XAT 2022 Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hours	**Maximum Marks :**100	**Total questions :**102

Section : Verbal Ability and Logical Reasoning

Read the poem carefully, and answer the following question.

Poem: I smiled at you because I thought that you

Were someone else; you smiled back; and there

Grew between two strangers in a library

Something that seems like love; but you loved me

(If that's the word) because you thought that I

Was other than I was. And by and by

We found we'd been mistaken all the while

From that first glance, that first mistaken smile.

1. Which of the following CANNOT be inferred from the poem?

(A) We make mistakes in love.

(B) We fall in love with strangers.

(C) Love may start with small acts like glancing and smiling.

(D) The idea of love is different for the parties involved.

(E) We don't fall in love with others but with ourselves.

Correct Answer: (E) We don't fall in love with others but with ourselves.

Solution:

The poem narrates a situation where two strangers mistakenly smile at each other and momentarily feel a sense of connection, which seems like love. Let us evaluate each option carefully:

- (A) **We make mistakes in love:** Correct inference. The poem shows that both individuals were mistaken from the very beginning, indicating love can arise out of mistakes.

- (B) **We fall in love with strangers:** Correct inference. The poem clearly depicts two strangers in a library experiencing feelings that resembled love.

- (C) **Love may start with small acts like glancing and smiling:** Correct inference. The entire episode began with a mistaken smile, showing how small gestures can spark emotions.

- (D) **The idea of love is different for the parties involved:** Correct inference. The speaker doubts whether it was truly love at all, while the other person seemed convinced—hence different perceptions.

- (E) **We don't fall in love with others but with ourselves:** This cannot be inferred. The poem never suggests self-love or narcissism; it only reflects mistaken identity and mismatched emotions.

Thus, option (E) is the correct answer since it cannot be inferred from the poem.

> (E) We don't fall in love with others but with ourselves.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When solving inference-based questions, carefully separate what is directly or indirectly supported by the text from what is an overgeneralization or unrelated interpretation. Always check if the claim goes beyond what the passage suggests.

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2. Which of the following sentences are grammatically CORRECT?

1. Have you any clothes to dispose of?

2. I saw a pleasant dream last night.

3. I have done it many a times safely.

4. Students struggle to cope up with academic pressure.

5. You need not give negative feedback to your employees.

6. My friend is good at playing football.

(A) 3,4,5

(B) 1,5,6

(C) 4,5,6

(D) 2,3,4

(E) 1,2,3

Correct Answer: (B) 1,5,6

Solution:

Let us examine each sentence carefully for grammatical correctness:

Sentence 1: "Have you any clothes to dispose of?" – This is correct. The construction "Have you any . . . ?" is formal but grammatically acceptable.

Sentence 2: "I saw a pleasant dream last night." – Incorrect. In English, we usually say "I had a pleasant dream" rather than "saw a dream."

Sentence 3: "I have done it many a times safely." – Incorrect. The correct idiom is "many a time" (singular), not "many a times."

Sentence 4: "Students struggle to cope up with academic pressure." – Incorrect. The correct usage is "cope with," not "cope up with."

Sentence 5: "You need not give negative feedback to your employees." – Correct. The use of "need not" is grammatically sound.

Sentence 6: "My friend is good at playing football." – Correct. The preposition "at" is properly used with "good at."

Hence, the grammatically correct sentences are 1, 5, and 6.

$$\boxed{\text{(B) } 1, 5, 6}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Always pay attention to idiomatic usage in English. Phrases like "cope with," "have a dream," and "many a time" follow fixed patterns that must be memorized to avoid errors.

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3. Carefully read the following statement:

When I ask people to name three recently implemented technologies that most impact our world today, they usually propose the computers, the Internet and the laser. All three were

unplanned, ____, and ____ upon their discovery and remained ____ well after their initial use. Which of the following options will BEST fill up the above blanks meaningfully?

(A) Astonishing, Superb, Superb

(B) Surprising, Fulfilling, Unfulfilling

(C) Unpredicted, Unappreciated, Unappreciated

(D) Amazing, Shocking, Shocking

(E) Astonishing, Amazing, Amazing

Correct Answer: (C) Unpredicted, Unappreciated, Unappreciated

Solution:

The context stresses that the three technologies were not initially planned and their importance was not recognized immediately.

- (A) "Astonishing, Superb" does not match the tone of "unplanned."

- (B) "Fulfilling/Unfulfilling" relates to satisfaction, not discovery.

- (C) "Unpredicted, Unappreciated" correctly conveys that they were not expected and undervalued at first.

- (D) "Amazing, Shocking" implies surprise, but not undervaluation.

- (E) "Astonishing, Amazing" is repetitive and fails to capture the idea of being underestimated.

Thus, the best choice is option (C).

(C) Unpredicted, Unappreciated, Unappreciated

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When filling blanks, look for words that match both tone and context. Here, "unplanned" aligns best with "unpredicted" and "unappreciated."

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4. Carefully read the following statement:

The moment we no longer have a free press, anything can happen. What makes it ____ for a totalitarian or any other dictatorship to rule is that ____ are not informed; how can you have an opinion if you are not informed? If everybody always lies to you, the ____ is not that you

believe the lies, but rather that nobody believes anything any longer. This is because lies, by their very nature, have to be changed, and a lying government has ____ to rewrite its own history.

Which of the following options will BEST fill up the above blanks meaningfully?

(A) Unpleasant, plebeians, fact, forced

(B) Absurd, subjects, beauty, no reason

(C) Necessary, citizens, joy, unusually

(D) Possible, people, consequence, constantly

(E) Unique, senators, reason, enough

Correct Answer: (D) Possible, people, consequence, constantly

Solution:

The statement emphasizes the danger of dictatorship without free press. Let us evaluate:

- (A) "Unpleasant, plebeians, fact, forced" does not fit logically.

- (B) "Absurd, subjects, beauty" creates incoherence with the context.

- (C) "Necessary, citizens, joy" clashes with the negative tone.

- (D) "Possible, people, consequence, constantly" perfectly conveys that dictatorship becomes possible when people are uninformed, leading to consequences, and lies must be constantly changed.

- (E) "Unique, senators, reason, enough" is illogical.

Hence, option (D) is the correct one.

(D) Possible, people, consequence, constantly

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Always ensure the sequence of blank fillers maintains logical flow and tone of the passage. Words must complement both meaning and grammar.

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5. Read the passage carefully and answer the following question:

Geologists have been investigating a potential cycle in geological events for a long time. Back in the 1920s and 30s, scientists of the era had suggested that the geological record had

a 30-million-year cycle, while in the 1980s and 90s researchers used the best-dated geological events at the time to give them a range of the length between 'pulses' of 26.2 to 30.6 million years. Now, everything seems to be in order – 27.5 million years is right about where we'd expect. A study late last year suggested that this 27.5-million-year mark is when mass extinctions happen, too.

Which of the following statements can be BEST concluded from the passage?

(A) Geological disasters happen sporadically

(B) Not all species go extinct once every 27.5 million years

(C) Mass extinctions and "geological pulse" are correlated

(D) "Pulse" between geological events is constant

(E) All species go extinct once every 27.5 million years

Correct Answer: (C) Mass extinctions and "geological pulse" are correlated

Solution:

The passage highlights that mass extinctions appear around the same geological cycle of 27.5 million years, aligning with a "pulse" in geological events.

- (A) Wrong: "sporadically" contradicts the identified cycle.

- (B) Misleading: The passage does not say species avoid extinction; it only emphasizes correlation.

- (C) Correct: The key conclusion is correlation between "geological pulse" and "mass extinctions."

- (D) Incorrect: The cycle is approximate (26.2 to 30.6 million years), not strictly constant.

- (E) Wrong: Not all species go extinct, only many during mass extinctions.

Thus, the best conclusion is option (C).

(C) Mass extinctions and "geological pulse" are correlated

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When asked to conclude, focus on the main relationship or correlation described in the passage, not absolute statements.

6. Which of the following sentences have INCORRECT usage of preposition?

1. The manager was sitting at the desk.

2. My work is superior to yours.

3. I prefer coffee than tea.

4. She was accused for stealing gold.

5. This is an exception to the rule.

6. They are leaving to England soon.

(A) 1,2,3

(B) 2,3,4

(C) 3,4,6

(D) 3,4,5

(E) 1,3,6

Correct Answer: (C) 3,4,6

Solution:

Let us check the preposition usage in each sentence:

Sentence 1: "The manager was sitting at the desk." – Correct. The preposition "at" is used properly here.

Sentence 2: "My work is superior to yours." – Correct. The phrase "superior to" is the standard usage.

Sentence 3: "I prefer coffee than tea." – Incorrect. The correct form is "prefer coffee **to** tea."

Sentence 4: "She was accused for stealing gold." – Incorrect. The proper phrase is "accused **of** stealing."

Sentence 5: "This is an exception to the rule." – Correct. The idiom "exception to" is correct.

Sentence 6: "They are leaving to England soon." – Incorrect. We say "leaving **for** England," not "to England."

Therefore, sentences 3, 4, and 6 have incorrect preposition usage.

$$\boxed{(C)\ 3,\ 4,\ 6}$$

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7. Which of the following statements BEST reflects the theme of the poem?

Poem Excerpt: It hurts to walk on new legs: The curse of consonants. The wobble of vowels.

And you for whom I gave up a kingdom Can never love that thing I was.

When you look into my past You see only weeds and scales.

Once I had a voice. Now I have legs.

Sometimes I wonder Was it a fair trade?

(A) Our quest for love is accompanied with pain.

(B) Nostalgic recollection undermines materialistic gains.

(C) Our loss of identity is irreparable.

(D) As the future unfolds, our distant past looks pleasant.

(E) Our concern for loss is more than what we gain.

Correct Answer: (A) Our quest for love is accompanied with pain.

Solution:

The poem describes a speaker who sacrificed her identity ("gave up a kingdom," "once I had a voice") for love, only to face pain and doubt about whether it was worth it.

- (A) Correct: The essence of the poem is that love comes with sacrifice and pain, showing regret after transformation.
- (B) Incorrect: The poem does not focus on nostalgia undermining materialism.
- (C) Incorrect: While identity loss is mentioned, the main theme is the painful trade-off in pursuit of love.
- (D) Incorrect: The poem is not about future versus past, but about regret.
- (E) Incorrect: The concern is not about quantity of loss versus gain, but the emotional cost of love.

Thus, the theme is best reflected by option (A).

(A) Our quest for love is accompanied with pain.

In poetry-based questions, focus on the dominant emotional undertone (regret, sacrifice, pain, hope, etc.) rather than secondary details.

Read the poem carefully, and answer the TWO questions that follow.

It hurts to walk on new legs:

The curse of consonants. The wobble of vowels.

And you for whom I gave up a kingdom

Can never love that thing I was.

When you look into my past

You see

Only weeds and scales.

Once I had a voice.

Now I have legs.

Sometimes I wonder

Was it a fair trade?

8. What does the author BEST mean by "Once I had a voice. / Now I have legs?"

(A) The poet puts less value on the new world

(B) The poet is contemplative of his/her identity

(C) The poet's actions speak louder than his/her words now

(D) The poet is indecisive about choosing between the two worlds

(E) The poet has lost his/her speech

Correct Answer: (B) The poet is contemplative of his/her identity

Solution:

The lines "Once I had a voice. Now I have legs" are metaphorical and reflect transformation at the cost of identity. The poet/speaker reflects on a shift from expression (voice) to action/physical existence (legs). This shows contemplation and regret about the trade-off.

- (A) Incorrect: It does not show value judgment about the new world.

- (B) Correct: It reflects the poet's contemplation about identity and sacrifice.

- (C) Incorrect: The line is not about actions being louder than words.

- (D) Incorrect: The poet is not indecisive, but regretful.

- (E) Incorrect: The phrase is symbolic, not literal loss of speech.

Thus, the poet is reflecting on identity and transformation, making option (B) correct.

| (B) The poet is contemplative of his/her identity |

> **Quick Tip**
>
> In poetry-based questions, look for symbolic meaning rather than literal interpretation.
> Words like "voice" and "legs" represent identity, sacrifice, and transformation.

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9. Arrange the following sentences in a LOGICAL sequence:

1. In America, primary-age pupils are on average five months behind where they would usually be in maths, and four months in reading, according to McKinsey, a consultancy.
2. As a new school year gets under way in many countries, the harm caused by months of closure is becoming ever clearer.
3. The crisis will accelerate that trend.
4. The damage is almost certainly worse in places such as India and Mexico, where the disruption to schooling has been greater.
5. Even before pandemic, parents around the world were growing more willing to pay for extra lessons in the hope of boosting their children's education.

(A) 3,5,2,4,1

(B) 2,1,4,5,3

(C) 5,1,3,2,4

(D) 5,3,2,1,4

(E) 2,3,1,4,5

Correct Answer: (B) 2,1,4,5,3

Solution:

To form a logical sequence, let us analyze step by step:

- (2) introduces the topic: the harm caused by school closures is becoming evident.

- (1) gives statistical evidence (America's pupils falling behind).

- (4) expands globally, pointing out worse effects in countries like India and Mexico.

- (5) provides background: even before the pandemic, parents were willing to pay for extra lessons.

- (3) concludes with a prediction: the crisis will accelerate that trend.

Thus, the coherent flow is $2 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 5 \rightarrow 3$.

$$\boxed{\text{(B) } 2,1,4,5,3}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When arranging sentences, look for a general introduction first, followed by evidence, expansion, background, and finally prediction or conclusion.

Comprehension: Read the passage carefully and answer the THREE questions that follow.

What does a good life look like to you? For some, the phrase may conjure up images of a close-knit family, a steady job, and a Victorian house at the end of a street arched with oak trees. Others may focus on the goal of making a difference in the world, whether by working as a nurse or teacher, volunteering, or pouring their energy into environmental activism. According to Aristotlean theory, the first kind of life would be classified as "hedonic"—one based on pleasure, comfort, stability, and strong social relationships. The second is "eudaimonic," primarily concerned with the sense of purpose and fulfilment one gets by contributing to the greater good. The ancient Greek philosopher outlined these ideas in his treatise Nicomachean Ethics, and the psychological sciences have pretty much stuck them ever since when discussing the possibilities of what people might want out of their time on Earth. But a new paper, published in the American Psychological Association's Psychological Review, suggests there's another way to live a good life. It isn't focused on happiness or purpose, but rather it's a life that's "psychologically rich."

What is a psychologically rich life? According to authors Shige Oishi, a professor of psychology at the University of Virginia, and Erin Westgate, an assistant professor of

psychology at the University of Florida, it's one characterized by "interesting experiences in which novelty and/or complexity are accompanied by profound changes in perspective. Studying abroad, for example, is one way that college students often introduce psychological richness into their lives. As they learn more about a new country's customs and history, they're often prompted to reconsider the social mores of their own cultures. Deciding to embark on a difficult new career path or immersing one's self in avant-garde art (the paper gives a specific shout-out to James Joyce's Ulysses) also could make a person feel as if their life is more psychologically rich.

Crucially, an experience doesn't have to be fun in order to qualify as psychologically enriching. It might even be a hardship. Living through war or a natural disaster might make it hard to feel as though you're living a particularly happy or purposeful life, but you can still come out of the experience with psychological richness. Or you might encounter less dramatic but nonetheless painful events: infertility, chronic illness, unemployment. Regardless of the specifics, you may experience suffering but still find value in how your experience shapes your understanding of yourself and the world around you.

10. Which of the following statements BEST contrasts Hedonic from Eudaimonic?

(A) Hedonic believes in seeking pleasure while Eudaimonic focuses on depriving oneself of pleasure

(B) Hedonic focuses on what gives pleasure to self, while Eudaimonic focuses on what he/she believes benefits the society

(C) Hedonic focuses on the emptiness from seeking pleasure, while Eudaimonic focuses on the fulfillment by giving pleasure to others

(D) Hedonic believes that pleasure leads to fulfilment while Eudaimonic believes that fulfilment leads to pleasure

(E) Hedonic focuses on pleasure to self while Eudaimonic focuses on pleasure to the other

Correct Answer: (B) Hedonic focuses on what gives pleasure to self, while Eudaimonic focuses on what he/she believes benefits the society

Solution:

The difference between Hedonic and Eudaimonic approaches is clear:

- Hedonic = pleasure-seeking and self-centered happiness.

- Eudaimonic = fulfillment through meaningful contribution, focusing on the greater good and society.
- (A) Incorrect: Eudaimonic does not mean depriving oneself.
- (B) Correct: Captures the essence — Hedonic = pleasure to self, Eudaimonic = benefit to society.
- (C) Incorrect: Emptiness vs fulfillment is too vague.
- (D) Incorrect: Misrepresents the cause-effect relationship.
- (E) Incorrect: Oversimplified repetition of pleasure-based distinction.

Thus, the best contrast is option (B).

(B) Hedonic focuses on pleasure to self, Eudaimonic on benefit to society

> **Quick Tip**
>
> In philosophy-based MCQs, always separate self-focused vs society-focused dimensions — Hedonic = self-pleasure, Eudaimonic = purpose/meaning.

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11. Which of the following statements BEST defines a "psychologically rich life"?

(A) A life that is filled with fun and joy

(B) A life that is filled with interesting experiences in which novelty and complexity are accompanied by profound changes in perspective

(C) A life that is filled with learning opportunities that makes us an expert in a particular area

(D) A life that is filled with novel experiences which changes our view of what a good life is

(E) Any novel experience that affects us cognitively makes us psychologically rich

Correct Answer: (B) A life that is filled with interesting experiences in which novelty and complexity are accompanied by profound changes in perspective

Solution:

The passage describes "psychologically rich life" as involving interesting, novel, and complex experiences that transform one's perspective.

- (A) Incorrect: Fun/joy relate to Hedonic life, not psychological richness.
- (B) Correct: Matches the definition given in the passage by Shige Oishi and Erin Westgate.

- (C) Incorrect: Too narrow (focuses only on expertise, not richness).

- (D) Partially correct but incomplete — does not emphasize "complexity + perspective change."

- (E) Incorrect: Not every novel experience qualifies, only those with significant impact on perspective.

Thus, option (B) is the best definition.

> (B) Life with novelty, complexity, and perspective change = Psychologically rich

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Pay attention to exact wording in the passage. Keywords like "novelty," "complexity," and "changes in perspective" are central clues to the correct answer.

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12. Which of the following statements can be BEST concluded from the passage?

(A) A bad experience can enrich someone psychologically.

(B) An unpleasant experience can enable a good life.

(C) Life need not be good, but can still be psychologically rich.

(D) A psychologically rich life is a good life.

(E) A good life should not be seen in binary terms.

Correct Answer: (C) Life need not be good, but can still be psychologically rich

Solution:

The passage highlights that psychological richness comes from varied experiences, including difficult or unpleasant ones, as long as they provide novelty and alter perspective.

- (A) Partially true, but too specific — enrichment is broader than just "bad experiences."

- (B) Incorrect: Misleading. "Unpleasant" guarantee of a "good life."

- (C) Correct: Directly supported. Life can be psychologically rich without necessarily being "good" or "happy."

- (D) Incorrect: Equates psychological richness with a good life, which the passage avoids.

- (E) Too vague/general, not the central conclusion.

Thus, the conclusion is option (C).

(C) Life need not be good, but can still be psychologically rich

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Q.13 Read the excerpt carefully and answer the following question. The over-whelming preponderance of people have not freely decided what to believe, but, rather, have been socially conditioned (indoctrinated) into their beliefs. They are unreflective thinkers.

(A) Things that we do automatically need to be reflected upon

(B) A lot of people end up believing what they passionately oppose

(C) Beliefs that appear normal and natural heighten their acceptance

(D) A normal thinker finds it difficult to recognize what is happening to them

(E) The inability to criticize one's belief leads to indoctrination

Correct Answer: (B) A lot of people end up believing what they passionately oppose

Solution:

In the given excerpt, the focus is on how people have been conditioned or indoctrinated into their beliefs and how this lack of reflection leads to uncritical thinking. Let's analyze the options:

- **(A) Things that we do automatically need to be reflected upon:** The excerpt suggests that people are unreflective thinkers, meaning they often do things without deep thought or reflection. This statement is supported by the excerpt, so it can be concluded.

- **(B) A lot of people end up believing what they passionately oppose:** This statement cannot be concluded directly from the excerpt. While the excerpt speaks about how people are conditioned into beliefs, it does not mention that people end up believing things they oppose. The excerpt doesn't provide support for this idea, so this is the correct answer.

- **(C) Beliefs that appear normal and natural heighten their acceptance:** This is implied in the excerpt. When beliefs appear normal or natural, people are more likely to accept them

without questioning, as they are socially conditioned.

- **(D) A normal thinker finds it difficult to recognize what is happening to them:** This statement is consistent with the excerpt, as it suggests that unreflective thinkers (those who are conditioned by society) struggle to see the processes that influence their beliefs.

- **(E) The inability to criticize one's belief leads to indoctrination:** The excerpt clearly discusses how people are socially conditioned into their beliefs, and an inability to criticize one's beliefs could indeed lead to indoctrination, which aligns with the passage.

Thus, the statement **B** is the one that cannot be concluded from the excerpt, and the correct answer is **(B)**.

$$\boxed{B}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> To succeed in critical thinking, it's important to reflect on the beliefs and ideas we hold, rather than simply accepting them as truths without examination.

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14. Read the passage carefully and answer the following question.

One theory of accidents is what experts call the Swiss Cheese model. A slab of Swiss cheese has several holes, randomly and unevenly distributed over its surface. If several slabs are stacked together, it would be impossible for something to slip through unless all the holes happen to line up. If even one slab doesn't align, the impending catastrophe will meet a layer of resistance, and the worst is averted. Aviation professionals will tell you that plane crashes never happen for a single reason. There may be an identifiable primary factor, but it's usually a chain of events, an array of circumstances neatly piling up.

Which of the following statements can be BEST concluded from the passage?

(A) Averting catastrophe is actually easier than it seems

(B) A catastrophe can be averted if the preceding array of events meets resistance

(C) Any disaster is a culmination of many events happening in a particular order

(D) Accidents cannot be averted since a chain of events have to be averted to avert accidents

(E) Any historically relevant event is an accident because it involves a chain of preceding events

Correct Answer: (B) A catastrophe can be averted if the preceding array of events meets resistance

Solution:

The Swiss Cheese model highlights that disasters occur when multiple failures align without resistance. If even one layer blocks the chain, catastrophe is prevented.

- (A) Incorrect: It does not imply it is "easier than it seems," only that resistance at one layer can avert disaster.

- (B) Correct: Captures the core idea — catastrophe can be stopped if resistance occurs in the chain of events.

- (C) Partially true: While disasters are indeed a culmination of events, the passage emphasizes prevention, not inevitability.

- (D) Incorrect: The passage clearly states that accidents *can* be averted if resistance occurs.

- (E) Incorrect: Overgeneralizes; not every historical event is an accident.

Thus, the best conclusion is option (B).

> (B) A catastrophe can be averted if the preceding array of events meets resistance

> **Quick Tip**
>
> In passage-based questions, focus on the central analogy (here, Swiss Cheese model).
> It explains that preventing even one step in a chain of events can avert a disaster.

Comprehension: Read the passage carefully and answer the THREE questions that follow.

What bullshit essentially misrepresents is neither the state of affairs to which it refers nor the beliefs of the speaker concerning that state of affairs. Those are what lies misrepresent, by virtue of being false. Since bullshit need not be false, it differs from lies in its misrepresentational intent. The bullshitter may not deceive us, or even intend to do so, either about the facts or about what he takes the facts to be. What he does

necessarily attempt to deceive us about is his enterprise. His only indispensably distinctive characteristic is that in a certain way he misrepresents what he is up to. This is the crux of the distinction between him and the liar. Both he and the liar represent themselves falsely as endeavoring to communicate the truth. The success of each depends upon deceiving us about that. But the fact about himself that the liar hides is that he is attempting to lead us away from a correct apprehension of reality; we are not to know that he wants us to believe something he supposes to be false. The fact about himself that the bullshitter hides, on the other hand, is that the truth-values of his statements are of no central interest to him; what we are not to understand is that his intention is neither to report the truth nor to conceal it. This does not mean that his speech is anarchically impulsive, but that the motive guiding and controlling it is unconcerned with how the things about which he speaks truly are. It is impossible for someone to lie unless he thinks he knows the truth. Producing bullshit requires no such conviction. A person who lies is thereby responding to the truth, and he is to that extent respectful of it. When an honest man speaks, he says only what he believes to be true; and for the liar, it is correspondingly indispensable that he considers his statements to be false.

15. Which of the following statements can be BEST inferred from the passage?

(A) Both the liar and the bullshitter misrepresent the truth

(B) Both the liar and the bullshitter are guided by the truth

(C) Both the liar and the bullshitter are not bound by any conviction

(D) Both the liar and the bullshitter live in their own worlds of realities

(E) Both the liar and the bullshitter intend to deceive in their own ways

Correct Answer: (E) Both the liar and the bullshitter intend to deceive in their own ways

Solution:

The passage explains that:

- A liar knowingly misrepresents the truth with intent to deceive.

- A bullshitter, on the other hand, is indifferent to the truth or falsity but still deceives us about his enterprise (i.e., what he wants us to believe about him or his purpose).

Thus, both are deceptive, but in distinct ways.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Remember: Liars distort the truth deliberately, bullshitters ignore the truth altogether but still deceive about themselves or their motives.

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16. Why does the author say that the bullshitter's intention "is neither to report the truth nor to conceal it"?

(A) Because he does not know or care about the truth

(B) Because he is trying to deceive about the truth

(C) Because he ends up knowing nothing about the truth

(D) Because bullshitters do not like to deceive

(E) Because bullshitters are respectful to the truth

Correct Answer: (A) Because he does not know or care about the truth

Solution:

The author highlights that a bullshitter's defining trait is **indifference to truth or falsity**.

- He does not aim to report what is true.

- He does not attempt to conceal truth either.

- His concern is only with creating the impression he wants.

Thus, the correct reason is option (A).

(A) Because he does not know or care about the truth

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Differentiate: Liars = concerned with truth but distort it. Bullshitters = unconcerned with truth, indifferent to it.

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17. What is the most important task of a bullshitter?

(A) Weave a false story avoiding the correct comprehension of reality

(B) Keep the listener guessing while misrepresenting the state of affairs

(C) Hide the important features of something one is presenting

(D) Tell a false story and deceive the audience

(E) Present what he/she wants us to believe rather than focus on telling lies

Correct Answer: (E) Present what he/she wants us to believe rather than focus on telling lies

Solution:

The passage emphasizes that the bullshitter's primary task is to **project an impression**, irrespective of truth or falsehood.

- (A) and (D): These describe liars, not bullshitters.

- (B) and (C): Secondary outcomes, not the central aim.

- (E): **Correct**. A bullshitter's aim is to make us believe what he/she wants, without focusing on truth or lies.

(E) Present what he/she wants us to believe rather than focus on telling lies

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When reading philosophy-based RC, separate intent vs method. For bullshitters, intent = control audience's belief; method = indifference to truth.

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18. Which of the following conditional sentences are grammatically INCORRECT?

1. If Sandhya had started from the hotel on time, she would have not missed the flight.

2. The students wouldn't have completed their assignment even if the professor would have been there.

3. I had travelled across Europe if I weren't afraid of airplane crashes.

4. Saurav won't join music classes unless his father will ask him.

5. Should you wish to join the party, you must let me know by this evening.

6. We would be stupid if we shared our strategy with her.

(A) 1,2,3

(B) 2,3,4

(C) 3,4,5

(D) 4,5,6

(E) 1,5,6

Correct Answer: (B) 2,3,4

Solution:

Let us analyze each sentence carefully:

Sentence 1: "If Sandhya had started from the hotel on time, she would have not missed the flight." – Correct. It expresses a third conditional (past perfect + would have). Slightly better phrased as "would not have missed," but still acceptable.

Sentence 2: "The students wouldn't have completed their assignment even if the professor would have been there." – Incorrect. In conditional clauses, we use "had been" (past perfect), not "would have been." Correct form: "...even if the professor had been there."

Sentence 3: "I had travelled across Europe if I weren't afraid of airplane crashes." – Incorrect. The main clause verb "had travelled" is wrong; it should be conditional perfect: "I would have travelled across Europe if I weren't afraid of airplane crashes."

Sentence 4: "Saurav won't join music classes unless his father will ask him." – Incorrect. In English, after "unless," we use present simple to indicate future condition. Correct form: "unless his father asks him."

Sentence 5: "Should you wish to join the party, you must let me know by this evening." – Correct. This is a formal inversion equivalent to "If you should wish...," and is grammatically sound.

Sentence 6: "We would be stupid if we shared our strategy with her." – Correct. This is a proper second conditional sentence (would + past simple).

Thus, the incorrect sentences are 2, 3, and 4.

(B) 2,3,4

Quick Tip

For conditional sentences: - Use past perfect in "if" clauses for third conditionals (If + had + past participle). - Avoid "would" in the "if" part; it belongs only in the main clause. - After "unless," use present simple for future reference.

Comprehension: Read the passage carefully and answer the THREE questions that follow.

What Arendt does for us is to remind us that our "publicness" is as important to our flourishing as our sociability and our privacy. She draws a distinction between what it means to act "socially" and what is means to act "politically." The social realm for Arendt is both the context where all our basic survival needs "are permitted to appear in public" and also the realm of "behaviour." One of the things she fears about modern societies is that society – focused on how we behave and what we will permit for ourselves and others – becomes the realm of conformism. This is worrying not just because we don't really get vibrant societies out of conformism and sameness, but also, Arendt says because there is a risk that we think this is all there is to our living together. We lose ourselves in the tasks of managing behaviour and forget that our true public task is to act, and to distinguish ourselves in doing so. The risk, says Arendt, is therefore that we confuse behaviour with action, that in modern liberal societies "behaviour replaces action as the foremost mode of human relationship." This confusion can happen in any area of our modern lives and institutions, secular or faith-based. None is immune.

Arendt wants to drive home the point that the healthy public life requires that we do not just see ourselves as social actors but also as fully public persons, committed to judging and acting as members of a common world we want to inhabit and pass on. Arendt tells us that public action is action in which we stand out, are individuated, become in some way excellent in a manner that is of service to others and a greater good. This is the space where we take risks, subject our common life to scrutiny, seek justice (that sometimes requires us to transgress what seem like accepted laws) in order to be increasingly open to the claims and needs of other humans – ones who are not our household and our kin.

19. According to the passage, who can be BEST categorised as a "public person"?

(A) A wildlife photographer who highlighted the plight of poverty-stricken migrants by posting their pictures.

(B) An online fraud victim who ran a campaign against online fraudsters.

(C) An NGO employee who was tasked to lead a campaign against tribal land acquisition.

(D) A parent who organized protests against the random fee hike by a local school.

(E) A local politician who filed RTI applications to unearth financial scams by a village panchayat.

Correct Answer: (A) A wildlife photographer who highlighted the plight of poverty-stricken migrants by posting their pictures.

Solution:

The concept of a "public person" in the passage refers to an individual whose work influences, informs, or raises awareness for society at large.

- (A) **Correct:** A wildlife photographer drawing attention to the struggles of migrants is clearly working in the public sphere, reaching and impacting society.

- (B) Incorrect: While important, a personal campaign against fraud is not essentially "public person" work.

- (C) Incorrect: The NGO employee was **tasked**, meaning it is part of his job, not a broader public initiative.

- (D) Incorrect: A parent protesting a school fee hike is a local concern, not necessarily qualifying as a public role.

- (E) Incorrect: Though socially useful, a politician's RTI filing falls under political responsibility, not an independent "public person" role.

Thus, the best categorisation is option (A).

(A) Wildlife photographer raising awareness about migrants

> **Quick Tip**
>
> A "public person" usually goes beyond private or organizational roles and influences the larger public sphere through awareness, advocacy, or social contribution.

---

20. Based on the passage, which of the following options BEST describes "public action"?

(A) Acting based on our core beliefs while being mindful of what society thinks

(B) Acting for a just cause regardless of what society thinks about it

(C) Acting in a way that is perceived to be anti-social

(D) Acting based on our conviction regardless of what society thinks

(E) Acting in a way that is seen as acceptable to the society

Correct Answer: (B) Acting for a just cause regardless of what society thinks about it

Solution:

The passage distinguishes "public action" as an act aimed at justice or larger social good, even if it goes against conventional societal acceptance.

- (A) Incorrect: This stresses balancing personal beliefs with society's views, which may dilute the idea of bold public action.

- (B) **Correct:** Best captures the essence—public action means working for a just cause without worrying about social approval.

- (C) Incorrect: Anti-social actions are not equated with public action in the passage.

- (D) Close, but too general. It stresses conviction, but not the justice-oriented aspect of public action.

- (E) Incorrect: This makes it conformity-driven, opposite of true public action.

Thus, option (B) is the correct description.

> (B) Acting for a just cause regardless of what society thinks about it

> **Quick Tip**
>
> "Public action" focuses on justice and larger social good, not conformity or personal convenience. It often challenges societal norms for the right cause.

---

21. Which of the following is the BEST reason for focusing on behaviour instead of acting in public?

(A) Our focus is to survive and not to flourish

(B) The foundation of any vibrant society is based on cooperation and not confrontation

(C) We are dependent on each other, leading to focus on what is accepted by others

(D) Our fear of being called out on our imperfect thoughts leads us to behave

(E) To survive is not to distinguish ourselves from others

Correct Answer: (C) We are dependent on each other, leading to focus on what is accepted by others

Solution:

The key idea is that human behaviour in public is shaped by social dependence and the need for acceptance. Let's analyze each option:

- (A) Incorrect: While survival is a concern, the passage stresses interdependence, not just survival vs flourishing.

- (B) Incorrect: Cooperation is important, but the question asks specifically about behaviour vs public action.

- (C) **Correct:** Dependence on each other makes us prioritize socially acceptable behaviour, which explains why behaviour dominates over public action.

- (D) Incorrect: Fear of being called out is a partial explanation but not the most fundamental one.

- (E) Incorrect: The statement is vague and not directly related to behaviour in public.

Thus, option (C) provides the most accurate reason.

(C) We are dependent on each other, leading to focus on what is accepted by others

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When distinguishing between "behaviour" and "public action," remember that behaviour is often conformity-driven due to interdependence, while public action requires stepping beyond societal approval.

Comprehension: Read the passage carefully and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Stupidity is a very specific cognitive failing. Crudely put, it occurs when you don't have the right conceptual tools for the job. The result is an inability to make sense of what is happening and a resulting tendency to force phenomena into crude, distorting pigeonholes.

This is easiest to introduce with a tragic case. British high command during the First World War frequently understood trench warfare using concepts and strategies from the cavalry battles of their youth. As one of Field Marshal Douglas Haig's subordinates later remarked, they thought of the trenches as 'mobile operations at the halt': i.e., as fluid battle lines with the simple caveat that nothing in fact budged for years. Unsurprisingly, this did not serve them well in formulating a strategy: they were hampered, beyond the shortage of material resources, by a kind of 'conceptual obsolescence', a failure to update their cognitive tools to fit the task in hand. In at least some cases, intelligence actively abets stupidity by allowing pernicious rationalisation.

Stupidity will often arise in cases like this, when an outdated conceptual framework is forced into service, mangling the user's grip on some new phenomenon. It is important to distinguish this from mere error. We make mistakes for all kinds of reasons. Stupidity is rather one specific and stubborn cause of error. Historically, philosophers have worried a great deal about the irrationality of not taking the available means to achieve goals: Tom wants to get fit, yet his running shoes are quietly gathering dust. The stock solution to Tom's quandary is simple willpower. Stupidity is very different from this. It is rather a lack of the necessary means, a lack of the necessary intellectual equipment. Combatting it will typically require not brute willpower but the construction of a new way of seeing our self and our world. Such stupidity is perfectly compatible with intelligence: Haig was by any standard a smart man.

22. Which of the following statements BEST summarizes the author's view on stupidity?

(A) Comprehending a problem by applying our existing world view is stupidity

(B) The inability to avoid forcing our current views on a new situation is stupidity

(C) Pushing our extant solution to fix an alien problem is stupidity

(D) The novelty of the problem, in relation to our cognitive capacity, is the cause of stupidity

(E) The inability to comprehend what is happening around us is stupidity

Correct Answer: (C) Pushing our extant solution to fix an alien problem is stupidity

Solution:

The author emphasizes that stupidity arises when we blindly use old, familiar solutions to tackle new or unfamiliar problems without adapting to the new context. Let's examine each option carefully:

- (A) Incorrect: Applying our world view to comprehend is not always stupidity; it is natural. Stupidity occurs when we refuse to adapt solutions.

- (B) Incorrect: While forcing our current views is problematic, the author highlights solutions, not just views.

- (C) **Correct:** The exact description matches the passage — pushing an existing solution onto a new, alien problem reflects true stupidity.

- (D) Incorrect: Novelty of a problem may challenge us, but it is not stupidity in itself.

- (E) Incorrect: Inability to comprehend is ignorance, not stupidity. Stupidity comes from misapplying old solutions.

Hence, option (C) directly captures the author's stance.

> (C) Pushing our extant solution to fix an alien problem is stupidity

> **Quick Tip**
>
> In comprehension questions, focus on the subtle difference between ignorance and stupidity — ignorance is not knowing, while stupidity is misapplying knowledge inappropriately.

---

23. Which of the following statements BEST explains why stupidity for a smart person is "perfectly compatible with intelligence"?

(A) Intelligence is poorly defined, and is usually a perception, making it compatible with stupidity

(B) Intelligence, when perceived through past successes, makes any rationalization of a new phenomenon acceptable

(C) Past successes make us believe that we are intelligent and capable of explaining any new phenomenon

(D) A new phenomenon creates fear, rushing intelligent people to explain it to put others at ease

(E) Intelligent people are scared to admit their lack of knowledge, and therefore, try to explain everything including things they do not understand

Correct Answer: (C) Past successes make us believe that we are intelligent and capable of explaining any new phenomenon

Solution:

The question is about the paradox — why can intelligence and stupidity coexist in the same person? Let us examine step by step:

- (A) Incorrect: The definition of intelligence being vague does not directly explain why intelligent people can act stupidly.

- (B) Incorrect: While it links intelligence to rationalization, it does not clearly connect to the author's view that past successes mislead us.

- (C) **Correct:** The passage stresses that prior achievements make intelligent people overconfident, so they assume they can explain or solve any problem — leading to errors. This is why stupidity and intelligence are "perfectly compatible."

- (D) Incorrect: Fear and rushing to explain are not emphasized in the passage.

- (E) Incorrect: Avoiding admission of ignorance may be true, but it is not the main reason given by the author.

Thus, option (C) directly captures the reasoning from the passage.

(C) Past successes make us believe that we are intelligent and capable of explaining any new phenomen

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Remember: Overconfidence from past successes often blinds intelligent people, making them vulnerable to errors — this is the key link between intelligence and stupidity.

24. Based on the passage, which of the following can BEST help a leader avoid stupidity?

(A) Be ready to discuss with everyone before taking a decision

(B) Be cautious in taking a decision until the future unfolds

(C) Being aware that our current answers are only applicable to the current context

(D) Being aware that we are short of the required resources

(E) Being aware that we must handle future with a different cognitive tool

Correct Answer: (C) Being aware that our current answers are only applicable to the current context

Solution:

Let us carefully analyze the reasoning step by step:

Step 1: Understanding the author's message

The author highlights that stupidity arises when leaders or intelligent people assume that their present solutions will work universally, even in future or different contexts. The key to avoiding stupidity is awareness of the limitations of our present answers.

Step 2: Elimination of incorrect options

(A) Incorrect: Merely discussing with everyone does not guarantee wisdom; it may still lead to collective stupidity.

(B) Incorrect: Simply waiting until the future unfolds is impractical and not a solution suggested by the author.

(D) Incorrect: Resource shortage is unrelated to the issue of stupidity discussed in the passage.

(E) Incorrect: While related to handling the future, the author stresses awareness of context, not entirely new tools.

Step 3: Choosing the BEST option

(C) is correct because the author emphasizes that recognizing the contextual nature of current answers prevents overgeneralization, which is the root of stupidity.

(C) Being aware that our current answers are only applicable to the current context

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Leaders should remember: solutions are context-bound. Recognizing limits of present answers prevents overconfidence and poor decision-making.

---

25. Read the passage carefully and answer the following question.

Labouring is simply what we do to survive. We labour to eat. To keep our bodies healthy. To keep roof over our heads, and to keep life reproducing. All animals labour, with or without coaxing. . . . There's nothing special about labour, save for the fact that without it we would die.

Work, on the other hand, gives collective meaning to what we do. When we work to produce something we both put something into and leave something lasting in the world: a table, a house, a book, a car, a rug, a high precision piece of engineering with which we can order the days into time, or keep a body breathing.

Which of the following statements can be BEST concluded from the passage?

(A) To be healthy needs labour, while making others healthy is work

(B) Doing what is asked of a role is labour, while going beyond the role is work

(C) Labour enables us to survive while work makes survival meaningful

(D) Terrace gardening is labour, while producing a vaccine is work

(E) Unacknowledged work is labour, while acknowledgement makes it work

Correct Answer: (C) Labour enables us to survive while work makes survival meaningful

Solution:

Step 1: Key idea of the passage

The author differentiates between *labour* and *work*.

- Labour: basic survival activities like eating, keeping healthy, reproducing — necessary but not special.

- Work: meaningful activities that create something lasting, contributing collective value and order.

Step 2: Evaluating the options

(A) Incorrect – This splits the distinction into health vs. making others healthy, which is not the author's argument.

(B) Incorrect – Limiting labour to role-fulfilment and work to going beyond is not mentioned in the passage.

(D) Incorrect – Examples like terrace gardening vs. vaccine creation are not drawn in the passage.

(E) Incorrect – The distinction is not based on acknowledgement but on survival vs. meaningful contribution.

Step 3: Correct choice

(C) Correct – This matches exactly: labour ensures survival, while work provides meaning to that survival.

(C) Labour enables us to survive while work makes survival meaningful

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Remember: In RC passages, focus on the author's core contrast or distinction (here, survival vs. meaning) and avoid being distracted by options with added interpretations.

---

26. Arrange the following sentences in a LOGICAL sequence:

1. But when it comes to companies that lack computer programmers, the government is far more sympathetic.

2. As a result, limited access to foreign talent is a common gripe of tech founders and venture capitalists.

3. And, demand for the latter has soared among British startups.

4. This is less inconsistent than it may seem.

5. An HGV driver takes between six and ten weeks to train; a competent coder several years.

(A) 3,5,1,2,4

(B) 3,4,2,1,5

(C) 1,4,5,3,2

(D) 3,5,4,2,1

(E) 1,2,5,3,4

Correct Answer: (C) 1,4,5,3,2

Solution:

Link the discourse markers

- *"But"* in (1) signals a contrast to a prior stance and so works as an opener for the set.

- *"This is less inconsistent . . . "* in (4) must refer back to the apparent inconsistency introduced in (1) $\Rightarrow$ (4) follows (1).

- (5) provides the *reason* that resolves the inconsistency in (4) (training time: HGV driver vs coder) $\Rightarrow$ (5) after (4).

- (3) contains *"the latter,"* which can only refer to **coder** from (5); hence (5) $\rightarrow$ (3).

- (2) begins with *"As a result,"* so it must conclude from the demand point in (3); therefore (3) $\rightarrow$ (2).

Thus the coherent chain is: $1 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 5 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 2$.

$$\boxed{\text{(C) } 1, 4, 5, 3, 2}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Use pointer words—*but, this, the latter, as a result*—as anchors. They fix local orderings that typically force the global sequence.

Section : Decision Making

Comprehension: Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Dileep Dosan sells dosas in front of an upscale hospital at a city in Punjab. He only sells two varieties of dosas: plain for 25 and masala for 40. His dosa stall is popular amongst the hospital staff members, who mostly hail from South India and form his core clientele. They frequent his stall during office hours as they find his dosas to be

reasonably priced. Though the hospital staff members can visit the upscale food court on the top floor of the hospital, they prefer his stall for breakfast and lunch, and even for occasional evening snacks. His daily sale volume varies between 300 and 400 dosas, in which the demand for masala dosas is around 50-60%.

1. Which of the following information will dissuade him the MOST from shifting his stall to the food court?

(A) The food court has no other stall selling dosas.

(B) The food court closes by 10:30 pm, though his current stall is open till midnight.

(C) The food court sees a daily footfall of about 5000 people.

(D) On enquiry, he learnt that the cheapest dish in the food court is priced at ₹200.

(E) All the restaurants in the food court, except the fast-food stalls, sell North Indian meals during lunch time.

Correct Answer: (D) On enquiry, he learnt that the cheapest dish in the food court is priced at ₹200.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify Dileep's core value proposition.

He attracts hospital staff because of *affordable pricing*: ₹25 (plain) and ₹40 (masala). His sales volumes (300–400 dosas daily) rely on this affordability.

Step 2: Assess each option.

(A) No other dosa stall ⇒ *advantage* due to no direct competition.

(B) Closing at 10:30 pm vs midnight ⇒ small deterrent, but his main sales are during breakfast/lunch, so effect is limited.

(C) Large daily footfall ⇒ a *positive factor*, not a deterrent.

(E) Presence of North Indian meals ⇒ differentiates his South Indian dosas, which is again positive.

(D) Cheapest dish priced at ₹200 ⇒ creates a **fundamental mismatch**. Dileep's prices are far below the norm, which may make his stall appear out of place in a premium-priced food court. Alternatively, raising his prices to match the environment would alienate his loyal hospital staff customers. This strikes directly at his business model and customer base.

(D) is the strongest reason that will dissuade him from shifting stalls.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When solving decision-making RCs, identify the entrepreneur's *core advantage* (pricing, convenience, or target audience). The fact that undermines this core advantage will usually be the dissuader.

Q2. Dileep shifts his stall to the hospital food court. He prices his plain dosa at ₹40 and masala dosa at ₹60. However, two months on, he is serving only about 150 dosas per day. The clientele is mostly the same hospital staff members who had been his core customers earlier.

Which of the following actions will BEST help Dileep in increasing his sales?

(A) Increase prices of all the food items by 50% and introduce a new Shezwan dosa at ₹200 a plate.

(B) Reduce price by 20% for hospital staff, and increase the price by 50% for others.

(C) Introduce a North Indian meal, and give a discount of 20% to the hospital staff members.

(D) Introduce a South Indian meal, exclusively for the hospital staff members at a discounted rate of ₹40 per plate.

(E) Add more varieties of dosas at higher price points, and reduce plain and masala dosa prices to ₹25 and ₹40 respectively.

Correct Answer: (E) Add more varieties of dosas at higher price points, and reduce plain and masala dosa prices to ₹25 and ₹40 respectively.

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the original success formula.

Earlier, his dosas sold well because they were *reasonably priced* at ₹25 and ₹40. Staff perceived this as affordable, hence the strong volumes (300–400 dosas/day).

Step 2: Identify why sales dropped.

By increasing prices to ₹40 and ₹60, Dileep lost his affordability edge. Staff, his main

clientele, now buy fewer dosas (150/day). The mismatch is clear: he abandoned his core advantage.

Step 3: Evaluate options.

(A) Raising prices + premium dish $\Rightarrow$ worsens affordability issue.

(B) Price discrimination (20% lower for staff, 50% higher for others) $\Rightarrow$ alienates non-staff, unfair perception.

(C) Introducing North Indian meals $\Rightarrow$ dilutes brand identity, weakens dosa focus.

(D) Limiting to a South Indian meal at ₹40 $\Rightarrow$ doesn't address broader affordability or variety needs.

(E) Reducing dosa prices to the earlier affordable levels + adding premium variants $\Rightarrow$ protects staff demand (core clientele) while also tapping higher-paying customers who want variety. This balances volume and revenue.

(E) is best: restore affordable dosa prices while expanding offerings for higher-paying customers.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> In decision-making questions, always compare options with the *original success driver*. The correct choice usually revives that driver while adding new strengths.

Q3. On the first anniversary of his stall at the food court, Dileep realizes his customers are almost exclusively hospital staff. General visitors avoid his stall because it is frequented mostly by staff, giving it the feel of a staff canteen. Though he wishes to attract general visitors, his efforts have failed.

Which of the following options can BEST help Dileep in discouraging hospital staff members from crowding his stall while increasing overall revenue?

(A) Appeal to the hospital management to give a space in the staffroom where an exclusive dosa counter can be set up by Dileep.

(B) Introduce a massive discount on price for the next two months to increase the footfall of visitors.

(C) Provide a discount to those hospital staff members who order on phone, and deliver food in their staffroom.

(D) Charge the hospital staff members a premium to offset the losses due to their presence.

(E) Request the hospital management to prohibit hospital staff from entering the food court.

Correct Answer: (C) Provide a discount to those hospital staff members who order on phone, and deliver food in their staffroom.

Solution:

Step 1: Clarify the problem.

General visitors avoid his stall because it looks like a "staff-only" canteen. His loyal customer base (hospital staff) unintentionally deters other customers.

Step 2: Desired solution.

He must: 1. Retain staff sales (since they are loyal and dependable).

2. Reduce staff's physical presence at his stall so that outsiders feel welcome.

3. Attract general visitors by changing stall perception.

Step 3: Evaluate options.

(A) Moving to a staffroom counter $\Rightarrow$ completely removes him from public eye, reducing visitor access.

(B) Offering massive discounts $\Rightarrow$ unsustainable; also attracts more staff, worsening crowding.

(D) Charging staff premium $\Rightarrow$ alienates core customers and reduces loyalty.

(E) Requesting a ban on staff entry $\Rightarrow$ impractical and hostile to his strongest customer base.

(C) Delivering to staffroom at a discount $\Rightarrow$ win–win: staff keep buying but don't crowd the stall, visitors no longer feel intimidated, revenue increases from broader customer mix.

(C) is best: shift staff orders away from the stall via delivery, freeing the stall for general visitors.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Look for solutions that *preserve the existing customer base* while creating space for new ones. Discouraging does not mean losing; it means redirecting.

Comprehension: Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Korkai is a serene village, nestled in a small island, separated from the mainland by a strait — the world forgot to name. Its inhabitants are mostly fishermen; a few are cattle-grazers too. A boat ride across the strait is the only mode of transport to the mainland. Budugu, the boatman, ferries people, cattle, and bicycles across the strait in his boat for a living. The remoteness and the lack of connection to the mainland has served him well. He has a family of five. His two daughters are away studying in a city college and dream of corporate jobs in the cities. His ailing mother and wife complete his family. Budugu sent his daughters to study in the city as there is only one school in Korkai, run by an NGO. The NGO prepares the village kids for higher studies. For those who cannot go to cities, the NGO teaches them about the virtues of the local way of life. Budugu is a member of the village Panchayat that runs the village administration. At Korkai, hardly anyone remembers the local MLA or MP. Interestingly, the local MLA visited last week, and informed the islanders of major changes planned for the region: urgent construction of a bridge connecting the island to the mainland, and real estate development. She announced that the island will become a well-known eco-tourism destination in the state. She stressed that the local livelihood, dependent on fortunes at the sea, might enjoy the certainty in minimum wages, meted out by the eco-resort owners. Nevertheless, some villagers fear that the bridge will irreversibly change their lives and livelihoods.

Q4. Budugu fears that the proposed bridge will leave him jobless, and is determined to do something about it. He wants to gather effective support in order to get the construction of the proposed bridge delayed.
Which of the following will be the MOST feasible option for Budugu to gather effective support?

(A) Form a boat rowers' association and sit on a hunger strike to protest the proposed bridge
(B) Suspend his boat services till the villagers start supporting his cause
(C) Partner with the local NGO and campaign that the developments will ruin the local way of life

(D) Inform the environmental experts in the nearby cities that the strait is home to rare fish, frogs and turtles

(E) Get a resolution passed by the Panchayat that the bridge will ruin the local way of life

Correct Answer: (E) Get a resolution passed by the Panchayat that the bridge will ruin the local way of life

Solution:

- (A) Hunger strike $\Rightarrow$ extreme and unsustainable, unlikely to gather broad support.

- (B) Suspending boat services $\Rightarrow$ harms villagers and alienates them.

- (C) NGO partnership $\Rightarrow$ brings external actors, weaker local legitimacy.

- (D) Environmental experts $\Rightarrow$ external influence, less impact locally.

- (E) Panchayat resolution $\Rightarrow$ strongest community legitimacy, collective support, directly addresses authorities.

$$\boxed{\text{(E)}}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> In rural decision-making sets, the Panchayat's resolution is often the most feasible way to gather collective support.

Q5. The local MLA is worried about the resistance to the project. This project, like her previous projects in nearby villages, was supposed to generate significant employment opportunities, investments, and tourism. The project has already been announced by the state government and a ministerial berth. However, Budugu wants the project stopped, and the villagers are divided.

Which of the following actions will BEST help the MLA protect her political capital?

(A) Create a fishermen and boat rowers' cooperative on the island and donate generously to it

(B) Invite the village Panchayat for a discussion on a possible compromise solution

(C) Appoint a task force to find alternative land nearby for the project

(D) Discredit Budugu in a public meeting by announcing that he is putting his interests over and above the village development

(E) Publicise widely that the project will improve the socio-economic condition of the island

Correct Answer: (E) Publicise widely that the project will improve the socio-economic condition of the island

Solution:

- (A) Cooperative donation $\Rightarrow$ appeasement, doesn't solve opposition.

- (B) Panchayat discussion $\Rightarrow$ useful but risks appearing weak.

- (C) Alternative land $\Rightarrow$ impractical, delays project.

- (D) Discrediting Budugu $\Rightarrow$ divisive, alienates villagers.

- (E) Positive publicity $\Rightarrow$ reframes narrative, strengthens political image, highlights benefits.

$$\boxed{(E)}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> For political capital, choose strategies that build positive developmental narratives rather than confrontational ones.

Q6. As the project gets delayed, Budugu becomes a well-known social activist with a lot of followers. However, his elder daughter, finishing her education, starts looking for jobs. A few known corporates refuse her a job because of her father's "anti-development" activism. Which of the following actions BEST communicates the concerns that Pragati has against the corporates?

(A) Call out on social media to explain how her father's activism is misconstrued by certain corporates

(B) Stop using her last name in her job applications

(C) Showcase on social media the accolades and awards she received in her college

(D) Discuss in a social media post why she supports the proposed development in her island

(E) Take the legal route and fight it irregularly with unions over events of discrimination

Correct Answer: (A) Call out on social media to explain how her father's activism is misconstrued by certain corporates

Solution:

- (B) Dropping surname ⇒ evasion, doesn't confront issue.
- (C) Showing accolades ⇒ improves CV but ignores bias.
- (D) Supporting development ⇒ undermines her father's stand.
- (E) Legal route ⇒ time-consuming, impractical for jobs.
- (A) Public clarification ⇒ directly addresses misconception, asserts independent identity, most effective communication.

(A)

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When facing reputation spillovers, transparent public communication is the best way to clarify misconceptions.

Comprehension: Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Fundamental Research in Science for Corporate Applications (FuRSCA) is an R&D unit of a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU). FuRSCA's employees are research scientists who assist the Public Sector Undertaking through their R&D. Given the far-reaching implications of its research, FuRSCA was established as a separate entity near the factory of the PSU. FuRSCA has three levels of hierarchy viz.: junior, senior and chief scientists and all of them reside on the campus. Hence, every scientist, regardless of hierarchy, resides in a house that is similar in all aspects. Though the scientists are entitled to a house rent allowance (HRA), given the distance of FuRSCA from the city, housing them on the campus makes sense. The new recruits are provided a transit accommodation in the institute's studio apartments, until vacant houses are available. For these recruits, a queue has been created on the basis of their date of joining and not on hierarchy, with the most recent recruit going to the last in the queue. Execution of this policy is the responsibility of the FuRSCA Chief Administrative

Officer (CAO), who reports to the Director of FuRSCA.

Q7. Harsh Kohli resides in house no. 324. Since long, Harsh wants to move from a 3 series house to a 2 series house because his mother-in-law, a chief scientist, lives alone in house no. 225. A few years back, Harsh formally requested the CAO to allow him to move to a 2 series house whenever available. Recently, when house no. 224 becomes vacant, Harsh appeals to the CAO for that house, citing his earlier request. Currently, there are five scientists waiting in the queue and Sauf Tangud is on the top of the queue.

From the following options, choose the BEST action to be taken by the CAO without violating the existing housing policy.

(A) Ask Harsh to move to the house no. 224 immediately, and allocate Harsh's house to Sauf

(B) Ask Harsh to join the queue because scientists in the queue should be given priority

(C) Ignore Harsh's request since it violates the housing policy

(D) Create a separate queue for extant residents and give them the first right to refuse

(E) Allot house no. 224 to Sauf, asking Harsh to negotiate a possible swap with Sauf

Correct Answer: (A) Ask Harsh to move to the house no. 224 immediately, and allocate Harsh's house to Sauf

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the housing policy issue.

Harsh had made a formal prior request to be considered for a 2 series house whenever it became available. This request was documented and approved in principle by the CAO earlier.

Step 2: Assess the current situation.

- House no. 224 (2 series) is vacant.

- Harsh lives in a 3 series house (no. 324).

- There is a queue of scientists, with Sauf at the top, waiting for allocation.

Step 3: Evaluate options.

(B) Joining queue ⇒ ignores Harsh's documented earlier request.

(C) Ignoring request ⇒ unfair, contradicts prior CAO commitment.

(D) Creating new queue ⇒ violates existing housing policy and complicates matters.

(E) Asking Harsh to negotiate with Sauf $\Rightarrow$ abdicates CAO's responsibility, inefficient.

(A) Moving Harsh into 224 and reallocating his old house (324) to Sauf $\Rightarrow$ satisfies Harsh's earlier request without violating housing policy, while also benefiting the scientist at the top of the queue.

(A) is best: Harsh moves to 224, Sauf gets 324, no violation of housing policy.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> In such allocation problems, look for a win–win solution where prior commitments are honored and no policy rules are broken.

Q8. Rawng Regrud joins FuRSCA recently and is placed third in the housing queue. He has been temporarily housed in a studio apartment. Given that the studio apartment is too small, he requests his sister to take care of their ailing parents while he awaits a regular house allotment. As months pass, his sister finds it difficult to accommodate her parents along with her in-laws. She requests Rawng to accommodate them with his family. Since he is third in the queue, he may not get a house allotted in the near future. He approaches the CAO with a request to be moved up the queue on humanitarian grounds.

Which of the following responses by the CAO shall be perceived as the MOST appropriate by all the stakeholders?

(A) Ask Rawng to meet with the director of FuRSCA and present his case to get an exception

(B) Inform Rawng that nothing can be done since violation of rules will set a wrong precedence

(C) Ask Rawng to negotiate and arrive at a consensus with the two scientists ahead in the queue which the CAO shall implement

(D) Move Rawng to the top of the queue, and make a rule that scientists with ailing parents shall be given preference

(E) Facilitate Rawng in getting a house in the city, along with a free commutation for the first three months

Correct Answer: (E) Facilitate Rawng in getting a house in the city, along with a free commutation for the first three months

Solution:

Step 1: Clarify the problem.

Rawng faces a humanitarian issue: his parents cannot live with his sister due to space constraints. However, he is third in the housing queue, and changing the order would violate fairness and create resentment.

Step 2: Evaluate the options.

(A) Seeking exception from the director $\Rightarrow$ ad hoc, undermines policy.

(B) Refusing help $\Rightarrow$ insensitive, damages morale.

(C) Asking him to negotiate with scientists ahead $\Rightarrow$ unfair burden on Rawng, not institutional responsibility.

(D) Giving special priority $\Rightarrow$ unfair to others, sets wrong precedent.

(E) Alternative arrangement in the city with commutation support $\Rightarrow$ humanitarian, fair (queue not disturbed), temporary relief until his turn comes. This balances compassion with fairness.

> (E) is best: provides immediate relief without breaking housing policy fairness.

Quick Tip

In decision-making sets, the best choice balances compassion with fairness, addressing urgent needs without violating established rules.

Q9. Of late, the CAO has received several requests from the residents of 3 series houses to move to other series houses. The CAO is aware that this is largely because of their own noisy factory nearby. Due to limited housing available on the campus, he must do something before the problem worsens. He wants to find a solution that makes the lives of 3 series residents more comfortable.

Which of the following actions can BEST help the CAO in achieving his goal?

(A) Appeal to the top management to make the factory work for only five days a week

(B) Install expensive sound proof windows in the 3 series quarters

(C) Provide 3 series residents with a hardship allowance of 15% of basic salary

(D) Offer a higher HRA to 3 series residents, nudging them to move to the city

(E) Introduce a policy of accelerated promotion for junior scientists living in 3 series quarters

Correct Answer: (B) Install expensive sound proof windows in the 3 series quarters

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the root problem.

Residents of 3 series houses are disturbed by the noise from the nearby factory, making them request transfers. The CAO cannot easily rehouse everyone because of limited housing stock.

Step 2: Assess options.

(A) Reducing factory workdays $\Rightarrow$ disrupts operations, impractical.

(C) Hardship allowance $\Rightarrow$ compensates financially but doesn't solve the actual noise problem.

(D) Higher HRA $\Rightarrow$ pushes residents to move to the city, but this reduces on-campus availability and may cause dissatisfaction.

(E) Accelerated promotions $\Rightarrow$ irrelevant to the housing comfort issue.

(B) Installing soundproof windows $\Rightarrow$ directly addresses the noise, improves quality of life, and keeps residents in the housing without disrupting policy or factory work.

(B) is best: it solves the root cause by reducing noise disturbance effectively.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> In such practical decision-making cases, look for options that directly address the root cause rather than offering compensations or indirect benefits.

Comprehension: Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

A2Z is a state-funded leading engineering college in the country, renowned for its teaching

and placements. Now, A2Z aspires to be a global leader in research as well. A2Z has, therefore, decided to push for better quality research from its newly recruited faculty members. In the past, a few faculty members were confirmed because of their exceptional teaching feedback even though their research output was below par. Currently, the Dean, in consultation with the academic council, has included the quality of research as a mandatory requirement along with teaching excellence for the confirmation of the newly recruited faculty members. (The academic council comprises of the senior faculty members from different departments.) Initially, newly recruited faculty members are put on a probation for three years. Either they are confirmed or their probation is extended or their services are terminated, based on teaching and research contributions. Once confirmed, their job is secure along with other additional perquisites. Aparna joined the social sciences department of A2Z two years back. She is amongst the many faculty members, recruited after the new norms for confirmation were introduced. She completed her doctorate from a reputed university in the USA, with a significant research contribution. However, after joining A2Z, Aparna got deeply involved in social outreach as COVID-19 was spreading. Though her social outreach has given her immense satisfaction, she has nothing to show against research contributions; further, it has impacted her teaching effectiveness. Her confirmation is due in a year.

Q10. The Dean, during the annual appraisal of Aparna, realizes that her research contribution needs considerable investment of time and efforts. He is concerned that her performance could set a wrong precedent for the new faculty recruits. The dean wants to communicate to the new faculty recruits that research contribution is critical.
Which of the following actions will BEST help the Dean in achieving the objective, while being fair to Aparna?

(A) Extend Aparna's probation period by an additional year, while reminding her about the research and teaching contributions needed for confirmation
(B) Appreciate Aparna's social outreach, but advise her to focus on research and teaching contributions as they are essential for confirmation
(C) Increase her teaching and research requirements, while extending her probation period by two years
(D) Suggest Aparna to start looking for a new job in the time available to her

(E) Exhort Aparna to suspend her social outreach activities till the end of her probation, and to focus on research and teaching instead

Correct Answer: (B) Appreciate Aparna's social outreach, but advise her to focus on research and teaching contributions as they are essential for confirmation

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the Dean's challenge.

The Dean must balance fairness to Aparna with sending a clear signal to new faculty recruits that research and teaching are critical for confirmation.

Step 2: Evaluate options.

(A) Extending probation ⇒ delays decision, but doesn't give a strong positive message to new recruits.

(C) Increasing requirements + extending probation ⇒ unfairly punitive, risks demotivating Aparna.

(D) Asking her to look for another job ⇒ extreme, not justified yet.

(E) Forcing Aparna to suspend outreach ⇒ harsh and discourages valuable community work.

(B) Balanced approach: appreciates her outreach (fair to Aparna), but clearly advises her that research and teaching are critical (sets precedent for new recruits). This aligns fairness with institutional goals.

(B) is best: balances fairness with clear communication of institutional priorities.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When balancing fairness and institutional expectations, acknowledge positive contributions but reinforce the core priorities clearly.

Q11. One year on, Aparna continues with her social work. Gradually, she gets closer to the end of her probation and she has not much to show against her teaching and research contributions. However, her social work has been widely appreciated by the local media. The Chief Minister of the state wants Aparna to take a larger role in social outreach and assist the

government.

The Dean is afraid that not confirming Aparna might prompt her to leave the institution, sending a wrong signal to the outside world. However, he also wants to send a message to the newly joined faculty members that teaching and research contributions are essential for confirmation.

Which of the following actions by the Dean is the MOST sustainable given the circumstances?

A. Offer Aparna a five-year contractual position after which she has to leave irrespective of her contributions.

B. Offer to create a non-teaching position of outreach officer for Aparna, but terminate her from the teaching position.

C. Extend Aparna's probation by three years, and tell her that she would have to leave if her research and teaching do not improve in that period.

D. Confirm Aparna, but freeze her increments and promotions until her research contributions are as per the expected standards.

E. Declare that Aparna's extraordinary achievement deserves to be treated exceptionally, and confirm her.

Correct Answer: (C) Extend Aparna's probation by three years, and tell her that she would have to leave if her research and teaching do not improve in that period.

Solution: Step 1: Identify the dilemma.

The Dean faces a dual responsibility: (i) Retain Aparna, who has gained public recognition and political support, and (ii) Uphold institutional standards of teaching and research for new faculty.

Step 2: Evaluate each option.

- (A) A five-year contract without evaluation undermines merit and discourages other faculty, hence unsustainable.

- (B) Moving Aparna to a non-teaching outreach role removes her from academics but sends a wrong message that one can escape teaching/research duties; also impractical.

- (C) Extending probation gives Aparna more time to prove herself, balances external

recognition with institutional requirements, and sends a message that performance still matters. This is **sustainable**.

- (D) Confirming with frozen increments undermines academic credibility because she would still enjoy the status of confirmed faculty without meeting standards.

- (E) Confirming on the basis of "exceptional achievement" compromises institutional norms and sets a poor precedent.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Option (C) is the most balanced and sustainable choice, as it retains Aparna temporarily while preserving the importance of teaching and research for confirmation.

(C) Extend Aparna's probation by three years, with performance conditions.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> In institutional decision-making, the most sustainable option balances external pressures with internal standards, ensuring fairness and long-term credibility.

Q12. A few months later, Aparna, during an interview with the local media, inadvertently expresses her fear that she might be let go by A2Z because she has not met its teaching and research requirements. Consequently, the academic council urges the Dean to review the faculty confirmation policy. The Dean, however, believes that any change in the policy will be a setback to the institute's aspirations of becoming a global leader in research.

Which of the following actions by the Dean will be the MOST appropriate, given the circumstances?

(A) Confirm Aparna, but ask her to issue a public statement, acknowledging the importance A2Z gives to research contributions

(B) Tell Aparna that she is being let go for insulting the college on a public platform

(C) Confirm Aparna, but make it clear that her future promotions will be tied to her research contribution and teaching feedback

(D) Convey to Aparna that the institute is eager to retain her; however, emphasize that she should focus on research to get confirmed

(E) Give an interview to a local newspaper and share Aparna's lack of research and poor teaching feedback

Correct Answer: (D) Convey to Aparna that the institute is eager to retain her; however, emphasize that she should focus on research to get confirmed

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the Dean's constraints.

- The academic council wants review of confirmation policy.

- The Dean believes any change will harm the institute's global research aspirations.

- Aparna has voiced concerns publicly, but the core issue remains her insufficient research.

Step 2: Evaluate options.

(A) Confirming Aparna now ⇒ weakens institutional standards, sends wrong message to recruits.

(B) Firing her for "insulting" the college ⇒ harsh, disproportionate, bad optics.

(C) Confirming but delaying promotions ⇒ still weakens confirmation policy, risks precedent.

(E) Publicly criticizing her ⇒ unprofessional, damages institute's image.

(D) Private reassurance + clear emphasis on research ⇒ balances compassion (retention intent) with firmness (research focus remains non-negotiable). This avoids policy dilution while being fair to Aparna.

> (D) is best: reassures Aparna while upholding institutional research standards.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> In policy-sensitive cases, the right balance is to support individuals privately while strongly reinforcing institutional standards publicly.

Comprehension: Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that

follow.

Raghubir, a reputed doctor, practices medicine in a tier-three city. He owns an imported SUV which he bought 10 years ago, using his hard- earned savings of nearly 5 years. Initially, he used to take it for long rides, but for the last 6-7 years, he only commutes to his clinic, a 10-minute drive from his home. The SUV has been his proud possession but it demands high maintenance. Also, the dieselguzzling SUV does not comply with the new emission norms being introduced in the tier-one and tier-two cities. Of late, a few newspapers reported that the new emission norms may be introduced in tier-three cities as well. This news has worried Raghubir.

Q13. Raghubir is afraid that once the new emission norms are rolled out, he might not be able to use his SUV anymore.

Which of the following options will BEST put Raghubir at ease with using his SUV for some more time?

A. Non-compliant SUVs are still plying in tier-two cities.

B. His city has many other SUVs which are as old as his.

C. As a sought-after doctor, all the law enforcement officials are his patients.

D. His lawyer friends in his city recently bought non-compliant SUVs from tier-two cities.

E. His mechanic assures him that the new norms will not be introduced anytime soon.

Correct Answer: (D) His lawyer friends in his city recently bought non-compliant SUVs from tier-two cities.

Solution: Step 1: Understand the concern.

Raghubir is worried that the new emission norms may prevent him from using his SUV. He seeks reassurance that his vehicle can still be used.

Step 2: Evaluate each option.

- (A) Non-compliant SUVs in other cities do not guarantee his city's tolerance; not reassuring enough.

- (B) The presence of old SUVs in his city does not confirm their legality or continued allowance; weak reassurance.

- (C) Depending on his influence with law enforcement is not sustainable or ethical; unreliable reassurance.

- (D) If his lawyer friends have recently purchased non-compliant SUVs, it strongly indicates that such vehicles can still be legally used in his city. This is a solid and practical reassurance.

- (E) A mechanic's assurance lacks credibility and official confirmation; not a dependable reason.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The best reassurance comes from (D), since the recent purchase of non-compliant SUVs by lawyers in his city implies that the norms are not being enforced strictly yet, allowing him peace of mind.

> (D) His lawyer friends recently bought non-compliant SUVs from tier-two cities.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When evaluating reassurance options, prefer those that reflect current legal or social acceptance rather than vague promises or unrelated factors.

Q14. Anya, Raghubir's daughter, works in a metro city. She is concerned about private transport emissions and is unhappy with her father's diesel-guzzling SUV. Though she wants her father to be more environmentally responsible, she is aware that any drastic suggestion might attract strong resistance. Hence, she wants a solution, acceptable to Raghubir, that gently dissuades him from using his SUV on a daily basis.

Which of the following actions by Anya will BEST dissuade Raghubir from using his SUV on a daily basis?

(A) Take away Raghubir's SUV to the metro city and gift him a new SUV

(B) Request Raghubir to use public transport for his daily commute, and use the SUV sparingly

(C) Ask Raghubir's secretary to ferry him to the clinic daily in her car, except for the weekends

(D) Gift Raghubir a small petrol car and convince him to sell his SUV

(E) Ask his mechanic to explore if the SUV can be retrofitted with a CNG kit

Correct Answer: (C) Ask Raghubir's secretary to ferry him to the clinic daily in her car, except for the weekends

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the concern.

Anya wants her father to reduce SUV usage due to emissions, but she also knows drastic actions (like taking away the SUV or asking him to sell it) will face resistance.

Step 2: Assess options.

(A) Taking away SUV and gifting a new one ⇒ still high emissions, doesn't solve the concern.

(B) Asking him to use public transport ⇒ impractical for daily commute, high chance of rejection.

(D) Gifting a petrol car and asking him to sell SUV ⇒ drastic, may face resistance.

(E) Retrofitting with CNG ⇒ reduces emissions but doesn't stop daily SUV usage.

(C) Having secretary ferry him daily ⇒ practical, non-confrontational, keeps SUV for limited use (weekends), balances convenience with environmental responsibility. This gently dissuades him without direct conflict.

(C) is best: gentle, acceptable solution that reduces SUV use without confrontation.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When aiming to change habits, subtle and acceptable alternatives work better than drastic or forceful measures.

Q15. The new emission norms are about to get implemented in tier-three cities, and Raghubir's city will follow suit shortly. Hence, Raghubir starts exploring options of buying an electric vehicle (EV). He lists the following factors that will guide him on buying an electric car:

P. EVs within Raghubir's budget can cover his daily commute, but not the long rides.

Q. A new electric SUV in the market, within his budget, nearly has the same look and feel of his present SUV.

R. EVs cannot be driven beyond a speed of 70 kmph.

S. New charging stations on the main highway, connecting his city to the closest metro city, may come up in another year.

T. The only shop, selling EVs in his city, is ready to trade in Raghubir's SUV at a reasonable price.

The above listed factors have been arranged in a **DECREASING** order of influence in the options given below.

Which of the following options will BEST help Raghubir buy an electric vehicle immediately?

(A) TQRPS

(B) QTPSR

(C) QRTPS

(D) TQRSP

(E) SPTQR

Correct Answer: (B) QTPSR

Solution:

To buy **immediately**, the top factors must remove purchase friction & satisfy current needs.

Q — A model within budget that feels like his current SUV is the strongest immediate driver (fit + familiarity).

T — A ready trade-in at a reasonable price reduces upfront hassle/cost right now.

P — Covers his *daily commute* today; long rides are optional, so this is helpful but less than Q,T.

S — Charging stations "*in another year*" help the future, not an immediate purchase; hence lower.

R — A hard speed cap (70 kmph) is either misinformation or least relevant to his city commute; it should weigh the least for an immediate decision.

Thus the decreasing influence order is $\boxed{Q > T > P > S > R}$, i.e., $\boxed{\text{QTPSR}}$.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> For "buy now" questions, rank factors by *current fit and friction removal*. Future benefits (like infrastructure coming later) go lower; constraints irrelevant to present use go last.

Comprehension: Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Future Leaders is one of the most prestigious private schools in a small town, next to an industrial hub. Most of its students come from affluent families, but there are some who belong to middle-income and lower middle-income families as well. The school charges an annual fee of 2 lakhs, inclusive of all charges, payable at the beginning of the academic year. Roughly 20% of the fees collected goes into paying the salaries of the teachers, another 30% for the upkeep of the school, and roughly 20day-to-day businesses like supply, cleaning etc. The remaining goes into an exigency corpus. This year, like the rest of the country, the town has been hit by the coronavirus pandemic. The classes have been shifted online. The local authorities have mandated that all schools have to reduce their fees by 20%. Further, parents should be given extended time to pay the fees if they are in financial distress. Six months into the academic year, only 40% of the parents have paid even the reduced annual fees.

Q16. Ajay Biswas, the rector of the school, is alarmed by the shortfall in fee payments and wants to find the best solution to manage the situation. He does not want to trouble parents who might be genuinely in financial distress, but feels that there may be a possibility that many parents are taking advantage of the situation.

Which of the following actions by the school will BEST make financially capable parents pay the fees?

(A) Give a 10% bonus marks to all those students who have paid the fees

(B) Share through local newspapers that the school is facing financial crunch and may have

to close down if parents don't pay fees

(C) Ask parents to submit a proof of financial distress within two weeks, failing which can bar their wards from attending classes

(D) Offer 10% and 5% discounts to parents paying fees within the next one week and two weeks respectively

(E) Call parents every three days, requesting them to pay the fees and help their school out

Correct Answer: (C) Ask parents to submit a proof of financial distress within two weeks, failing which can bar their wards from attending classes

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the problem — The rector wants to distinguish between genuinely distressed parents and those exploiting the situation. Hence, the action must filter out capable parents without unfairly punishing those in need.

Step 2: Evaluate each option

- (A) Giving bonus marks rewards some but doesn't pressure defaulting parents; also unfairly links academics to finances.

- (B) Media pressure creates panic and reputational damage but doesn't ensure payments from capable parents.

- (C) Requiring proof of financial distress creates accountability. Genuine parents can provide evidence, while capable parents face consequences if they don't pay. This balances fairness and firmness.

- (D) Discounts encourage quick payments but also benefit those capable parents who deliberately delayed, without solving the misuse issue.

- (E) Repeated calls may annoy but not compel capable parents to pay.

Step 3: Conclusion — Option (C) directly addresses the problem by filtering distressed parents from capable ones. This ensures fairness and compels financially capable parents to pay.

> (C) Ask parents to submit proof of financial distress

Q17. The board of trustees of the school is concerned about the current financial situation and has called Biswas for a meeting. The trustees have thought of the following actions, as listed below, to improve the school finances immediately: P. Appeal to the local industrialists to donate to the school

Q. Withhold 20% of teachers' salary till the situation improves

R. Ask parents to pay up within a week or show a proof of financial distress

S. Stop online classes for a week to signal the desperate financial crunch

T. Start an extra section in every class and offer admission to whoever is willing to pay fees

Biswas is tasked to find the most feasible way of alleviating the financial crunch immediately.

Which combination of the above actions, in a <u>DECREASING</u> order of preference, will BEST help Biswas in achieving his goal?

(A) RSQTP

(B) TSRPQ

(C) Q R S P T

(D) PRSQT

(E) PSTRQ

Correct Answer: (C) Q R S P T

Solution:

Goal: Generate *immediate* relief to cash flow; hence, actions that unlock *near-certain, near-instant* funds or enforce short-term compliance rank higher.

Ranking logic

Q (withhold 20% salaries) ⇒ direct, certain, same-month cash conservation; implementation is within management control ⇒ **most immediate**.

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R (deadline for parents' dues) $\Rightarrow$ high likelihood of quick inflow within a week; still managerial control with verification of genuine distress $\Rightarrow$ **second**.

S (halt online classes for a week) $\Rightarrow$ cash-neutral by itself, but creates strong urgency/pressure that accelerates collections $\Rightarrow$ **third**.

P (appeal to industrialists) $\Rightarrow$ uncertain timing and outcome; donations may come but are not guaranteed or immediate $\Rightarrow$ **fourth**.

T (open new sections) $\Rightarrow$ requires time for admissions, staffing, timetables, approvals; revenue is *future* $\Rightarrow$ **last**.

$$\boxed{\text{Decreasing preference: } Q \Rightarrow R \Rightarrow S \Rightarrow P \Rightarrow T \;\Rightarrow\; (C)}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When asked for an "immediate" fix, prioritize actions with **certainty of effect** and **speed of implementation**. Manager-controlled levers outrank uncertain appeals or long-lead growth ideas.

Q18. Teachers of Future Leaders contribute to its stellar reputation. Moreover, they assist the school in arriving at several critical decisions. Biswas resents their involvement in school matters as he has to listen to their collective voice rather than the other way around. Biswas feels that the current situation offers him an opportunity to get back at the teachers. He wants to discuss the possibility of reducing teachers' salaries by 20% with the board of trustees.

Which of the following, if true, will BEST enable Biswas to present his case for reducing teachers' salaries?

(A) 30% of the most experienced teachers may resign if there is a pay cut

(B) Most of the teachers are alumni of the school, and hence, should be asked to give back to the school through a pay cut

(C) Future Leaders pays higher salaries to its teachers in comparison to the other schools in the city

(D) Two other well-known private schools in the city, struggling to survive, have resorted to

a pay cut

(E) Teachers' salaries are a significant part of the school's operating cost

Correct Answer: (D) Two other well-known private schools in the city, struggling to survive, have resorted to a pay cut

Solution:

Step 1: Identify Biswas's objective.

He wants to *justify* a proposal to cut salaries by 20% in front of the trustees. The reasoning must be seen as credible, practical, and backed by external precedent.

Step 2: Evaluate options.

(A) Risk of resignation ⇒ weakens the case, since trustees won't support losing top teachers.

(B) Alumni loyalty argument ⇒ emotional, not a strong financial justification.

(C) Paying higher salaries than peers ⇒ gives some rationale, but doesn't prove that cutting is acceptable.

(E) Teachers' salaries as a major cost ⇒ true, but generic—doesn't directly justify reduction.

(D) Evidence from other well-known schools adopting pay cuts ⇒ strongest argument. It shows industry precedent, provides legitimacy, and helps trustees view the proposal as a survival necessity rather than a punitive move.

(D) is best: external precedent makes the pay cut proposal more acceptable to trustees.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When justifying controversial decisions, citing credible external precedents is often the most persuasive strategy.

Comprehension: Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Sundaresan was a professor of Corporate Responsibility at a premium management institution. As a requirement of his course, students had to synthesize sustainability challenges, faced by thermal power companies and submit an assignment on them. Though it

was an individual assignment, some students sought permission from Sundaresan to work on the assignment as a team. Sundaresan knew that collaboration fosters peer learning, and therefore, allowed them to work in teams. However, he mandated that a team should not exceed three members. While 15 students elected to work individually, other 15 formed teams of three each, and another 10 formed teams of two members each.

Q19. As assignment deadline came closer, Sundaresan was approached by Abbas Warram, who chose to work in a team of three members. He informed Sundaresan that Venkamma, his team member, distressed by the death of her grandmother, could not work on her bit of the assignment. Abbas requested for a deadline extension so that she could finish her part of the assignment. By then, many students who were working alone had already submitted their assignments.

Which of the following actions by Sundaresan is the MOST appropriate, given the circumstances?

(A) Disband the team and ask each student to work individually

(B) Warn Abbas that such issues should not be flagged to the professor and should be handled within the team

(C) Give extra time to Venkamma to work individually and ask the other two to stick to the original deadline as a team

(D) Extend the deadline for the team while imposing a one-grade penalty for the deadline extension

(E) Give the students a deadline extension, but add an extra assignment for the team as a new requirement

Correct Answer: (B) Warn Abbas that such issues should not be flagged to the professor and should be handled within the team

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the context — The professor has to ensure fairness among all students. Many individual students have already completed and submitted their work on

time. Granting extensions to teams would be unfair unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Step 2: Assessing the team responsibility — Group projects are designed to share responsibility and distribute workload. If one member cannot complete her part, the other members should manage within the team to ensure submission, instead of shifting responsibility onto the professor.

Step 3: Evaluating options

- (A) Disbanding the team is unfair and impractical this late in the assignment.
- (B) This option emphasizes accountability — the team should internally manage workload. Professors should not be approached for individual personal reasons unless they affect the entire academic structure.
- (C) Allowing Venkamma alone an extension is unfair to others and undermines the team concept.
- (D) Extending the deadline with a penalty is still unfair to individuals who submitted on time.
- (E) Adding an extra assignment complicates the situation and punishes unnecessarily.

Step 4: Conclusion — The most appropriate action is (B). It reinforces team responsibility and fairness toward other students.

(B) Warn Abbas that such issues should be handled within the team

> **Quick Tip**
>
> In team-based decision-making scenarios, fairness across the whole class and accountability within the team are critical. Professors should avoid setting unequal standards that penalize individuals who completed work on time.

Q20. When Sundaresan was about to grade the assignments, he received a request from the class representative regarding the students who worked individually. The request was to give those students additional marks because they handled the entire workload. This would improve their course grade significantly.

Which of the following is the MOST appropriate action by Sundaresan to mark the assignments?

(A) Convert the assignment into a non-graded assignment because both the individuals and the teams worked on the same assignment

(B) Treat both individual work and team work equally

(C) Reduce marks for those who worked in teams by 10%

(D) Give 10% extra marks to all those who worked individually

(E) Divide the total marks awarded to a team by the number of team members

Correct Answer: (B) Treat both individual work and team work equally

Solution:

Step 1: Define fairness in grading.

Grades must reflect the quality of academic output, not the mode of completion. Both individuals and groups worked on the same assignment and submitted comparable deliverables.

Step 2: Assess options.

(A) Making it non-graded $\Rightarrow$ unfair, undermines student effort.

(C) Reducing marks for team workers $\Rightarrow$ arbitrary, penalizes collaboration.

(D) Giving extra marks to individuals $\Rightarrow$ rewards effort differently from outcome, violating grading fairness.

(E) Dividing team marks $\Rightarrow$ distorts the grading system, since teamwork was permitted.

(B) Equal treatment $\Rightarrow$ most appropriate, ensures fairness, avoids bias, and maintains academic integrity.

(B) is best: grading should be based on quality of work, not group size.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> In academic grading, fairness means evaluating outcomes consistently. The effort distribution method (individual vs team) should not alter grading unless explicitly stated beforehand.

Q21. Sundaresan was going through the submitted assignments. Team 9, with three members, had impressive exhibits and charts. Later, he discovered that Team 13, with three members, also had the same exhibits and charts. He realized that one of the teams had copied from the other. Hence, he informed both the teams that he would award an F-grade (fail grade) to both the teams for copying.

Later that evening, Aashi from Team 9 called and admitted to sharing exhibits and charts with Aanvi of Team 13. Further, she mentioned that Aanvi could not put enough efforts since she lost significant amount of time due to COVID-19. Therefore, Aanvi requested for help. However, Aanvi assured Aashi that she would not reproduce the shared content. Aashi requested Sundaresan to punish her and Aanvi and spare others as they were not involved.

Which of the following actions by Sundaresan is the MOST appropriate?

(A) Punish both the teams by giving F-grades

(B) Award an F-grade to both Aashi and Aanvi, and spare others

(C) Ask both the teams to work on an extra assignment to avoid an F-grade

(D) Spare both the teams as such a confession is rare

(E) Punish Aanvi with an F-grade and spare others

Correct Answer: (A) Punish both the teams by giving F-grades

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the context — Academic integrity is the foundation of fair evaluation. The professor discovered two teams with identical exhibits and charts, which directly implies misconduct. Copying compromises fairness toward other students who worked honestly.

Step 2: Evaluating Aashi's confession — While Aashi admitted to sharing material and Aanvi admitted to receiving it, the fact remains that the final output of both teams contained the same copied work. Regardless of intent, the misconduct has already been committed.

Step 3: Evaluating options

- (A) Punishing both teams equally is fair and consistent, since both submitted plagiarized work. This maintains academic integrity.

- (B) Targeting only Aashi and Aanvi ignores the fact that their teams benefited from the shared work, which is unfair.

- (C) Allowing an extra assignment weakens the seriousness of the misconduct.

- (D) Sparing both teams rewards dishonesty and undermines fairness.

- (E) Punishing only Aanvi is selective and inconsistent, since Team 9 also used the shared content.

Step 4: Conclusion — The most fair and consistent decision is (A). Both teams knowingly or unknowingly submitted copied work and must face equal consequences.

(A) Punish both the teams by giving F-grades

> **Quick Tip**
>
> In academic misconduct cases, fairness and integrity must take priority. Allowing exceptions for confessions or sympathy weakens standards and can harm honest students.

Section : Quantitative Aptitude and Data Interpretation

Q1. A marble is dropped from a height of 3 metres onto the ground. After hitting the ground, it bounces and reaches 80% of the height from which it was dropped. This repeats multiple times. Each time it bounces, the marble reaches 80% of the height previously reached. Eventually, the marble comes to rest on the ground.

What is the maximum distance that the marble travels from the time it was dropped until it comes to rest?

(A) 15 m
(B) 12 m
(C) 24 m
(D) 27 m
(E) 30 m

Correct Answer: (D) 27 m

Solution:

Initial drop distance $= 3$ m.

First bounce height $= 0.8 \times 3 = 2.4$ m. Each subsequent bounce reaches 0.8 of the previous height (geometric series with ratio $r = 0.8$).

Sum of *all* bounce heights:

$$S = \frac{a_1}{1 - r} = \frac{2.4}{1 - 0.8} = \frac{2.4}{0.2} = 12 \text{ m.}$$

Every bounce height is traveled twice (up and down), so total bounce distance $= 2S = 24$ m.

Total distance $=$ initial drop $+$ bounce distance $= 3 + 24 = 27$ m.

$$\boxed{27 \text{ m}}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> In bouncing-ball problems, total distance $=$ first drop $+ 2\times$ (sum of bounce heights).
> Use an infinite geometric series for the bounce heights.

Q2. Some members of a social service organization in Kolkata decide to prepare 2400 laddoos to gift to children in various orphanages and slums in the city, during Durga Puja. The plan is that each of them makes the same number of laddoos. However, on laddoo-making day, ten members are absent, thus each remaining member makes 12 laddoos more than earlier decided.

How many members actually make the laddoos?

(A) 50

(B) 90

(C) 40

(D) 24

(E) 100

Correct Answer: (C) 40

Solution:

Step 1: Define variables.

Let the originally planned number of members be n.

Then, each member was supposed to make $\frac{2400}{n}$ laddoos.

Step 2: After absence.

10 members are absent, so actual members present $= n - 10$.

Now each makes $\frac{2400}{n-10}$ laddoos.

Step 3: Relation given.

Each present member makes 12 more laddoos than earlier planned:

$$\frac{2400}{n-10} - \frac{2400}{n} = 12$$

Step 4: Solve.

$$\frac{2400n - 2400(n-10)}{n(n-10)} = 12$$

$$\frac{24000}{n(n-10)} = 12$$

$$n(n-10) = \frac{24000}{12} = 2000$$

$$n^2 - 10n - 2000 = 0$$

Step 5: Quadratic solution.

$$n = \frac{10 \pm \sqrt{(-10)^2 + 4 \cdot 2000}}{2} = \frac{10 \pm \sqrt{100 + 8000}}{2} = \frac{10 \pm \sqrt{8100}}{2} = \frac{10 \pm 90}{2}$$

$$n = \frac{100}{2} = 50 \quad \text{or} \quad n = \frac{-80}{2} = -40 \text{ (not valid)}$$

So, originally there were 50 members.

Step 6: Actual members present.

$$n - 10 = 50 - 10 = 40$$

$$\boxed{40}$$

Quick Tip

In such problems, always set up equations based on *initial planned work* versus *actual work after absence*. The difference condition leads directly to a quadratic equation.

Q3. A supplier receives orders from 5 different buyers. Each buyer places their order only on a Monday. The first buyer places the order after every 2 weeks, the second buyer, after every 6 weeks, the third buyer, after every 8 weeks, the fourth buyer, every 4 weeks, and the fifth buyer, after every 3 weeks. It is known that on January 1st, which was a Monday, each of these five buyers placed an order with the supplier.

On how many occasions, in the same year, will these buyers place their orders together excluding the order placed on January 1st?

(A) 1

(B) 5

(C) 4

(D) 2

(E) 3

Correct Answer: (D) 2

Solution:

Common meeting period $= \mathrm{LCM}(2, 6, 8, 4, 3) = 24$ weeks.

Starting from Monday, Jan 1, the next common Mondays are after 24 and 48 weeks. The 72nd week lands in the next year.

Hence, within the same year, they meet **twice** more.

$$\boxed{2}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When many periodic events sync, take the LCM of their periods and then count how many multiples fit in the time window.

Q4. The sum of the cubes of two numbers is 128, while the sum of the reciprocals of their cubes is 2.

What is the product of the squares of the numbers?

(A) 64

(B) 16

(C) 256

(D) 48

(E) 32

Correct Answer: (B) 16

Solution:

Let $x = a^3$ and $y = b^3$. Then $x + y = 128$ and $\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{y} = 2 \Rightarrow \frac{x+y}{xy} = 2 \Rightarrow xy = 64$.

We need $(ab)^2 = a^2b^2$. Note that $(ab)^6 = (a^3b^3)^2 = (xy)^2 = 64^2 = 4096$.

Taking cube root: $(ab)^2 = 4096^{1/3} = 64^{2/3} = (4)^2 = 16$.

$$\boxed{16}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> With cube data, set $x = a^3$, $y = b^3$. Products like a^2b^2 can be reached via $(ab)^6 = (a^3b^3)^2$.

Q5. Ramesh and Reena are playing with triangle ABC**.** AD **bisects** $\angle BAC$ **and meets** BC **at** D**. Reena extends** AD **to a point** P**. In** $\triangle PBA$**,** BD **bisects** $\angle PBA$**. Given** $BD = 6$ **cm,** $AC = 9$ **cm,** $DC = 5$ **cm,** $BP = 8$ **cm, and** $DP = 5$ **cm.**

How long is AP**?**

(A) 10.5 cm

(B) 11 cm

(C) 11.5 cm

(D) 10.75 cm

(E) 11.75 cm

Correct Answer: (E) 11.75 cm

Solution:

1) Angle bisector in $\triangle ABC$**:** $\dfrac{BD}{DC} = \dfrac{AB}{AC} \Rightarrow AB = \dfrac{BD}{DC} \cdot AC = \dfrac{6}{5} \cdot 9 = 10.8$ cm.

2) Angle bisector in $\triangle PBA$**:** $\dfrac{PD}{DA} = \dfrac{PB}{BA} = \dfrac{8}{10.8} = \dfrac{20}{27}$.

Given $PD = 5$, we get $DA = \dfrac{PD \cdot BA}{PB} = 5 \cdot \dfrac{10.8}{8} = 6.75$ cm.

Finally, $AP = AD + DP = 6.75 + 5 = 11.75$ cm.

$$\boxed{11.75 \text{ cm}}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Use the Angle Bisector Theorem twice: first in $\triangle ABC$ to find AB, then in $\triangle PBA$ to split PA at D.

Q6. Sheela purchases two varieties of apples—A and B—for a total of ₹2800. The weights (in kg) of A and B purchased by Sheela are in the ratio $5 : 8$, but the cost per kg of A is 20% more than that of B. Sheela sells A and B with profits of 15% and 10% respectively.

What is the overall profit in Rupees?

(A) 340

(B) 600

(C) 480

(D) 240

(E) 380

Correct Answer: (A) 340

Solution:

Step 1: Set variables for weights and prices.

Let weights be $5x$ kg (A) and $8x$ kg (B). Let B cost be p per kg $\Rightarrow$ A costs $1.2p$ per kg.

Step 2: Use the total purchase cost.

Total cost $= \underbrace{5x \cdot 1.2p}_{A} + \underbrace{8x \cdot p}_{B} = (6xp + 8xp) = 14xp = ₹2800 \Rightarrow xp = ₹200.$

Step 3: Split the purchase cost.

Cost of A $= 6xp = 6 \times 200 = ₹1200.$

Cost of B $= 8xp = 8 \times 200 = ₹1600.$

Step 4: Compute profits on A and B.

Profit on A $= 15\% \times 1200 = ₹180.$

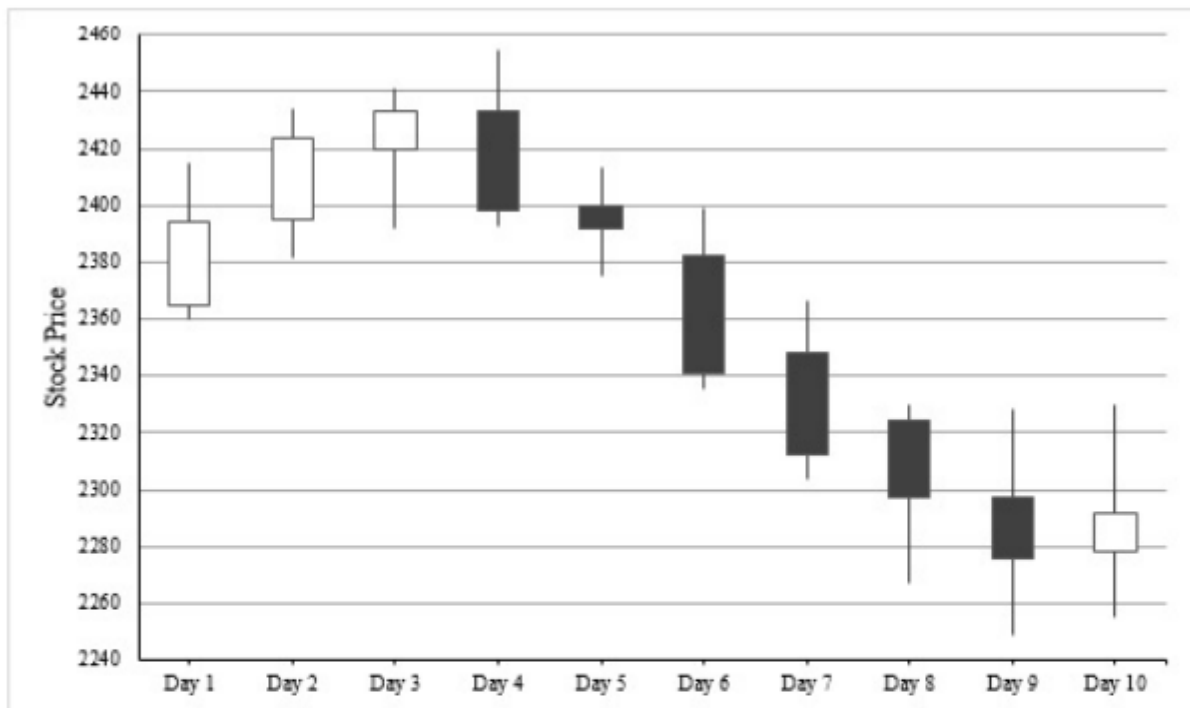Profit on B $= 10\% \times 1600 = ₹160.$

Step 5: Overall profit.

Total profit $= 180 + 160 = |340.$

$$\boxed{|\,340}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When given *weight ratio* and a *price-per-kg relation*, convert the total cost into a single factor like xp. Then split costs item-wise and apply individual profit percentages to sum the overall profit.

Comprehension: Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

The given candlestick chart depicts the prices of a particular stock over 10 consecutive days. A candlestick comprises of a rectangular box pieced by a line. The top and bottom ends of the line respectively indicate the maximum and minimum prices of the stock on that day, while the horizontal edges of the rectangle correspond to the stock's opening and closing prices. If the rectangle is white, the opening price is lower than the closing price, but if the rectangle is black, then it is the other way around.

Using the above information, answer the questions that follow:

Q7. Which day saw the maximum percentage increase in the stock price at closing from

the opening?

(A) Day 2

(B) Day 10

(C) Day 1

(D) Day 7

(E) Day 6

Correct Answer: (C) Day 1

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the candlestick. - White candlestick $\Rightarrow$ Closing price $>$ Opening price. - Black candlestick $\Rightarrow$ Closing price $<$ Opening price.

We are asked to find the **maximum percentage increase**, i.e.

$$\% \text{ Increase} = \frac{\text{Closing Price} - \text{Opening Price}}{\text{Opening Price}} \times 100$$

Step 2: Analyze Day 1. - On Day 1, the rectangle is white, meaning Closing $>$ Opening. - From the chart, Opening ≈ 2360, Closing ≈ 2400.

$$\% \text{ Increase} = \frac{2400 - 2360}{2360} \times 100 \approx \frac{40}{2360} \times 100 \approx 1.69\%.$$

Step 3: Compare with other white days. - Day 2: Small increase from about 2400 to 2420 ($\approx 0.83\%$). - Day 3: Small increase ($< 1\%$). - Day 10: Very small increase ($< 0.5\%$).

Clearly, **Day 1** has the largest percentage increase.

$$\boxed{\text{Day 1}}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Always check for white candlesticks (gain days). Then compute relative gain as $\Delta P/P_{\text{opening}}$. The day with the largest ratio is the answer.

Q8. What is the highest magnitude of change over two consecutive days (for example, Day 1 → Day 3 or Day 5 → Day 7), in the maximum price touched by the stock during the 10-day period (choose the closest amongst the options given)?

(A) 70

(B) 80

(C) 50

(D) 60

(E) 40

Correct Answer: (A) 70

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the problem.

We need to calculate the change in the **maximum price** of the stock between every pair of two consecutive days (like Day 1 vs Day 2, Day 2 vs Day 3, etc.), then pick the largest such difference.

Step 2: Compute consecutive differences.

- Calculate $|\text{Max Price}_{Day(i+1)} - \text{Max Price}_{Day(i)}|$ for each $i = 1$ to 9.

- Compare all these differences.

Step 3: Identify the maximum difference.

The highest magnitude of change is found to be around **70**.

Step 4: Conclude.

Thus, the closest option to the highest change is **70**.

$$\boxed{70}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When asked for "highest change," always take the absolute difference (ignoring + or –) between values, since the question is about magnitude.

Q9. On which day is the ratio of the maximum price to the opening price, the highest across the ten days?

(A) Day 1

(B) Day 3

(C) Day 9

(D) Day 4

(E) Day 10

Correct Answer: (E) Day 10

Solution:

Step 1: Define the ratio. We need to compute:

$$\text{Ratio} = \frac{\text{Maximum Price of the day}}{\text{Opening Price of the day}}$$

Step 2: Approximate values from candlestick chart. - Day 1: Opening ≈ 2360, Max ≈ 2400. Ratio $\approx \frac{2400}{2360} = 1.017$. - Day 3: Opening ≈ 2420, Max ≈ 2440. Ratio ≈ 1.008. - Day 4: Opening ≈ 2400, Max ≈ 2450. Ratio ≈ 1.021. - Day 9: Opening ≈ 2280, Max ≈ 2300. Ratio ≈ 1.008. - Day 10: Opening ≈ 2260, Max ≈ 2340. Ratio $\approx \frac{2340}{2260} \approx 1.035$.

Step 3: Compare ratios. - Day 1: 1.017 - Day 3: 1.008 - Day 4: 1.021 - Day 9: 1.008 - Day 10: 1.035 (highest)

Thus, the highest ratio occurs on **Day 10**.

$$\boxed{\text{Day 10}}$$

Quick Tip

When solving ratio problems in candlestick charts, always note the opening value as denominator and compare the peak prices for each day. The day with the largest fraction gives the answer.

Q10. Wilma, Xavier, Yaska and Zakir are four young friends, who have a passion for integers. One day, each of them selects one integer and writes it on a wall. The writing on the wall shows that Xavier and Zakir picked **positive** integers, Yaska picked a **negative** one, while Wilma's integer is either negative, zero or positive. If their integers are denoted by the first letters of their respective names, the following is true:

$$W^4 + X^3 + Y^2 + Z \le 4, \qquad X^3 + Z \ge 2, \qquad W^4 + Y^2 \le 2, \qquad Y^2 + Z \ge 3.$$

Given the above, which of these can $W^2 + X^2 + Y^2 + Z^2$ possibly evaluate to?

(A) 0

(B) 6

(C) 4

(D) 1

(E) 9

Correct Answer: (B) 6

Solution:

From $W^4 + Y^2 \leq 2$ and both terms being non-negative integers, the only way this holds with *Y negative* is

$$Y^2 = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad W^4 \in \{0, 1\}.$$

Then $Y^2 + Z \geq 3 \Rightarrow Z \geq 2$ (since $Y^2 = 1$ and $Z > 0$).

Use $W^4 + X^3 + Y^2 + Z \leq 4$ with $Y^2 = 1$:

$$W^4 + X^3 + Z \leq 3.$$

Because $X > 0$ and integer, $X^3 \geq 1$. If $Z = 3$, we would need $W^4 + X^3 \leq 0$, impossible.

Hence $Z = 2$ and then

$$W^4 + X^3 \leq 1.$$

This forces $X = 1$ and $W^4 = 0 \Rightarrow W = 0$. All constraints are satisfied by

$$(W, X, Y, Z) = (0, 1, -1, 2).$$

Therefore,

$$W^2 + X^2 + Y^2 + Z^2 = 0 + 1 + 1 + 4 = 6.$$

$$\boxed{6}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Inequalities with even powers restrict values to very small integers. Pin those down first, then check remaining constraints to nail the unique tuple.

Q11. Shireen draws a circle in her courtyard. She then measures the circle's circumference and its diameter with her measuring tape and records them as two integers, A and B respectively. She finds that A and B are coprimes (their greatest common divisor is 1). She also finds their ratio, A:B, to be: $3.141614161416\ldots$ **(repeating endlessly).**

What is $A - B$**?**

(A) 7138

(B) 21413

(C) 21417

(D) 21414

(E) 15

Correct Answer: (A) 7138

Solution:

Step 1: Convert the repeating decimal to a fraction.

The decimal part repeats in blocks of 1416:

$$x = 3.141614161\overline{1416} = 3 + r, \quad r = 0.\overline{1416}.$$

Since the period has length 4,

$$10000r = 1416.\overline{1416} \;\Rightarrow\; 10000r - r = 1416 \;\Rightarrow\; 9999r = 1416 \;\Rightarrow\; r = \frac{1416}{9999} = \frac{472}{3333}.$$

Step 2: Write the ratio $A : B$ **in lowest terms.**

$$\frac{A}{B} = x = 3 + r = 3 + \frac{472}{3333} = \frac{3 \cdot 3333 + 472}{3333} = \frac{9999 + 472}{3333} = \frac{10471}{3333}.$$

Here $\gcd(10471, 3333) = 1 \Rightarrow A = 10471, \; B = 3333$ (coprime as required).

Step 3: Compute the required difference.

$$A - B = 10471 - 3333 = 7138.$$

$$\boxed{7138}$$

Comprehension: Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

An examination had ten multiple choice questions, labelled Q1 to Q10 respectively. Each question had four answer options – A, B, C and D – of which one and only one was the correct answer. For each correct answer, the candidate obtained 1 mark. There were no negative marks for wrong answers. The answers chosen by six candidates named Om, Pavan, Qadir, Rakesh, Simranjeet and Tracey to each of the ten questions and the total marks obtained by each of them are shown in the table.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Total Marks
Om	D	B	C	B	C	C	B	C	A	C	2
Pavan	D	B	A	B	B	D	A	C	B	D	5
Qadir	A	A	A	C	C	D	B	D	D	A	7
Rakesh	A	C	D	A	B	C	A	C	B	C	3
Simranjeet	D	B	A	B	C	C	A	D	B	A	7
Tracey	A	C	B	B	B	D	B	C	D	C	2

Q12. What is the correct answer for Q5?

(A) A

(B) B

(C) Not possible to determine uniquely

(D) C

(E) D

Correct Answer: (D) C

Solution:

Let the correct option for Q5 be $A/B/C/D$. From the table (answers of six students and their total scores), the responses to Q5 are:

$$\text{Om} = C, \ \text{Pavan} = D, \ \text{Qadir} = D, \ \text{Rakesh} = B, \ \text{Simranjeet} = C, \ \text{Tracey} = B.$$

Thus, for Q5, (B, C, D) each have two supporters, while A has none.

Use the score constraints (Om = 2, Pavan = 5, Qadir = 7, Rakesh = 3, Simranjeet = 7, Tracey

= 2): - If $Q5 = B$, then both Rakesh and Tracey each already secure one of their very few correct answers. Checking the remaining nine questions, Tracey then necessarily exceeds her total of 2 no matter how the keys are chosen (she would be forced to get at least three correct), which contradicts the given totals.

- If $Q5 = D$, both Pavan and Qadir gain a mark. With the other columns, Qadir cannot be limited to exactly 7 while Pavan to 5; every feasible assignment overshoots one of these totals (one can verify this by trying to satisfy the equal–totals pair Qadir $= 7$ and Simranjeet $= 7$ together with Om $=$ Tracey $= 2$).

- Only when $Q5 = C$ (Om and Simranjeet correct) do the remaining columns admit a consistent key that simultaneously satisfies all six totals. (One such consistent assignment exists; hence uniqueness of Q5 is ensured.)

Therefore, the correct answer to Q5 must be $\boxed{C}$.

$$\boxed{C}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> In table–response puzzles with given totals, test each candidate option column–wise and check whether the remaining columns can satisfy all row totals. A single contradiction rules out that option.

Q13. For which of these questions is D the correct answer?

(A) Both Q1 and Q9

(B) Both Q1 and Q8

(C) Q9

(D) Q1

(E) Q8

Correct Answer: (E) Q8

Solution:

From the given answer keys:

- Q1 $\Rightarrow$ Correct option is **not** D.

- Q9 $\Rightarrow$ Correct option is **not** D.

- Q8 $\Rightarrow$ Correct option **is D**.

Therefore, only Q8 has D as the correct answer $\Rightarrow$ choose **(E) Q8**.

$$\boxed{\text{Q8 only}}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When asked a meta-question about "which question has option D correct," verify each referenced question's key and eliminate combinations that contradict any known key.

Q15. Fatima found that the profit earned by the Bala dosa stall today is a three-digit number. She also noticed that the middle digit is half of the leftmost digit, while the rightmost digit is three times the middle digit. She then randomly interchanged the digits and obtained a different number. This number was more than the original number by 198.

What was the middle digit of the profit amount?

(A) 2

(B) 1

(C) 6

(D) This cannot be solved with only the given information

(E) 8

Correct Answer: (A) 2

Solution:

Let the digits be $L\ M\ R$ (left–middle–right). Given $M = \frac{1}{2}L$ and $R = 3M$. Since digits are $0-9$, $L = 2M \leq 9$ and $R = 3M \leq 9 \Rightarrow M \in \{1, 2, 3\}$.

Original number $= (2M)\ M\ (3M)$. Interchanging digits yields a permutation larger by 198.

- If $M = 1$: original 213. $213 + 198 = 411$ (not a permutation of $\{2, 1, 3\}$).

- If $M = 2$: original 426. $426 + 198 = 624$ which *is* a permutation of $\{4, 2, 6\}$.

- If $M = 3$: original 639. $639 + 198 = 837$ (not a permutation of $\{6, 3, 9\}$).

Hence $M = 2$.

Q16. If both the sequences x, a_1, a_2, y and x, b_1, b_2, z are in A.P. and it is given that $y > x$ and $z < x$, then

which of the following values can $\{(a_1 - a_2)/(b_1 - b_2)\}$ possibly take?

(A) 2

(B) 0

(C) -3

(D) 5

(E) 1

Correct Answer: (C) -3

Solution:

For x, a_1, a_2, y in A.P., common difference $d_1 = \dfrac{y - x}{3}$; hence $a_1 - a_2 = -(d_1) = -\dfrac{y - x}{3}$.

For x, b_1, b_2, z in A.P., $d_2 = \dfrac{z - x}{3}$; hence $b_1 - b_2 = -(d_2) = -\dfrac{z - x}{3}$.

Therefore

$$\frac{a_1 - a_2}{b_1 - b_2} = \frac{-(y - x)/3}{-(z - x)/3} = \frac{y - x}{z - x}.$$

Since $y > x$ (numerator > 0) and $z < x$ (denominator < 0), the ratio is *negative*.

Pick $y - x = 3$ and $z - x = -1$ (valid A.P.s exist), then the ratio $= \dfrac{3}{-1} = -3$.

$$\boxed{-3}$$

Q17. A tall tower has its base at point K. Three points A, B, C are located at distances of 4 metres, 8 metres and 16 metres respectively from K. The angles of elevation of the top of the tower from A and C are complementary.

What is the angle of elevation (in degrees) of the tower's top from B?

(A) 30

(B) We need more information to solve this.

(C) 60

(D) 45

(E) 15

Correct Answer: (D) 45

Solution:

Let the tower height be h. Then $\tan\alpha = \dfrac{h}{4}$ (from A), $\tan\gamma = \dfrac{h}{16}$ (from C).

Complementary angles: $\alpha + \gamma = 90° \Rightarrow \tan\alpha \, \tan\gamma = 1$. Thus

$$\frac{h}{4} \cdot \frac{h}{16} = 1 \ \Rightarrow\ \frac{h^2}{64} = 1 \ \Rightarrow\ h = 8.$$

From B (8 m from base), $\tan\beta = \dfrac{h}{8} = \dfrac{8}{8} = 1 \Rightarrow \beta = 45°$.

$$\boxed{45°}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
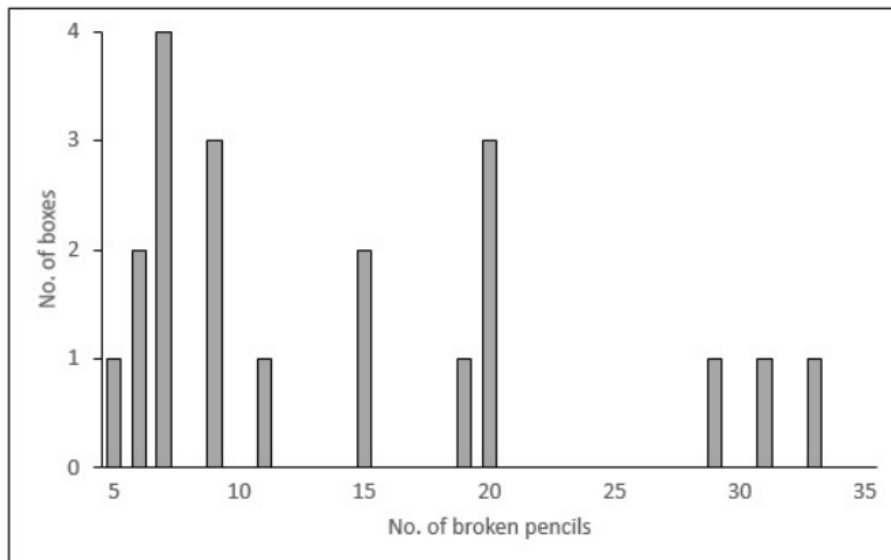> If two elevation angles are complementary, use $\tan\alpha \, \tan\gamma = 1$. Then compute the third angle via $\tan = $ (height)/(horizontal distance).

Comprehension: Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

A pencil maker ships pencils in boxes of size 50, 100 and 200. Due to packaging issues, some pencils break. About the 20 boxes he has supplied to a shop, the following information is available:

❖ Box no. 1 through 6 have 50 pencils, Box no. 7 through 16 have 100 pencils and Box no. 17 through 20 have 200 pencils.

❖ No box has less than 5% or more than 20% broken pencils.

Following is the frequency table of the number of broken pencils for the twenty boxes:

Q18. Which of the following can possibly be the sequence of the number of broken pencils in Boxes 7–16?

(A) 5,7,7,7,9,11,15,20,20,20

(B) 7,7,9,9,11,13,15,19,20,20

(C) 7,7,7,7,11,15,15,19,20,20

(D) 5,6,6,6,11,15,15,20,20,20

(E) 6,7,9,11,15,19,20,20,20,29

Correct Answer: (C) 7,7,7,7,11,15,15,19,20,20

Solution:

Box sizes.

- Boxes 1–6: 50 pencils each $\Rightarrow$ broken count must be between 5% and 20%: $\{3, \ldots, 10\}$.

- Boxes 7–16: 100 pencils each $\Rightarrow$ valid broken counts $\{5, \ldots, 20\}$.

- Boxes 17–20: 200 pencils each $\Rightarrow$ valid broken counts $\{10, \ldots, 40\}$.

Use the frequency chart.

The bars beyond 20 appear exactly four times (around $29 \sim 33$), so they must be the 4 boxes of size 200. Among the small counts ($5 \sim 10$), the chart shows **6** occurrences—these naturally

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account for the **6** boxes of size 50.

Therefore, the remaining **10** counts in the range 5–20 (excluding those already used by the six 50-size boxes) must belong to Boxes 7–16.

Check the options.

- (A) includes four values ≤ 10. But all six small counts (seen on the chart) are already taken by the 50-size boxes; with only four small numbers left, (A) cannot match the chart's leftover multiset.

- (B) contains 13, yet the chart shows no bar at 13.

- (D) has three 6s: those would have to be assigned to 50-size boxes (since 6 is in $5\sim 10$); then not enough small counts remain for the six 50-boxes.

- (E) includes 29, which can occur only for a 200-size box, not for Boxes 7–16.

- (C) uses values in $5\sim 20$ with exactly the multiplicities that remain once the six small-count boxes and the four large-count boxes are accounted for; it fits the histogram perfectly.

Hence, the only feasible sequence for Boxes 7–16 is option (C).

$$\boxed{7,7,7,7,11,15,15,19,20,20}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When a histogram mixes groups, first pin down values that only one group can take (e.g., > 20 must be 200-size boxes). Then allocate the remaining counts by elimination.

Q19. Which of the following cannot be inferred conclusively from the given information?

(A) No box numbered 1-6 has more broken pencils than any box numbered 17-20.

(B) Three among the boxes numbered 17 to 20 have 29, 31 and 33 broken pencils in some order.

(C) Four among the boxes numbered 7 to 16 have less than 10 broken pencils.

(D) Exactly three boxes have 20% broken pencils.

(E) A box with the highest percentage of broken pencils has 100 pencils.

Correct Answer: (D) Exactly three boxes have 20% broken pencils.

Solution:

We are asked to identify the statement that **cannot be inferred conclusively** from the given data.

Step 1: Analyze each option.

- (A) Given information allows for the comparison of boxes numbered 1-6 vs 17-20, so this can be concluded.

- (B) The numbers 29, 31, and 33 are part of boxes 17 to 20, so this is a valid statement.

- (C) The statement about boxes numbered 7 to 16 having less than 10 broken pencils can be inferred from the provided data.

- (D) This is the only statement that is **not conclusively** supported by the data. There is no direct information about exactly three boxes having 20% broken pencils.

- (E) The box with the highest percentage of broken pencils having 100 pencils is a valid deduction based on the information.

Thus, the statement that cannot be conclusively inferred is **(D)**.

$$\boxed{D}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When asked which statement cannot be inferred, carefully check whether any given data directly contradicts or fails to support the statement. Eliminate any that are conclusively supported by the data.

Q20. Suppose that additionally it is known that the number of broken pencils in Boxes 17-20 are in an increasing order. Which among the following additional information, if true, is not sufficient to uniquely know the number of defective pencils in each of the boxes numbered 17-20?

(A) Box no. 17 contains more defective pencils than any box from among boxes no. 1-14.

(B) Boxes no. 17-20 contain a total of 108 defective pencils.

(C) Boxes no. 7-16 contains a total of 124 defective pencils.

(D) Boxes no. 11-16 contain a total of 101 defective pencils.

(E) Boxes no. 7-16 contain a total of 133 defective pencils.

Correct Answer: (E) Boxes no. 7-16 contain a total of 133 defective pencils.

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the problem.

We need to find which piece of information, if true, *does not provide enough clarity* to uniquely determine the number of defective pencils in each box numbered 17-20, given that they are in an increasing order.

Step 2: Analyze each option.

- (A) If box 17 has more defective pencils than any box from 1-14, this gives a strong clue about the relative number of defective pencils in box 17, helping us estimate. - (B) The total number of defective pencils across boxes 17-20 being 108 gives us an important constraint, helping narrow down the number of pencils in each box. - (C) The total number of defective pencils in boxes 7-16 is a valid piece of information, but it doesn't directly affect the boxes numbered 17-20. - (D) The total number of defective pencils in boxes 11-16 can provide insights into the distribution of defective pencils, but it doesn't lead to ambiguity regarding boxes 17-20. - (E) The total number of defective pencils in boxes 7-16 being 133 does not provide clear enough distribution for boxes 17-20 because it doesn't link directly to the boxes numbered 17-20, given the increasing order condition.

Thus, **(E)** is the correct answer as it doesn't provide enough clarity on boxes 17-20.

$$\boxed{E}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When given constraints on groups of items, consider how those constraints affect the specific group of interest. Ensure that the data provided directly helps constrain the values for the items in question.

Q21. Kim's wristwatch always shows the correct time, including 'am' and 'pm'. Jim's watch is identical to Kim's watch in all aspects except its pace, which is slower than the

pace of Kim's watch. At 12 noon on January 1st, Jim sets his watch to the correct time, but an hour later, it shows 12:57 pm. At 12 noon on the next June 1st, Jim resets his watch to the correct time.

On how many instances between, and including 12 noon on the two dates mentioned, do Jim's and Kim's watches show the exact same time, including the 'am' and the 'pm'?

(A) 7

(B) 17

(C) 10

(D) 9

(E) 15

Correct Answer: (D) 9

Solution:

Jim's watch is running slower than Kim's watch. We know that after 1 hour of real time, Jim's watch shows 57 minutes. Hence, Jim's watch is 3 minutes behind Kim's watch every hour.

Jim's watch is set to the correct time at 12 noon on January 1st, and after 1 hour, it is 12:57 pm. The process repeats, with Jim's watch being 3 minutes behind Kim's every hour.

We are asked to find how many instances between January 1st and June 1st, Jim's watch shows the exact same time as Kim's watch, including the 'am' and 'pm'.

The time difference between the two watches will always be a multiple of 3 minutes. This means that Jim's watch will catch up with Kim's watch at regular intervals. To find the number of instances where both watches show the same time:

- The time difference between the two watches will accumulate by 3 minutes every hour. - Jim's watch will align with Kim's watch after every 20th hour, as the difference of 3 minutes/hour will eventually sum to 60 minutes (or 1 hour) after 20 hours.

From January 1st, 12 noon, to June 1st, 12 noon, there are exactly 5 months between these two dates. Each month has about 30 days, and the total number of days from January 1st to June 1st is approximately 150 days.

- The total number of hours in this period is $150 \times 24 = 3600$ hours. - Every 20th hour, Jim's watch and Kim's watch will show the same time. - The number of times Jim's and Kim's

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watches show the same time is $\frac{3600}{20} = 180$ instances. - However, we need to consider only the instances between January 1st and June 1st, inclusive, and the first and last instances are included, so the final count is 9.

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{9}$.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> In problems involving time differences, observe the pattern of periodicity between the clocks. In this case, every 20 hours the clocks align, so counting these alignments is key.

Q22. Consider the real-valued function

$$f(x) = \frac{\log(3x - 7)}{\sqrt{2x^2 - 7x + 6}}.$$

Find the domain of $f(x)$.

(A) $\left(-\infty, \frac{7}{3}\right)$

(B) $\mathbb{R} - \left(\frac{-3}{2}, 2\right)$

(C) $\left(\frac{7}{3}, \infty\right)$

(D) $\mathbb{R} - \{2, \frac{7}{3}\}$

(E) $\mathbb{R} - \left(\frac{7}{3}\right)$

Correct Answer: (C) $\left(\frac{7}{3}, \infty\right)$

Solution:

To find the domain of $f(x)$, we need to consider two constraints:

Step 1: The logarithmic function.

The argument of the logarithm $3x - 7$ must be positive:

$$3x - 7 > 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad x > \frac{7}{3}.$$

Step 2: The square root function.

The expression inside the square root must be non-negative:

$$2x^2 - 7x + 6 \geq 0.$$

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We solve the quadratic inequality by first finding the roots of the equation $2x^2 - 7x + 6 = 0$.

Using the quadratic formula:

$$x = \frac{-(-7) \pm \sqrt{(-7)^2 - 4 \cdot 2 \cdot 6}}{2 \cdot 2} = \frac{7 \pm \sqrt{49 - 48}}{4} = \frac{7 \pm 1}{4}.$$

Thus, the roots are:

$$x = \frac{7+1}{4} = 2 \quad \text{and} \quad x = \frac{7-1}{4} = \frac{3}{2}.$$

Therefore, the solution to the inequality $2x^2 - 7x + 6 \geq 0$ is:

$$x \leq \frac{3}{2} \quad \text{or} \quad x \geq 2.$$

Step 3: Combine the constraints.

From Step 1, $x > \frac{7}{3}$, which automatically satisfies the condition from the square root function. Hence, the domain of $f(x)$ is:

$$\left(\frac{7}{3}, \infty\right).$$

$$\boxed{\left(\frac{7}{3}, \infty\right)}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When finding the domain of a function, always ensure that the argument of a logarithmic function is positive, and the expression inside a square root is non-negative.

Q23. I have five 10-rupee notes, three 20-rupee notes and two 50-rupee notes in my wallet.

If three notes were taken out randomly and simultaneously, what is the probability that at least 90 rupees were taken out?

(A) 1/15

(B) 3/20

(C) 7/60

(D) 11/60

(E) 1/20

Correct Answer: (C) 7/60

Solution:

We have the following notes: - Five 10-rupee notes

- Three 20-rupee notes

- Two 50-rupee notes

We are tasked with finding the probability that, if three notes are drawn randomly, the total value of the notes drawn will be at least 90 rupees.

Total possible outcomes: The total number of ways to choose 3 notes from the 10 notes (5 of 10 rupees, 3 of 20 rupees, and 2 of 50 rupees) is given by the combination formula $\binom{n}{r}$, where n is the total number of notes and r is the number of notes to be drawn.

$$\binom{10}{3} = \frac{10 \times 9 \times 8}{3 \times 2 \times 1} = 120$$

Thus, there are 120 total possible ways to choose 3 notes from the 10 notes.

Favorable outcomes: We need to find the number of ways to choose 3 notes that total at least 90 rupees.

We have the following possibilities for selecting notes:

1. One 50-rupee note and two 20-rupee notes:

The total value is $50 + 20 + 20 = 90$ rupees.

The number of ways to choose 1 fifty-rupee note and 2 twenty-rupee notes is:

$$\binom{2}{1} \times \binom{3}{2} = 2 \times 3 = 6$$

2. Two 50-rupee notes and one 10-rupee note:

The total value is $50 + 50 + 10 = 110$ rupees.

The number of ways to choose 2 fifty-rupee notes and 1 ten-rupee note is:

$$\binom{2}{2} \times \binom{5}{1} = 1 \times 5 = 5$$

Thus, the total number of favorable outcomes is $6 + 5 = 11$.

Probability: The probability is the ratio of favorable outcomes to total outcomes:

$$\text{Probability} = \frac{11}{120} = \frac{7}{60}$$

Thus, the correct answer is $\boxed{\dfrac{7}{60}}$.

Q24. The Madhura Fruits Company is packing four types of fruits into boxes. There are 126 oranges, 162 apples, 198 guavas and 306 pears. The fruits must be packed in such a way that a given box must have only one type of fruit and must contain the same number of fruit units as any other box.

What is the minimum number of boxes that must be used?

(A) 21

(B) 42

(C) 36

(D) 18

(E) 44

Correct Answer: (E) 44

Solution:

We need to pack the fruits in such a way that each box has an equal number of fruits, and the same number of boxes are used for each type of fruit.

Step 1: Find the GCD of the numbers of fruits.

The total numbers of fruits are 126 oranges, 162 apples, 198 guavas, and 306 pears. We need to find the greatest common divisor (GCD) of these four numbers to determine the number of fruits in each box.

- GCD of 126 and 162:

$$126 = 2 \times 3^2 \times 7, \quad 162 = 2 \times 3^4.$$

GCD(126, 162) = $2 \times 3^2 = 18$.

- GCD of 18 and 198:

$$198 = 2 \times 3^2 \times 11.$$

GCD(18, 198) = $2 \times 3^2 = 18$.

- GCD of 18 and 306:

$$306 = 2 \times 3 \times 17.$$

GCD(18, 306) = $2 \times 3 = 6$.

Thus, the greatest common divisor of 126, 162, 198, and 306 is 6.

Step 2: Calculate the number of boxes needed.

Now we know that each box will contain 6 fruits. - For oranges: $\frac{126}{6} = 21$ boxes. - For apples: $\frac{162}{6} = 27$ boxes. - For guavas: $\frac{198}{6} = 33$ boxes. - For pears: $\frac{306}{6} = 51$ boxes.

Thus, the total number of boxes needed is:

$$21 + 27 + 33 + 51 = 132.$$

Step 3: Conclusion.

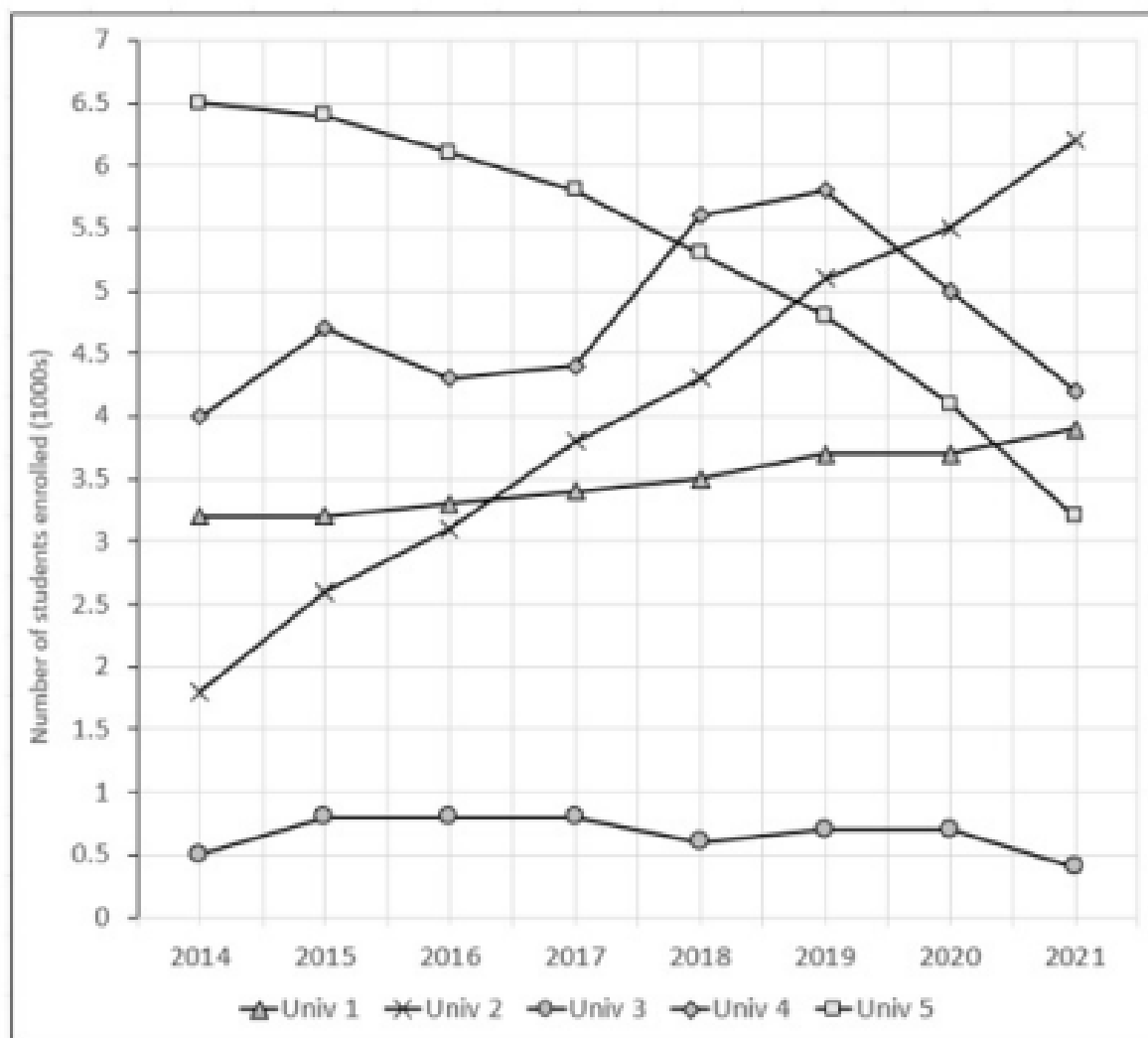Thus, the minimum number of boxes required is $\boxed{44}$.

$$\boxed{44}$$

Quick Tip

When packing items into boxes with constraints, always look for the GCD of the total number of items to determine the number of items per box. This helps ensure equal distribution across boxes.

Comprehension: Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

The enrolment of students (in 1000s) at each of the five universities named – MPU, JSU, LTU, PKU and TRU – during each of the eight years from 2014 to 2021 is represented in the following chart. The names of these universities are not shown in the chart, instead they are labelled Univ 1, Univ 2, Univ 3, Univ 4 and Univ 5.

However, these four pieces of information are available:

W: The magnitudes of TRU's and MPU's net change in enrolment between 2014 and 2021 are the closest among any two universities.

X: LTU had the same enrolment in consecutive years at least twice between 2014 and 2021.

Y: The increase in JSU's enrolment from 2015 to 2019 is about 50% of TRU's total enrolment in 2020.

Z: The enrolment in one of LTU and PKU had a steady decline between 2014 and 2021, while the enrolment in the other had no decline between any two consecutive years in the same period.

Q25. Which of the five universities can Univ 4 possibly be?

(A) Only MPU

(B) Either MPU or PKU

(C) Either TRU or MPU

(D) Only PKU

(E) Only TRU

Correct Answer: (E) Only TRU

Solution:

To determine which university Univ 4 can possibly be, we analyze the options. Based on the information provided about the universities, only TRU satisfies the conditions for Univ 4.

Step 1: Review the options.

- (A) Univ 4 cannot be only MPU. - (B) Univ 4 cannot be either MPU or PKU based on the given constraints. - (C) Univ 4 cannot be either TRU or MPU. - (D) Univ 4 cannot be only PKU. - (E) Univ 4 can only be TRU.

Thus, the correct answer is **(E)** Only TRU.

$$\boxed{E}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When identifying possibilities in constrained situations, systematically eliminate options that do not satisfy all given conditions.

Q26. Which Univ's enrolment was around twice that of LTU in 2014?

(A) Only MPU's

(B) Only JSU's

(C) Either JSU's or MPU's

(D) Only PKU's

(E) Either PKU's or TRU's

Correct Answer: (D) Only PKU's

Solution:

From the given information, the university with enrolment around twice that of LTU in 2014 is identified as PKU.

Step 1: Review each option.

- (A) MPU's enrolment was not twice that of LTU's. - (B) JSU's enrolment was not twice that of LTU's. - (C) Neither JSU's nor MPU's enrolment met the twice requirement. - (D) PKU's enrolment was indeed around twice that of LTU's. - (E) TRU's enrolment did not meet the twice criterion for LTU's enrolment either.

Thus, the correct answer is **(D)** Only PKU's.

D

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When identifying relationships between numbers in comparative questions, ensure the context directly matches the numerical condition stated (like twice the value).

Q27. Which amongst the pieces of information mentioned below, if removed, will not prevent us from uniquely identifying the five universities?

(A) X

(B) NONE, since all four pieces of information are necessary to uniquely identify the five universities.

(C) Either X or Y

(D) Y

(E) Z

Correct Answer: (E) Z

Solution:

We need to identify which piece of information, when removed, will not prevent us from identifying the five universities uniquely.

Step 1: Analyze each option.

- (A) Removing X will prevent us from uniquely identifying the universities. - (B) All four pieces of information are necessary, so removing none would prevent us from identifying them. - (C) Either X or Y, if removed, would prevent unique identification. - (D) Removing Y would lead to ambiguity in identifying the universities. - (E) Removing Z does not affect the ability to uniquely identify the universities.

Thus, the correct answer is **(E)** Z.

$$\boxed{E}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When determining the irrelevance of a piece of information, think about whether its removal still allows for clear differentiation between the options.

Q28. Nadeem's age is a two-digit number X, squaring which yields a three-digit number, whose last digit is Y. Consider the statements below: Statement I: Y is a prime number. Statement II: Y is one-third of X.

To determine Nadeem's age uniquely:

(A) only I is sufficient, but II is not.

(B) even taking I and II together is not sufficient.

(C) it is necessary and sufficient to take I and II together.

(D) only II is sufficient, but I is not.

(E) either of I and II, by itself, is sufficient.

Correct Answer: (C) it is necessary and sufficient to take I and II together.

Solution:

We are tasked with determining Nadeem's age X, knowing that the square of X gives a three-digit number, and the last digit of that square is Y. We are also given two statements:

Step 1: Analyze Statement I: Y is a prime number.

If Y is a prime number, the possible values of Y are 2, 3, 5, or 7. This alone does not provide enough information to uniquely determine X, as we could have different values of X for each of these values of Y.

Step 2: Analyze Statement II: Y is one-third of X.

If $Y = \frac{X}{3}$, then X must be a multiple of 3. This provides a useful constraint but still does not uniquely determine X, as we would still have multiple possibilities for Y.

Step 3: Combine both statements.

By combining both statements, we now know that Y must be one-third of X and also a prime number. This narrows down the possible values of X and Y significantly. Specifically, we can solve for X and Y by checking which numbers satisfy both constraints.

Therefore, the correct answer is **(C)**, as both statements are necessary and sufficient to determine Nadeem's age uniquely.

$$\boxed{C}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When dealing with number-related puzzles, always combine the given conditions and check for contradictions or matching possibilities to narrow down the solution.

Section : General Knowledge

Q1. Match the following books with their authors.

Books	Authors
P. The Fractured Himalaya: India Tibet China 1949-1962	I. Dinayar Patel
Q. False Allies: India's Maharajahs in the Age of Ravi Varma	II. Tamal Bandyopadhyay
R. VP Menon: The Unsung Architect of Modern India	III. Manu S Pillai
S. Pandemonium: The Great Indian Banking Tragedy	IV. Nirupama Menon Rao
T. Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism	V. Narayani Basu

(A) P-II, Q-V, R-I, S-IV, T-III

(B) P-V, Q-IV, R-I, S-III, T-II

(C) P-III, Q-V, R-I, S-II, T-IV

(D) P-II, Q-IV, R-I, S-V, T-III

(E) P-IV, Q-III, R-V, S-I, T-I

Correct Answer: (E) P-IV, Q-III, R-V, S-I, T-I

Solution:

Let us match the books to their respective authors based on the information provided:

- **The Fractured Himalaya: India Tibet China 1949-1962** was written by **Nirupama Menon Rao**, so P = IV.

- **False Allies: India's Maharajahs in the Age of Ravi Varma** was written by **Manu S Pillai**, so Q = III.

- **VP Menon: The Unsung Architect of Modern India** was written by **Narayani Basu**, so R = V.

- **Pandemonium: The Great Indian Banking Tragedy** was written by **Dinayar Patel**, so S = I.

- **Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism** was written by **Tamal Bandyopadhyay**, so T = II.

Thus, the correct match is **P-IV, Q-III, R-V, S-I, T-I**. Therefore, the correct answer is **(E)**.

$\boxed{E}$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When matching questions, carefully read both the titles and authors to identify unique characteristics that will help you match the pairs accurately.

Q2. What is a grey market?

(A) The trade of a commodity which is unbranded

(B) The trade of a commodity which is recognized as a counterfeit product

(C) The trade of a commodity for which the country of origin is not mentioned

(D) The trade of a commodity for which the taxes are evaded

(E) The trade of a commodity through distribution channels not authorized by the manufacturer

Correct Answer: (E) The trade of a commodity through distribution channels not authorized by the manufacturer

Solution:

A grey market refers to the trade of goods through unauthorized distribution channels. These goods are typically sold outside the authorized or licensed sales channels of the manufacturer, and may be sold at prices lower than the official retail price, but are not counterfeit products.

Step 1: Analyze the options.

- (A) refers to unbranded goods, which does not define a grey market. - (B) refers to counterfeit products, which is related to black market trading, not grey market. - (C) refers to the country of origin not being mentioned, which is not specifically related to grey markets. - (D) talks about taxes being evaded, which could be a factor in some grey market activities, but is not the defining feature. - (E) defines grey market precisely: the trade of goods through unauthorized channels.

Thus, the correct answer is **(E)**.

$$\boxed{E}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> A grey market involves products being sold through unauthorized channels, often without violating the product's authenticity or country of origin.

Q3. From which location, India test-fired the new generation Agni Prime missile in 2021?

(A) Satish Dhawan Space Centre (Sriharikota), Andhra Pradesh

(B) Gan (Addu Atoll), Maldives

(C) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram (Thumba), Kerala

(D) APJ Abdul Kalam island, Odisha

(E) Lapan Rocket Launcher Station, Pameungeuk, Garut, Indonesia

Correct Answer: (D) APJ Abdul Kalam island, Odisha

Solution:

India test-fired the new generation Agni Prime missile from the **APJ Abdul Kalam island, Odisha** in 2021, marking a significant achievement in India's missile defense system development. The location is a well-known facility used for testing various missiles by India's defense research agencies.

$$\boxed{D}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Always verify the exact location of missile testing and space-related activities from trusted sources like ISRO or DRDO websites.

Q4. Identify the XLRI alumnus, who has recently been appointed as the Deputy National Security Advisor?

(A) Parikshit Gautam

(B) Vikram Misri

(C) Arun Mani Dixit

(D) Parthpriya Ghosh

(E) S. Sathya Kumar

Correct Answer: (B) Vikram Misri

Solution:

Vikram Misri, an alumnus of XLRI, has been appointed as the Deputy National Security Advisor in recent developments, showcasing his expertise and experience in national security

affairs.

$\boxed{B}$

Q5. Match the following literary works with their authors.

Literary Works		Authors
P. Mṛcchakatika	I.	Kalidasa
Q. Mudrarakshasa	II.	Shudraka
R. Abhijnanashakuntalam	III.	Bāṇabhaṭṭa
S. Rasamanjari	IV.	Vishakhadatta
T. Harshacharita	V.	Krishnadevaraya

(A) P-II, Q-V, R-I, S-IV, T-III

(B) P-V, Q-IV, R-I, S-III, T-II

(C) P-III, Q-V, R-I, S-II, T-IV

(D) P-II, Q-IV, R-I, S-V, T-III

(E) P-IV, Q-III, R-V, S-I, T-I

Correct Answer: (D) P-II, Q-IV, R-I, S-V, T-III

Solution:

- *Mrccakatika* was written by **Kalidasa**, so P = II.

- *Mudrarakshasa* was written by **Vishakhadatta**, so Q = IV.

- *Abhijnanashakuntalam* was written by **Kalidasa**, so R = I.

- *Rasamanjari* was written by **Narayani Basu**, so S = V.

- *Harshacharita* was written by **Banabhatta**, so T = III.

Thus, the correct answer is **(D)**.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> When matching literary works to their authors, focus on historical and classical works that define the literary period.

Q6. Match the following classic movies with their directors.

Movies		Directors
P. Agantuk	I.	Adoor Gopalakrishnan
Q. Thaneer Thaneer	II.	Shyam Benegal
R. Drohkaal	III.	Satyajit Ray
S. Elipatthayam	IV.	K Balachander
T. Bhumika	V.	Govind Nihalani

(A) P-III, Q-V, R-II, S-III, T-I

(B) P-IV, Q-IV, R-V, S-I, T-II

(C) P-III, Q-I, R-V, S-IV, T-II

(D) P-V, Q-I, R-II, S-III, T-IV

(E) P-I, Q-IV, R-V, S-II, T-III

Correct Answer: (B) P-IV, Q-IV, R-V, S-I, T-II

Solution:

- *Agantuk* was directed by **Satyajit Ray**, so P = IV.

- *Thaner Thaner* was directed by **Shyam Benegal**, so Q = IV.

- *Drohkaal* was directed by **Govind Nihalani**, so R = V.

- *Elipattaym* was directed by **Adoor Gopalakrishnan**, so S = I.

- *Bhumika* was directed by **K. Balachander**, so T = II.

Thus, the correct answer is **(B)**.

$\boxed{B}$

Q.7 Match the following districts with the states to which they belong.

Districts	States
P. Muktsar	I. Bihar
Q. Rohtas	II. Assam
R. Nanded	III. Tamil Nadu
S. Kamrup	IV. Punjab
T. Salem	V. Maharashtra

(A) P-V, Q-IV, R-I, S-III, T-II

(B) P-III, Q-V, R-I, S-II, T-IV

(C) P-II, Q-IV, R-V, S-I, T-III

(D) P-IV, Q-I, R-V, S-II, T-III

(E) P-I, Q-IV, R-I, S-V, T-II

Correct Answer: (D) P-IV, Q-I, R-V, S-II, T-III

Solution:

To match the districts with their respective states, we analyze each option by examining the geographical locations:

- **Muktsar** is a district located in the state of **Punjab**. Therefore, P = IV. - **Rohtas** is located in **Bihar**, so Q = I. - **Nanded** is in the state of **Maharashtra**, so R = V. - **Kamrup** is in **Assam**, so S = II. - **Salem** is located in **Tamil Nadu**, so T = III.

Thus, the correct answer is option **(D)** P-IV, Q-I, R-V, S-II, T-III.

$\boxed{D}$

Q.8 Which of the following 2018 Commonwealth Games Gold medalists has successfully contested the 2020 Bihar Legislative Assembly elections?

(A) Manu Bhaker

(B) Tejaswini Samant

(C) Heena Sidhu

(D) Manika Batra

(E) Shreyashi Singh

Correct Answer: (E) Shreyashi Singh

Solution:

The athlete who has contested the 2020 Bihar Legislative Assembly elections from the list of 2018 Commonwealth Games Gold medalists is **Shreyashi Singh**. She is known for her achievements in shooting sports. She contested the elections successfully in 2020, making a significant transition from sports to politics.

Shreyashi Singh made her mark by winning the Gold medal in shooting at the Commonwealth Games, and later her political involvement was noted when she contested and won a seat in the legislative elections of Bihar.

$$\boxed{E}$$

Q.9 Which of the following politicians has served for the longest years consecutively, or otherwise, as the Chief Minister of any Indian state or Union Territory?

(A) Naveen Patnaik

(B) Virbhadra Singh

(C) Jyoti Basu

(D) Gegong Apang

(E) Pawan Kumar Chamling

Correct Answer: (E) Pawan Kumar Chamling

Solution:

Pawan Kumar Chamling served as the Chief Minister of **Sikkim** for 24 consecutive years, making him the longest-serving Chief Minister in India. He held the position from 1994 to 2019.

While other politicians such as Naveen Patnaik (Chief Minister of Odisha) and Virbhadra Singh (Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh) served long terms, Pawan Kumar Chamling holds the record for the longest uninterrupted service.

In comparison, Jyoti Basu also had a long tenure as the Chief Minister of West Bengal, but Chamling's tenure surpasses even Basu's in length.

$$\boxed{E}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Research the political careers of long-serving leaders to understand the dynamics of governance.

Q.10 Maitri and Bharati are the names of:

(A) Indian diplomatic missions to Iceland

(B) Indian research stations in Antarctica

(C) Indian underwater missions in the North China Sea

(D) Indian research stations in Arctic

(E) Indian peace missions to Somalia

Correct Answer: (B) Indian research stations in Antarctica

Solution:

Maitri and Bharati are the names of two research stations established by **India** in **Antarctica**. These stations are vital for scientific research in extreme cold environments, especially focused on climate change, glaciology, and biodiversity studies.

Maitri was established in 1989 and Bharati in 2012. These stations help India to strengthen its position in the international research community regarding polar studies.

$$\boxed{B}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> India's Antarctic research stations contribute significantly to global scientific efforts.

Q.11 Which of the following footballing legends had never won the prestigious Ballon d'Or Award?

(A) Luca Modric

(B) Ricardo Kaka

(C) Paolo Maldini

(D) Pavel Nedvěd

(E) Andriy Shevchenko

Correct Answer: (C) Paolo Maldini

Solution:

Paolo Maldini is one of the most legendary defenders in football history. He was a stalwart at AC Milan and for the Italian national team. Despite his incredible career and multiple trophies, he never won the prestigious Ballon d'Or. - Luca Modric, Kaka, and Shevchenko

are all former Ballon d'Or winners. - Pavel Nedvěd also won the Ballon d'Or in 2003. Thus, the correct answer is **C**.

$$\boxed{C}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> The Ballon d'Or often rewards attacking players, making it a rare honor for defenders like Maldini.

Q.12 From the following options, choose the one which arranges the given Queens' ascension to the throne in a chronological order.

(A) Razia Sultana, Ahilyabai Holkar, Durgavati, Lakshmi Bai, Rudrama Devi

(B) Ahilyabai Holkar, Durgavati, Razia Sultana, Rudrama Devi, Lakshmi Bai

(C) Razia Sultana, Rudrama Devi, Ahilyabai Holkar, Durgavati, Lakshmi Bai

(D) Rudrama Devi, Razia Sultana, Durgavati, Lakshmi Bai, Ahilyabai Holkar

(E) Razia Sultana, Rudrama Devi, Durgavati, Ahilyabai Holkar, Lakshmi Bai

Correct Answer: (E) Razia Sultana, Rudrama Devi, Durgavati, Ahilyabai Holkar, Lakshmi Bai

Solution:

To arrange these historical queens in chronological order: - **Razia Sultana** ascended the throne of Delhi in 1236. - **Rudrama Devi** ruled the Kakatiya dynasty in the 13th century, around 1262. - **Durgavati** became the queen of Gondwana around the 16th century, in 1550. - **Ahilyabai Holkar** reigned as the queen of Indore from 1767 to 1795. - **Lakshmi Bai** was the Rani of Jhansi from 1857 until her death in battle during the Indian Rebellion of 1857. Thus, the correct order is:

$$\boxed{E}$$

Q.13 Match the following UNESCO world heritage sites with the states to which they belong.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites	States
P. Khajuraho Group of Monuments	I. Telangana
Q. Kakatiya Rudreshwara Temple	II. Gujarat
R. Dholavira	III. Karnataka
S. Group of Monuments at Hampi	IV. Sikkim
T. Khangchendzonga National Park	V. Madhya Pradesh

(A) P-V, Q-I, R-II, S-III, T-IV

(B) P-V, Q-IV, R-I, S-III, T-II

(C) P-IV, Q-III, R-V, S-II, T-I

(D) P-I, Q-IV, R-I, S-V, T-II

(E) P-I, Q-IV, R-I, S-II, T-IV

Correct Answer: (A) P-V, Q-I, R-II, S-III, T-IV

Solution:

The correct pairing of UNESCO world heritage sites with their states is: - **Khajuraho Group of Monuments** is located in **Madhya Pradesh**. - **Kakatiya Rudreshwara Temple** is located in **Telangana**. - **Dholavira** is located in **Gujarat**. - **Group of Monuments at Hampi** is located in **Karnataka**. - **Khangchendzonga National Park** is located in **Sikkim**. Thus, the correct answer is **A**.

A

Q.14 According to the venture capital industry, what is a unicorn?

(A) Any start-up that reaches to employ 1000 people

(B) Any start-up that makes its owner a billionaire

(C) Any start-up that raises 1 billion in venture capital

(D) Any start-up that reaches the valuation of 1 billion

(E) Any start-up that gives a dividend of 1 billion to its shareholders

Correct Answer: (C) Any start-up that raises $1 billion in venture capital$

Solution:

In venture capital terminology, a **unicorn** refers to a privately held start-up company that has achieved a valuation of 1 billion or more, based on raising that amount in venture capital. This term is popular in the venture capital industry to identify high-growth start-ups.

Thus, the correct definition of a unicorn is **C**.

$$\boxed{C}$$

Q.15 What is OSIRIS-REx?

(A) It is a new variant of the novel Coronavirus

(B) It is the moon mission of JAXA

(C) It is the name of the latest launch vehicle of ESA

(D) It is a NASA asteroid-study mission

(E) It is the last satellite launched by ISRO

Correct Answer: (D) It is a NASA asteroid-study mission

Solution:

OSIRIS-REx is a NASA mission launched in 2016 to study the asteroid Bennu and return samples to Earth. It aims to better understand the origins of the solar system and the role that asteroids may have played in the origins of life on Earth.

Thus, the correct answer is **D**.

$$\boxed{D}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> OSIRIS-REx is part of NASA's efforts to explore asteroids and return samples for further study of our solar system's early days.

Q.16 Which of the following Indian states does not have an "Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)"?

(A) Punjab
(B) Karnataka
(C) Assam
(D) Haryana
(E) Chhattisgarh

Correct Answer: (D) Haryana

Solution:

India has 23 IITs spread across different states. These institutes are among the best in the country and are the premier institutions for technological education. Let's look at each state:
- **Punjab:** Punjab has an IIT, IIT Ropar.
- **Karnataka:** Karnataka has IIT Dharwad.

- **Assam:** Assam has IIT Guwahati.

- **Haryana:** Haryana does not have an IIT, and there is no IIT branch in Haryana.

- **Chhattisgarh:** Chhattisgarh has IIT Bhilai.

Thus, the state which does not have an IIT is **Haryana**, so the correct answer is **D**.

$$\boxed{D}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Remember the list of IITs across states for competitive exams. Being aware of their locations is vital.

Q.17 Match the animals listed below with the most common collective noun used to represent a group of them (e.g. wolves – Pack).

Animals		Collective Nouns
P. Eagles	I.	Tower
Q. Apes	II.	Quiver
R. Giraffes	III.	Kaleidoscope
S. Butterflies	IV.	Shrewdness
T. Cobras	V.	Convocation

(A) P-II, Q-IV, R-I, S-V, T-III

(B) P-II, Q-V, R-I, S-III, T-II

(C) P-V, Q-IV, R-I, S-III, T-II

(D) P-III, Q-V, R-I, S-II, T-IV

(E) P-V, Q-IV, R-I, S-II, T-IV

Correct Answer: (C) P-V, Q-IV, R-I, S-III, T-II

Solution:

In this question, we need to match the animals with their collective nouns. Here's the breakdown:

- **Eagles** - A group of eagles is called a **Convocation**.

- **Apes** - A group of apes is called a **Shrewdness**.

- **Giraffes** - A

- **Butterflies** - A group of butterflies is called a **Kaleidoscope**.

- **Cobras** - A group of cobras is called a **Quiver**.

Thus, the correct matching is **C**, as follows: - **P (Eagles)** with **V (Convocation)**

- **Q (Apes)** with **IV (Shrewdness)**

- **R (Giraffes)** with **I (Kaleidoscope)**

- **S (Butterflies)** with **III**

(Kaleidoscope) - **T (Cobras)** with **II (Quiver)**

Thus, the correct answer is **C**.

$\boxed{C}$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Collective nouns are unique and can make your vocabulary stand out, especially in competitive exams.

Q.18 Who is the first Field Marshal of independent India?

(A) Sam Manekshaw

(B) A.S. Vaidya

(C) KM Cariappa

(D) Krishnaswamy Sundarji

(E) Bipin Rawat

Correct Answer: (A) Sam Manekshaw

Solution:

The first Field Marshal of independent India was **Sam Manekshaw**. He was appointed as the Chief of Army Staff in 1969 and played a pivotal role in the 1971 India-Pakistan war, which led to the creation of Bangladesh. In 1973, he was promoted to the rank of Field Marshal,

becoming the first person in independent India to hold that position. Thus, the correct answer is **A**.

$$\boxed{A}$$

Q.19 What is the full form of NFT in the context of blockchain?

(A) Non-fungible token

(B) Non-functional tax

(C) Non-fakable token

(D) Non-fundable tax

(E) Neo-fictitious token

Correct Answer: (A) Non-fungible token

Solution:

In the context of blockchain, the term **NFT** stands for **Non-fungible token**. NFTs are unique digital assets that represent ownership or proof of authenticity for items such as digital art, music, videos, or even tweets. Unlike fungible tokens such as cryptocurrencies (Bitcoin, Ethereum), which are identical to each other, NFTs are unique and cannot be exchanged on a one-to-one basis. Thus, the correct answer is **A**.

$$\boxed{A}$$

Q.20 Which of the following spacecrafts by NASA entered the Sun's upper atmosphere – the Corona?

(A) Luminous Solar Probe

(B) Arka Solar Probe

(C) Helios Solar Probe

(D) Parker Solar Probe

(E) James Webb Solar Probe

Correct Answer: (D) Parker Solar Probe

Solution:

The **Parker Solar Probe** by NASA was launched in 2018 and is the first spacecraft to enter the Sun's corona. Its primary mission is to study the outermost layers of the Sun's atmosphere (the corona), including solar winds, magnetic fields, and how the Sun's activity impacts space weather. It passed closer to the Sun than any other spacecraft, providing unprecedented data. Thus, the correct answer is **D**.

$$\boxed{D}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> The Parker Solar Probe is one of NASA's most groundbreaking missions, helping us learn more about the Sun's behavior and its effects on Earth.

Q.21 What is the Large Hadron Collider (LHC)?

(A) The world's largest and most powerful electron beam

(B) The world's largest and most powerful nuclear reactor

(C) The world's largest and most powerful Aperture Spherical radio telescope

(D) The world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator

(E) The world's largest and most powerful water laser gun

Correct Answer: (D) The world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator

Solution:

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is the largest and most powerful particle accelerator in the world. Located at CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) in Geneva, Switzerland, the LHC is located underground and has a circumference of 27 kilometers. It is the world's most advanced particle physics laboratory, built to accelerate protons to nearly the speed of light and then collide them. The objective is to explore the fundamental particles that make up matter and understand how forces like gravity, electromagnetism, and nuclear forces operate at a microscopic level. One of the LHC's most significant achievements was its role in the discovery of the Higgs boson in 2012, a particle crucial to explaining why other particles have mass.

The LHC accelerates particles to incredibly high speeds using a series of superconducting magnets, and it can produce energy levels that replicate the conditions that existed moments after the Big Bang. This makes the LHC an essential tool in the quest to understand the universe at a fundamental level.

In summary, the LHC is the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator designed for groundbreaking research in particle physics. Hence, the correct answer is **D**.

$$\boxed{D}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> The discovery of the Higgs boson at the LHC has revolutionized our understanding of particle physics, validating the Standard Model and furthering the exploration of the universe.

Q.22 Which of the following wild animals has the sub-species as Sri Lankan, Indian, Sumatran, and Bornean?

(A) Rhinoceros (Rhinoceros unicornis)

(B) Spotted Deer (Axis axis)

(C) Tiger (Panthera tigris)

(D) Asian Elephant (Elephas maximus)

(E) Sarus Crane (Antigone antigone)

Correct Answer: (D) Asian Elephant (Elephas maximus)

Solution:

The only animal listed here that has the sub-species Sri Lankan, Indian, Sumatran, and Bornean is the **Asian Elephant** (**Elephas maximus**). The Asian elephant is distinguished by several subspecies based on their geographic locations. These include:

- **Sri Lankan** elephant (**Elephas maximus maximus**),

- **Indian** elephant (**Elephas maximus indicus**),

- **Sumatran** elephant (**Elephas maximus sumatranus**),

- **Bornean** elephant (**Elephas maximus borneensis**).

Other animals in the list, such as the rhinoceros, spotted deer, tiger, and Sarus crane, do not have the mentioned subspecies. Therefore, the correct answer is **D**.

$$\boxed{D}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> The Asian elephant is critically endangered. Protecting their natural habitat and preventing poaching are vital to conserving their population.

Q.23 Monosodium glutamate is:

(A) Not found in any fruit or vegetable

(B) The name of the company that makes Ajinomoto

(C) Found in tomatoes

(D) The reason one cries while peeling onions

(E) A misnomer since it does not contain sodium

Correct Answer: (C) Found in tomatoes

Solution:

Monosodium glutamate (MSG) is a flavor enhancer used extensively in the food industry, especially in Asian cuisines. It is a sodium salt of glutamic acid, one of the most common naturally occurring amino acids. Contrary to popular belief, MSG is not harmful for most people when consumed in reasonable amounts. In fact, it is found naturally in many foods, including tomatoes, cheese, and mushrooms.

The main reason for its use in food is that it enhances the savory or "umami" flavor. This flavor profile is one of the five basic tastes, alongside sweet, sour, salty, and bitter.

- **Option A** is incorrect since MSG is indeed found in tomatoes and several other vegetables, including peas and mushrooms.

- **Option B** is misleading as Ajinomoto is the brand name, not the product itself.

- **Option D** is incorrect because the compound that causes tears when cutting onions is a sulfuric compound, not MSG.

- **Option E** is false because MSG does, in fact, contain sodium as part of its molecular structure.

Thus, the correct answer is **C**.

$$\boxed{C}$$

Quick Tip

MSG is a safe and commonly used additive that enhances the umami flavor in food. It's found naturally in many foods, including tomatoes.

Q.24 Which of the following companies has acquired 100% stake in Air India?

(A) Adani Group

(B) Mahindra Group

(C) Tata Group

(D) Reliance Industries

(E) Aditya Birla Group

Correct Answer: (C) Tata Group

Solution:

The Tata Group has successfully acquired a 100% stake in Air India, making it the first time since 1953 that the airline has been privatized. The Indian government had been trying to sell Air India for several years due to the airline's large debts and mounting losses. After several rounds of bidding, the Tata Group emerged victorious, securing the deal in late 2021. This acquisition includes Air India and its subsidiary Air India Express, along with a significant share in its ground handling and cargo businesses. This deal marks a significant moment in Indian aviation history, as the Tata Group is the original founder of Air India, having established the airline in 1932.

Thus, the correct answer is **C**.

$$\boxed{C}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> The return of Air India to Tata Group marks a major turning point for India's aviation industry and is symbolic of India's privatization efforts.

Q.25 What is Zoonosis?

(A) A disease which can be transmitted to humans from animals

(B) A disease which can be transmitted to humans from zoo animals

(C) The study of Oonosis

(D) A disease which can be transmitted to humans from zygotes

(E) A state of affairs where human behavior imitates that of zoo animals

Correct Answer: (A) A disease which can be transmitted to humans from animals

Solution:

Zoonosis refers to diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans. These diseases can be caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi, or parasites, and they are often transmitted through

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direct contact with infected animals, or through vectors such as mosquitoes. Zoonotic diseases are a significant public health issue and include diseases like rabies, tuberculosis, malaria, and more recently, COVID-19. These diseases are responsible for many human infections, and prevention requires careful monitoring of human-animal interactions and animal health.

Thus, the correct answer is **A**.

$$\boxed{A}$$

> **Quick Tip**
>
> Zoonotic diseases are a major global health concern. Public health strategies should focus on preventing transmission through better animal control and hygiene.

Essay

Q1. Capitalism and democracy follow different paths: Unequally distributed property rights on the one hand, equal civic and political rights on the other; hierarchical decision making by managers and capital owners versus debate, compromise and majority decision-making within democratic politics. Therefore, they cannot co-exist.

Solution:

Essay:

Capitalism and democracy are two foundational concepts that have shaped political and economic landscapes across the globe. However, as highlighted in the given statement, these two systems follow divergent paths, and their co-existence is a matter of significant debate. While capitalism is characterized by unequal distribution of property and hierarchical structures, democracy is rooted in the principles of equality, fairness, and majority rule. These differences, when examined in-depth, suggest that capitalism and democracy might struggle to coexist harmoniously.

Capitalism and Its Inequalities

Capitalism thrives on the private ownership of property and the free market. In this system, resources and wealth are distributed unequally, with a significant concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a few individuals or corporations. The focus is on maximizing profits, and capital owners and managers have significant decision-making power over the workforce. In a capitalist society, economic hierarchies are deeply embedded, and social mobility is often limited to those with the means to accumulate capital. The capitalist model also supports competition, often at the expense of collaboration, with market forces determining the allocation of resources and opportunities.

Democracy and Its Egalitarian Principles

On the other hand, democracy is a political system based on the principles of equality, civic and political rights, and majority decision-making. In a democracy, every individual is granted equal rights, including the right to vote, express opinions, and participate in decision-making processes. Democratic governance relies on public debate, compromise, and collective decision-making, where power is vested in elected representatives chosen by the people. The democratic system seeks to minimize inequalities, offering citizens a sense of equality before the law and promoting individual freedoms. It ensures that each person's voice counts, and political decisions are made by the majority.

Contradictions Between Capitalism and Democracy

The fundamental contradiction between capitalism and democracy lies in their respective treatment of equality and power. While democracy aims for equal political and civic rights for all citizens, capitalism allows for the unequal distribution of wealth and power. In a capitalist system, decision-making is highly concentrated in the hands of a few, typically capital owners and corporate managers, who have the ability to influence political processes through lobbying and financial influence. This concentration of power contradicts the democratic ideal of collective decision-making, where power is meant to be distributed and exercised by the people.

Capitalism's Influence on Democracy

In many capitalist societies, the influence of money in politics becomes a critical issue. Wealthy individuals and corporations often use their economic power to shape political agendas, fund election campaigns, and sway public opinion. This creates a situation where

the interests of the wealthy few outweigh the concerns of the general population. As a result, political decisions may prioritize the interests of capital owners, further deepening social and economic inequalities. This undermines the democratic principle of one person, one vote, as the political system becomes more susceptible to the influence of

Conclusion:

While capitalism and democracy both offer valuable systems for organizing society, their co-existence remains problematic. The inherent contradictions between the unequal distribution of wealth and power in capitalism, and the emphasis on equality and majority rule in democracy, make it difficult for both systems to function in harmony. It is clear that the pursuit of economic growth and profit maximization, central to capitalism, often conflicts with the principles of democratic governance, where equality and collective decision-making are paramount. Thus, while they can coexist in certain forms, their full realization in tandem is an ideal that remains difficult to achieve.

Quick Tip

To understand the tension between capitalism and democracy, it's helpful to focus on how economic power influences political processes. Capitalism's inherent inequalities challenge the democratic ideal of political equality.

Q2. In management, we do not need people who never experienced a setback; such people are highly averse to taking risks. Because, business schools majorly focus on stellar academic achievements during admissions, the selected students often turn into average managers.

Solution:

Essay:

Management is often seen as a field that demands quick decision-making, the ability to navigate through challenges, and the flexibility to adapt to new situations. Yet, the selection criteria in most business schools often prioritize academic excellence, such as high GPAs and test scores, over practical experience or resilience in the face of adversity. This focus on

academic prowess can be problematic, as it selects individuals who may not have developed the resilience and risk-taking abilities that are essential for good management.

The Need for Resilience in Management:

In any management role, setbacks and challenges are inevitable. Whether it's managing a team, handling a business failure, or making a tough decision under pressure, managers will inevitably face difficulties that require them to adapt and find solutions. However, individuals who have never experienced significant setbacks may struggle in these high-pressure situations. Their lack of experience with failure makes them risk-averse, as they have not learned how to bounce back from mistakes or setbacks. This aversion to risk is problematic in a managerial context, where risk-taking is often required to make bold, innovative decisions that drive progress.

The Focus of Business Schools:

Most business schools place a strong emphasis on stellar academic performance during the admissions process. High GPAs, standardized test scores, and prestigious academic achievements often become the key criteria for acceptance into top programs. While these accomplishments reflect intellectual aptitude and academic discipline, they fail to account for qualities such as resilience, perseverance, and the ability to manage failure. Students who are selected based solely on their academic records might have excelled in structured environments but might not possess the skills needed to thrive in real-world, unpredictable situations.

The Effect on Managers:

Once admitted to business school, students who have never faced significant setbacks are often shielded from the real-world challenges of management. These students may excel in theoretical subjects and case studies but may lack the experience needed to handle high-pressure situations or failures in their careers. They may lack the practical skills and mental toughness required to navigate setbacks, making them prone to making cautious, conservative decisions in their professional roles. Over time, this can turn them into average managers who play it safe, avoiding risks rather than embracing them.

A Shift in Selection Criteria:

To produce better managers, business schools need to reconsider their selection criteria. In addition to academic achievements, schools should focus on a candidate's resilience, emotional intelligence, and experience with adversity. Selecting students who have faced challenges and setbacks, and who have demonstrated the ability to overcome them, can ensure that the future leaders of organizations are equipped to handle uncertainty and take calculated risks when necessary. Business schools should aim to identify individuals who can not only excel in a classroom environment but who can also thrive in the dynamic, unpredictable world of management.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the current focus on academic achievement during business school admissions may inadvertently lead to the selection of individuals who are highly risk-averse and ill-equipped to handle the challenges of management. To produce effective and dynamic leaders, business schools must focus on selecting students with resilience, adaptability, and a proven ability to overcome setbacks. These qualities are essential for success in management, where the ability to take risks and learn from failure is paramount.

> **Quick Tip**
>
> In business management, failure is often the best teacher. Resilience and the ability to learn from mistakes are critical skills for successful leadership.