tied with a brick and drowned in the nearest pond. (356 words)

[Extracted with edits from George Orwell's "Animal Farm"]

117. Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?

- (A) Detached and neutral
- (B) Critical, somber, and resentful, evoking both awareness and outrage
- (C) Humorous and light-hearted
- (D) Admiring and celebratory

Correct Answer: (B) Critical, somber, and resentful, evoking both awareness and outrage

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the overall tone of the speech given in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The tone is the author's or speaker's attitude toward the subject matter.

- **Critical:** The speaker is highly critical of "Man," calling him the "only creature that consumes without producing" and an "enemy."
- **Somber:** The passage deals with grave topics like exploitation, loss of children, and brutal death ("cruel knife," "scream your lives out," "slit your throat"). This creates a serious and dark mood.
- **Resentful:** The speaker expresses deep resentment for the injustice of the animals' situation ("what have you gained except bare rations and a stall?").
- **Evoking awareness and outrage:** The speech is a piece of rhetoric designed to awaken the other animals to their plight and incite them to anger and action.

Options (A), (C), and (D) are clearly incorrect as the passage is emotionally charged, serious, and condemnatory, not neutral, humorous, or celebratory.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The combination of criticism of humans, a grave subject matter, and a clear sense of injustice makes the tone critical, somber, and resentful.

Quick Tip

To determine the tone, pay close attention to the word choice (e.g., "enemies," "cruel," "scream") and the rhetorical questions that express frustration and injustice.

118. The speaker frequently contrasts animals' work with human gain. This literary technique is best classified as:

- (A) Allegory of class exploitation
- (B) Hyperbole for comic effect
- (C) Irony about farm management
- (D) Metaphor for animal biology

Correct Answer: (A) Allegory of class exploitation

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the literary technique behind the central theme of the animals' labor benefiting only humans.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage is from George Orwell's **Animal Farm**, which is a famous political allegory.

- An **allegory** is a story in which characters and events represent abstract ideas or historical events.
- In this context, the animals represent the working class (the proletariat), and the humans (Mr. Jones) represent the ruling class (the bourgeoisie or aristocracy).
- The contrast between the animals' immense labor and the fact that humans reap all the rewards ("keeps the rest for himself") is a direct representation of the Marxist concept of class exploitation, where the ruling class profits from the labor of the working class.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The technique is best classified as an allegory of class exploitation, which is the foundational concept of the entire novel from which the passage is taken.

Quick Tip

Recognizing the source of a passage (like **Animal Farm**) can provide crucial context for interpreting its literary devices and themes. The novel's main purpose is to be an allegory.

119. Who is 'knacker'?

- (A) A slaughterer
- (B) A trader whose business is disposal of dead and unwanted animals
- (C) A person whose business is disposal of dead or unwanted animals especially those whose flesh is not fit for human consumption
- (D) Harness-maker

Correct Answer: (C) A person whose business is disposal of dead or unwanted animals especially those whose flesh is not fit for human consumption

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the definition of a 'knacker'.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage provides context: "Jones will sell you to the knacker, who will slit your throat and boil you down for the foxhounds."

- This describes a person who disposes of old, injured, or unwanted animals, especially horses.
- The detail "boil you down for the foxhounds" indicates that the animal's remains are being processed into byproducts (like animal feed), not meat for humans.
- This makes option (C) the most precise definition. While a knacker is a type of slaughterer (A) and a trader in unwanted animals (B), option (C) includes the crucial detail that these animals are not for human consumption, which is the key distinction.
- A harness-maker (D) is an entirely different profession.

Step 3: Final Answer:

A 'knacker' is someone who disposes of animals not fit for human food, making (C) the most accurate and specific choice.

Quick Tip

In vocabulary questions, look for the most precise definition. Several options may be partially correct, but one will be more complete and accurate than the others.

120. The repeated reference to slaughter, drowning, and the knacker in the passage primarily implies to:

- (A) Provide a detailed account of animal husbandry
- (B) Evoke emotional outrage and highlight the brutality of exploitation
- (C) Suggest that animals are naturally subservient
- (D) Indicate that humans value animals

Correct Answer: (B) Evoke emotional outrage and highlight the brutality of exploitation

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the primary purpose of mentioning the violent ways in which the animals' lives end.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The speaker uses these grim images as the climax of his argument. After detailing the exploitation during the animals' lives, he describes their ultimate fate.

- The purpose is rhetorical: to stir the emotions of the audience.
- By showing that a life of hard work and service ends not in peaceful retirement but in a brutal, undignified death, the speaker highlights the ultimate cruelty of the system.
- This is meant to provoke fear, anger, and a sense of injustice—in other words, to "evoke emotional outrage." The brutality is the ultimate proof of the severity of their exploitation.
- The purpose is not to give a neutral account of farming (A), nor does it suggest animals are subservient (C) or valued (D)—it argues the exact opposite.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The references to violent death are intended to create a powerful emotional response and underscore the brutal nature of the animals' exploitation.

Quick Tip

When analyzing a persuasive speech, consider the emotional impact of the language. Powerful, violent imagery is often used to provoke a strong reaction like outrage or fear.