

LEGALEDGE TEST SERIES
MOCK COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST 2024-25
MOCK CLAT 22

TR ID.

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(In Figures)



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Duration of Test : 2 Hours (120 Minutes)

Maximum Marks : 120

1. Separate carbonised Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Response Sheet is supplied along with this Questions Booklet and the carbon copy has to be detached and taken by the candidates.
2. In case of any discrepancy in the question booklet (QB), please request the invigilator for replacement of a fresh packet of QB with OMR. Do not use the previous OMR response Sheet for a fresh booklet so obtained.
3. Candidates will not be given a second blank OMR response Sheet under any circumstance. Hence, OMR response Sheet shall be handled carefully.
4. Answer all questions. No clarification can be sought on the Questions Paper
5. Possession of electronic devices in any form is strictly prohibited in the examination Hall.
6. The use of any unfair means by any candidate shall result in the cancellation of his/her examination.
7. Impersonation is an offense and the candidate, apart from disqualification, will be liable to be prosecuted.
8. The test Paper for Five Year integrated Law Programme is for 120 marks containing 120 multiple Choice Questions.
9. There will be Negative marking for multiple choice objective type questions. 0.25 marks will be deducted for every wrong answer or where candidates have marked more than one response.
10. Use **BLACK/BLUE BALL POINT PEN** only for writing the roll No. and other details on OMR response Sheet.
11. Use **BLACK/BLUE BALL POINT PEN** for shading the circles. Indicate only the most appropriate answer by shading from the options provided. The answer circle should be shaded completely without leaving any space.
12. As the responses cannot be modified/corrected on the OMR Response Sheet, candidates have to take necessary precautions before marking the appropriate circle.
13. The candidate should retain the Admit Card duly Signed by the invigilator, as the same has to be produced at the time of Admission.
14. Handle the OMR response Sheet with care. Do not fold.
15. Ensure that invigilator puts his/her signature in the space provided on the OMR response Sheet. Candidate should sign in the space provided on the OMR response Sheet.
16. The candidate should write Question Paper booklet No., and OMR response Sheet No., and sign in the space/column provided in the attendance sheet.
17. Return the Original Page of OMR response Sheet to the invigilator after the examination.
18. The candidate shall not write anything on the OMR response Sheet other than the details required and in the spaces provided for.

CONTENT OF QUESTION PAPER

Subject	Q. No.	Page No.
English Language	01-24	3
Current Affairs and General Knowledge	25-52	10
Legal Reasoning	53-84	15
Logical Reasoning	85-108	24
Quantitative Techniques	109-120	31

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SECTION-A : ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Directions (Q.1-Q.24): Read the passage carefully and answer the questions.

Passage (Q.1-Q.6): “In public, your bottom should emit no secret winds past your thighs. It disgraces you if other people notice any of your smelly filth.” This useful bit of advice for young courtiers in the early 13th century appears in “The Book of the Civilised Man”, a poem by Daniel of Beccles. It is the first English guide to manners.

Ian Mortimer, a historian, argues that this and other popular works of advice that began appearing around the same time represent something important: a growing sense of social self-awareness, self-evaluation and self-control. Why then? Probably because of the revival of glass mirrors in the 12th century, which had disappeared from Europe after the fall of Rome. The mirror made it possible for men and women to see themselves as others did. It confirmed their individuality and inspired a greater sense of autonomy and potential. By 1500 mirrors were cheap, and their impact had spread through society.

Mr Mortimer sets out to show that the medieval period, from 1000 to 1600, is profoundly misunderstood. It was not a backward and unchanging time marked by violence, ignorance and superstition. Instead, huge steps in social and economic progress were made, and the foundations of the modern world were laid.

The misapprehension came about because people’s notion of progress is so bound up with scientific and technological developments that came later, particularly with the industrial and digital revolutions. The author recounts one claim he has heard: that a contemporary schoolchild (armed with her iPhone) knows more about the world than did the greatest scientist of the 16th century.

Never mind that astronomers such as Copernicus and Galileo knew much more about the stars than most children do today. Could a modern architect (without his computer) build a stone spire like Lincoln Cathedral’s, which is 160 metres (525 feet) tall and was completed by 1311? Between 1000 and 1300 the height of the London skyline quintupled, whereas between 1300 and the completion of the 72-storey Shard in 2010, it only doubled. Inventions, including gunpowder, the magnetic compass and the printing press, all found their way from China to transform war, navigation and literacy.

This led to many “expanding horizons” for Europeans. Travel was one. In the 11th century no European had any idea what lay to the east of Jerusalem or south of the Sahara. By 1600 there had been several circumnavigations of the globe.

Law and order was another frontier. Thanks to the arrival of paper from China in the 12th century and the advent of the printing press in the 1430s, document-creation and record-keeping, which are fundamental to administration, surged. Between 1000 and 1600 the number of words written and printed in England went from about 1m a year to around 100bn. In England, a centralised legal and criminal-justice system evolved rapidly from the 12th century. Violent deaths declined from around 23 per 100,000 in the 1300s to seven per 100,000 in the late 16th century.

Another “horizon” was speed and the sense of urgency that went with it. By 1600 a letter bearing important news could be carried 200 miles in a single day, thanks to people starting to use relays of horses at staging posts. Over the course of the 14th century mechanical clocks were developed, allowing time to be standardised and appointments to be kept.

The period was also marked by growing personal freedom, with the banning of slavery within England by the English church in 1102 and the rapid decline of serfdom after the Black Death of 1348-49, when nearly half the labour force died. Political power expanded to include a growing land and property-owning yeoman class. Whoever thinks the Middle Ages were all darkness has a middling understanding of history’s truths.

1. Based on the passage, how did the development of mechanical clocks impact society in the 14th century?
 - (a) It led to the widespread standardization of timekeeping, improving punctuality and societal efficiency.
 - (b) Mechanical clocks were primarily used for navigational purposes, enhancing exploration and trade.
 - (c) The invention marked a shift towards a more secular society by regulating daily prayers.
 - (d) Clocks introduced a new form of art and craftsmanship, elevating aesthetic standards.

2. What does Ian Mortimer suggest about the role of glass mirrors in the social development of the 12th century?
 - (a) Mirrors facilitated an enhanced personal grooming and fashion sense among the elite.
 - (b) They symbolized technological advancement and luxury, reflecting societal wealth and progress.
 - (c) Mirrors led to a growing sense of individuality and self-awareness, affecting social behaviors.
 - (d) They were used primarily by artists and craftsmen to improve their work's accuracy.

3. What can be inferred about the societal changes following the Black Death, particularly in relation to personal freedom and labor dynamics?
 - (a) The Black Death significantly increased the mobility of the remaining workforce.
 - (b) Slavery within England was immediately abolished following the Black Death.
 - (c) Serfdom experienced a rapid decline due to the drastic reduction in the labor force.
 - (d) The wages of laborers saw a decrease due to the Black Death's impact on the economy.

4. Why does the author mention the advancements in architecture, such as the construction of Lincoln Cathedral's spire, in the discussion of the medieval period?
 - (a) To highlight the medieval period's reliance on manual labor and traditional construction methods.
 - (b) To illustrate the period's architectural achievements as evidence of technological progress.
 - (c) To contrast medieval architectural practices with those of the industrial revolution.
 - (d) To underscore the role of the church in promoting cultural and architectural developments.

5. What main argument does Ian Mortimer make regarding the common perceptions of the medieval period?
 - (a) The period was marked by significant social and technological regression from previous eras.
 - (b) It was a time of profound ignorance and superstition, with little to no progress.
 - (c) Medieval society was highly advanced in its legal and administrative systems compared to earlier times.
 - (d) The medieval period is misunderstood and was actually a time of substantial progress and development.

6. How does the increase in written and printed words in England from 1000 to 1600 illustrate the period's progress, according to the passage?
 - (a) It shows a shift towards a more literate society, emphasizing education and scholarly activities.
 - (b) The rise in documentation reflects the expansion of bureaucracy and governance complexity.
 - (c) This growth signifies the technological advancements in printing, enhancing information dissemination.
 - (d) It indicates a broader cultural shift towards valuing written records for legal and historical purposes.

Passage (Q.7-Q.12): As the Conservative party has charted an increasingly chaotic course towards the end of the current parliament, byelection sorrows have come not as single spies but in battalions. Thursday's twin defeats to Labour in Kingswood and Wellingborough – comprehensive in the former, utterly humiliating in the latter – were the ninth and 10th Tory losses since 2019, a postwar record. The 28.5% blue-red swing to Labour in Wellingborough was the biggest since 1994, and the second-largest since 1945. Repeatedly across the country, and in different kinds of seats, the depth of the desire for change and a new political settlement is being made crystal clear.

In the aftermath of yet another torrid night for Rishi Sunak, Tory spinners pleaded mitigating circumstances, such as a low turnout and a protest dimension to the vote that will diminish at a general election. In Wellingborough, the choice of the partner of the disgraced Conservative MP Peter Bone as the party's candidate

to succeed him clearly added insult to injury as far as many constituents were concerned. But local factors aside, the sense of a party running out of time, options and ideas to turn things around is palpable.

For Mr Sunak, by far the most ominous takeout of the evening was the performance of the Brexit party's successor organisation, Reform UK. In Wellingborough, a record election vote share of 13% confirmed the party as a potent threat to the Conservatives from the right, and places Mr Sunak in a strategic bind that appears all but insoluble. The rebellious right of his own party has been handed crucial ammunition as it calls for ever more extreme moves on immigration, including withdrawal from the European court of human rights. Yet such an approach risks haemorrhaging votes to Labour and the Lib Dems in "blue wall" seats Mr Sunak must hold in order to avoid a historic wipeout. If Nigel Farage, Reform's honorary president, decides to enter the election fray as a candidate, the coming election will double as a vehicle for a bloody existential battle over the long-term future of British Conservatism.

Such a civil war scenario will, of course, be hugely to Labour's benefit. After enduring a difficult month, Sir Keir Starmer can feel relieved that his party's U-turn on its green deal and recent events in Rochdale did not deliver visible damage at Thursday's polls. Translated nationally, the swings in Kingswood and Wellingborough would deliver respectively either a comfortable majority or a landslide.

Nevertheless, both byelections offered another sign of the times that should be viewed by Labour as less reassuring. Notably poor voter turnouts of less than 40% do not suggest a groundswell of enthusiasm for Sir Keir and his party's hyper-cautious approach to winning power. This should give Labour's strategists pause for thought as they seek a durable and progressive mandate. More broadly, widespread electoral apathy testifies to a disturbing crisis of faith in the ability of governments to address the challenges of the age – from the climate emergency to prolonged economic stagnation and broken public services.

After 14 years that have left Britain feeling poorer, angrier and more divided, the desire to see the back of the Tories is widespread and apparently immovable. For Labour, though, the challenge remains one of demonstrating its credentials as something more than a mere repository for antipathy towards a failed, exhausted government.

7. Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the public's perception of the Conservative party's handling of recent political challenges?
 - (a) The public is largely indifferent to the party's efforts to navigate political upheavals.
 - (b) There is a significant portion of the electorate that supports the Conservative party's strategies.
 - (c) The Conservative party is perceived as having a clear and effective plan for political challenges.
 - (d) The public's faith in the Conservative party's ability to address political issues is waning.

8. According to the passage, what specific event contributed significantly to the Conservative party's defeat in Wellingborough?
 - (a) The Conservative party's failure to address economic stagnation effectively.
 - (b) The selection of the partner of the disgraced Conservative MP Peter Bone as candidate.
 - (c) Public dissatisfaction with the Conservative party's approach to the climate emergency.
 - (d) The Conservative party's controversial stance on immigration policies.

9. What is the primary purpose of mentioning the Brexit party's successor, Reform UK, and its performance in the passage?
 - (a) To highlight the increasing popularity of right-wing parties in the UK.
 - (b) To illustrate the potential for a more extreme political climate in the future.
 - (c) To underscore the strategic challenges facing Rishi Sunak and the Conservative party.
 - (d) To demonstrate the effectiveness of Brexit-focused political strategies.

10. How does the passage compare the implications of the byelection results for the Conservative party to those for the Labour party?
- (a) Both parties are seen as equally responsible for the current political dissatisfaction.
 - (b) The Conservative party faces an existential crisis, while Labour sees an opportunity for gain.
 - (c) Labour's strategy is validated as entirely effective, whereas the Conservatives' approach is not.
 - (d) The results suggest a shift in public loyalty from Labour to the Conservative party.
11. What does the passage suggest are the potential consequences of Nigel Farage deciding to enter the election fray as a candidate for Reform UK?
- (a) Reform UK could potentially become the leading party, overshadowing both Labour and Conservatives.
 - (b) It could signify a shift in political focus towards more extreme immigration policies.
 - (c) Nigel Farage's candidacy could intensify the ideological divide within the Conservative party.
 - (d) Farage entering the election could result in an immediate loss of support for Labour.
12. What is the overall tone of the passage regarding the future prospects of the Conservative party?
- (a) Optimistic, suggesting the party is on the verge of a major comeback.
 - (b) Neutral, offering an unbiased analysis of both successes and failures.
 - (c) Pessimistic, indicating a party struggling with internal and external challenges.
 - (d) Indifferent, showing little concern for the party's future outcomes.

Passage (Q.13-Q.18): According to the National Institute of Mental Health, nearly a third of U.S. adults have experienced at least one form of anxiety disorder at some point in their lives. What is more, anxiety in the United States is on the rise with drastic upticks being recorded even in the years leading up to the pandemic. And, yet, while psychological measurements and diagnostic manuals can help us to identify and treat those suffering from anxiety, they fall well short of explaining it. Indeed, in spite of anxiety's near-ubiquity—Who hasn't felt anxious at one time or another?—the concept of anxiety remains opaque.

Why this is the case may have something to do with the fact that anxiety is incredibly commonplace. We tend not to recognize, let alone understand, the things we experience most. More than that, however, is the fact that the cause of one's anxiety is often elusive. Anxiety has a knack for striking when things are going well. In the midst of struggle and chaos, it is noticeably absent. But when the calamity subsides and the tension is resolved, only then does it rear its menacing head.

This perplexing attribute garnered the attention of the 19th-century existential philosopher Søren Kierkegaard, who devoted multiple works to unpacking anxiety, both theoretically and experientially. For Kierkegaard, anxiety is intimately linked with self-reflection—our awareness that we exist as individuals and our ability to critically examine ourselves. Human beings, he says, possess a capacity that appears to be absent in other living creatures. We are self-conscious. Our psyches are not simply directed outward at the world around us. We can pause and reflect upon our behavior. We can evaluate ourselves.

This faculty of self-examination has rightly been lauded throughout the history of human thought. According to Plato, "the unexamined life is not worth living," and part of our job as therapists is to help bring to consciousness past experiences that remain repressed and thus hidden from our patients' conscious lives. Yet, for Kierkegaard, the benefits of self-reflection do not come without their drawbacks. To be self-aware, he says, is to be responsible, to recognize oneself as being implicated in the lives—and, thus, the suffering—of others. When we reflect upon ourselves, we often notice the ways we have failed to live up to that responsibility, the times we have shirked or even simply neglected it.

Such responsibility, Kierkegaard says, comes from the fact that, as self-conscious beings, we recognize the freedom we have to choose between various possibilities. "A tree among trees, a cat among animals," to use

Camus' famous formulation, never reflects upon the fact that it could have acted otherwise. It does not look back and regret its choices. What is more, such beings do not anticipate an unrealized future and see the myriad possibilities that lay ahead of them.

Human beings, on the other hand, do. For us, anxiety is about what we have done (or failed to do) and what we might do (or fail to do). It is an anxiety about the fact that, as free beings, we live with an infinite number of possibilities before us and an infinite number of unrealized possibilities already behind us. While our lives are made up of the moments we actually experience, our psyches are racked by possibilities that have never or will never occur.

13. How does the passage connect the increase in anxiety disorders in the United States to the existential perspective of human freedom and responsibility outlined by Kierkegaard?
 - (a) By suggesting that modern societal pressures diminish our sense of freedom and increase anxiety.
 - (b) It implies that the rise in anxiety is directly linked to an increase in societal responsibilities.
 - (c) The passage argues that increased self-awareness in modern times has heightened existential anxiety.
 - (d) It proposes that the ubiquity of anxiety reflects a deeper, existential crisis about choice and freedom.
14. What is the primary focus of the passage regarding the nature and understanding of anxiety in the United States?
 - (a) Exploring the historical increase in anxiety disorders before the pandemic.
 - (b) Analyzing the psychological tools used to diagnose anxiety disorders.
 - (c) Discussing the reasons why anxiety is often not fully understood or recognized.
 - (d) Outlining the treatments available for those suffering from anxiety disorders.
15. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, what percentage of U.S. adults have experienced at least one form of anxiety disorder in their lifetime?
 - (a) Nearly 20% of U.S. adults have faced an anxiety disorder at some point.
 - (b) About a quarter of U.S. adults have dealt with anxiety disorders.
 - (c) Almost one-third of U.S. adults have encountered an anxiety disorder.
 - (d) Over 40% of U.S. adults have experienced an anxiety disorder at some stage.
16. From the passage, what can be inferred about the potential reasons why anxiety might increase during times of peace or resolution rather than in times of struggle?
 - (a) Anxiety may manifest more during peace due to the lack of immediate, external threats to focus on.
 - (b) The human mind requires constant engagement, and peace can lead to overthinking and anxiety.
 - (c) During peace, individuals have more time to reflect on personal responsibilities and missed opportunities.
 - (d) Peaceful times often bring about a sense of uncertainty about the future, leading to anxiety.
17. What figure of speech is employed by the passage in describing human beings' capacity to reflect on their actions compared to other beings?
 - (a) Metaphor
 - (b) Simile
 - (c) Personification
 - (d) Hyperbole
18. What role does the concept of responsibility play in Kierkegaard's analysis of self-awareness and anxiety?
 - (a) Responsibility is seen as a burden that only intensifies as one's self-awareness grows.
 - (b) It acts as a catalyst for existential dread by highlighting our freedom to choose.
 - (c) Kierkegaard views responsibility primarily as a societal imposition that triggers anxiety.
 - (d) Responsibility underscores the importance of moral choices in alleviating existential anxiety.

Passage (Q.19-Q.24): When King Charles III put a picture of a Green Man on the invitations to his coronation in May, there was much discussion of what the leafy-faced symbol might signify. Was Britain's new monarch hinting that he was a pagan? Or was he referring to the Green Man Inn in "**The Wicker Man**", a classic British film which was released 50 years ago, in December 1973?

Most royal-watchers agreed that His Majesty is probably just a lover of the great outdoors and had not succumbed to Wicker-mania. (The Green Man is not so much a pagan symbol as one of rebirth more generally.) But the film is so influential that the theory cannot be discounted altogether.

Along with two other British cult favourites, "Witchfinder General" (1968) and "The Blood on Satan's Claw" (1971), "The Wicker Man" defined the genre of "folk horror": stories which find something eerie, menacing yet alluringly licentious in remote villages, wild landscapes and ancient heathen rites. Recent films such as "Enys Men", "Men", "Midsommar" and "The Witch" have revived the genre. A British sitcom, "The Change", concluded with the annual Eel Festival in the Forest of Dean.

"The Wicker Man" follows a policeman, Sergeant Howie (Edward Woodward), who travels to a Hebridean island to investigate reports of a missing girl. The islanders are courteous enough, but their evasions and denials bamboozle the buttoned-up sergeant. The one thing that is clear to him is that the locals have abandoned Christianity and now worship "the old gods", under the tutelage of a jovial aristocrat, Lord Summerisle (Christopher Lee). As Sergeant Howie is a devout Christian, this state of affairs troubles him almost as much as the girl's disappearance.

Despite its folk-horror label, "The Wicker Man" defies easy categorisation. It is not scary until it reaches its shocking climax; the early scenes have so many jokes that the film seems like a fish-out-of-water comedy. It has enough songs to qualify as a musical.

More than anything, "The Wicker Man" is an affectionate, detailed picture of an idyllic neo-pagan community. Rather than conducting occult rituals in the dead of night, the cheerful islanders practise their faith in broad daylight, whether they're treating a girl's sore throat by popping a live toad in her mouth or dancing naked around a bonfire. ("It's much too dangerous to jump through the fire with your clothes on," reasons Lord Summerisle.)

It is this breezy respect for the islanders' beliefs that makes "The Wicker Man" seem so resonant today. Neo-paganism has been a hot topic lately, and not just because of King Charles. In the census of 2021, 74,000 people identified as pagan—up by 17,000 since 2011. For the first time ever, less than half of the citizens of England and Wales described themselves as Christian.

Sergeant Howie would be appalled, but as the world becomes ever more frenetic and technological, and the fight against climate change becomes ever more desperate, there is a nostalgic appeal to traditions which are embedded in nature, the countryside and the changing of the seasons. On one level, "The Wicker Man" may have been intended as a warning against indulging in arcane and prurient superstitions, but today it comes across as an advert for them: a welcoming beginner's guide. If viewers can overlook a certain human sacrifice, they may well feel that frolicking around a scenic island with Lord Summerisle is a lot more attractive than heading back to the mainland with stuffy Sergeant Howie.

19. According to the passage, how does "The Wicker Man" differ from traditional horror movies?
- (a) It incorporates musical elements, qualifying it fully as a musical.
 - (b) It portrays a neo-pagan community in a detailed and affectionate manner.
 - (c) It only becomes truly scary during its shocking climax.
 - (d) It uses comedy and jokes in the early scenes, unlike typical horror films.

20. What can be inferred about King Charles III's reasons for including the Green Man symbol on his coronation invitations?
- (a) He intended to signal a departure from traditional Christian symbols in royal ceremonies.
 - (b) He wished to hint at a personal fascination with the film "The Wicker Man."
 - (c) He aimed to express his appreciation for nature and the outdoors.
 - (d) He was making a subtle declaration of support for neo-pagan beliefs.
21. How might the depiction of neo-paganism in "The Wicker Man" influence contemporary views on pagan traditions?
- (a) It may reinforce stereotypes about pagan practices being primitive and superstitious.
 - (b) It could spark interest in pagan traditions by showcasing them as joyous and communal.
 - (c) It might cause viewers to view pagan traditions as inherently linked to horror and fear.
 - (d) It could discourage modern interest in pagan traditions by highlighting their darker aspects.
22. How does the passage explain the appeal of "The Wicker Man" and similar folk horror stories in the context of modern challenges like climate change?
- (a) By suggesting they offer a form of escapism from the complexities of modern life.
 - (b) Through their potential to promote environmental awareness by emphasizing nature-centric traditions.
 - (c) By highlighting their role in reviving interest in ancient, nature-based spiritual practices.
 - (d) They are seen as cautionary tales that warn against the dangers of ignoring traditional wisdom.
23. According to the passage, what is a unique aspect of the neo-pagan community's practices depicted in "The Wicker Man"?
- (a) The community conducts rituals in secret to avoid scrutiny from outsiders.
 - (b) The community practices their faith openly, such as dancing naked around a bonfire.
 - (c) They exclusively perform rituals during the night to connect with ancient deities.
 - (d) The rituals are based on dark magic and involve harmful practices to outsiders.
24. What is the primary purpose of the passage?
- (a) To analyze the resurgence of pagan beliefs in modern England and Wales.
 - (b) To explore the thematic elements of "The Wicker Man" and its influence on film.
 - (c) To critique the portrayal of neo-paganism in British folk horror cinema.
 - (d) To discuss the significance of the Green Man symbol in contemporary culture.

SECTION -B : CURRENT AFFAIRS, INCLUDING GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Directions (Q.25-Q.52): Read the information carefully and answer the questions.

Passage (Q.25-Q.30): World Day of Social Justice

Every year on [X] the World Day of Social Justice is observed worldwide. As grave injustices and widespread labour insecurity threaten social issues, the day stresses the need to build fairer and more equitable societies. The theme of World Day of Social Justice 2024 is "Bridging Gaps, Building Alliances". The United Nations chose this theme to emphasise the importance of collaboration and partnership in addressing the world's challenges. On 26 November 2007, the United Nations General Assembly declared that starting from the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, [X] will be celebrated annually as the World Day of Social Justice.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) unanimously adopted the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization on 10 June [a].

The idea behind celebrating World Day of Social Justice is that improving social justice should be the primary goal of all national and international policies.

"Supporters contend that promoting decent work and a fair globalization agenda focused on fundamental rights, employment opportunities, social protections, and constructive social dialogue between governments, employers, and workers is key to putting social justice at the core," according to the United Nations (UN) website.

However, advocates point out the persisting grave injustices, widespread labour insecurity, high inequality, and unravelling social contracts exacerbated by global crises," the UN said.

<https://www.livemint.com>

25. What has been redacted by [X] in this passage?
(a) 08 February (b) 28 February (c) 20 February (d) 22 February
26. According to supporters, what are the key elements of a fair globalization agenda focused on social justice?
(a) Environmental protection and sustainability
(b) Cultural preservation and heritage
(c) Fundamental rights, employment opportunities, social protections, and constructive social dialogue
(d) Technological innovation and digitalization
27. How would the proposed Global Coalition for Social Justice empower national social dialogues?
(a) By imposing regulations on member states
(b) By providing financial incentives to participating countries
(c) By identifying and addressing social justice gaps through constructive dialogue
(d) By enforcing punitive measures on countries with social justice violations
28. What is the proposed aim of the Global Coalition for Social Justice regarding impactful initiatives?
(a) To restrict the sharing of successful social justice initiatives
(b) To highlight impactful initiatives that have successfully advanced social justice worldwide
(c) To impose regulations on initiatives that promote social justice
(d) To focus solely on domestic initiatives rather than global collaboration

29. Consider the following statements:
- On 26 November 2007, the General Assembly declared that, starting from the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, 20 February will be celebrated annually as the World Day of Social Justice.
 - The International Labour Organization (ILO) unanimously adopted the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization on 10 June 2008.
- Both I & II are incorrect.
 - Only I is correct.
 - Both I & II are correct.
 - Only II is correct.
30. Who out of the following is the 11th Director-General of International Labour Organization (ILO)?
- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
 - Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
 - António Guterres
 - Gilbert F. Houngbo

Passage (Q.31-Q.36): ADITI Scheme

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launched Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies, during DefConnect 2024 in New Delhi on March 04, 2024. Under the scheme, start-ups are eligible to receive grant-in-aid of up to Rs 25 crore for their research, development, and innovation endeavours in defence technology. “The scheme will nurture the innovation of youth, and help the country leap forward in the field of technology,” the Raksha Mantri said as he addressed a gathering of industry leaders, entrepreneurs, innovators, and policymakers.

The ADITI scheme worth Rs 750 crore for the period [X] falls under the iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) framework of Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence. It aims to develop about 30 deep-tech critical and strategic technologies in the proposed timeframe. It also envisages to create a ‘Technology Watch Tool’ to bridge the gap between the expectations and requirements of the modern Armed Forces and the capabilities of the defence innovation ecosystem. In the first edition of ADITI, 17 challenges – Indian Army (3), Indian Navy (5), Indian Air Force (5) and Defence Space Agency (4) - have been launched. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2011171>

31. What has been redacted by [X] in this passage?
- 2023-24 to 2025-26
 - 2022-23 to 2023-24
 - 2020-21 to 2022-23
 - 2021-22 to 2023-24
32. Consider the following statements about ADITI Scheme:
- The ADITI Scheme comes as an expansion of the iDEX (Innovations for Defense Excellence) initiative, which, as per the MoD, reflects the government's ‘commitment’ to encourage innovative ideas among the youth.
 - In its first edition, the ADITI Scheme has launched 17 challenges across various branches of the Indian Armed Forces, including the Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, and the Defense Space Agency.
- Only I is correct.
 - Both I & II are correct.
 - Only II is correct.
 - Both I & II are incorrect.
33. What was the annual domestic defence production in 2014?(Approximately)
- Rs 50,000 crore
 - Rs 75,000 crore
 - Rs 1 lakh crore
 - Rs 44,000 crore
34. How much assistance has been increased under iDEX Prime, according to the ADITI Scheme?
- From Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore
 - From Rs 2 crore to Rs 10 crore
 - From Rs 1.5 crore to Rs 10 crore
 - From Rs 10 crore to Rs 15 crore

35. What was the focus of the technology showcase organized by iDEX-Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) as part of DefConnect 2024?
- (a) Space exploration (b) Defence innovation
(c) Renewable energy (d) Healthcare technology
36. What was the theme of the panel discussion held during DefConnect 2024?
- (a) Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (b) Women as Drivers of Change
(c) Cybersecurity (d) Financial institutions and start-ups

Passage (Q.37-Q.42): What are electoral bonds?

Electoral bonds are a relatively new concept in the realm of political funding in India. Introduced in **2017**, electoral bonds enabled individuals and corporate groups to donate unlimited amounts of money to any political party anonymously. Until a landmark decision by the Supreme Court in mid-February to scrap the seven-year-old election funding system, just weeks before Lok Sabha elections due in April-May this year, the bonds were purchased by donors in fixed denominations from State Bank of India (SBI) and handed over to any political party, which could cash them using a bank account. The bonds did not require the beneficiary political parties to disclose the name of the donor to anyone, even the Election Commission of India (ECI).

As per the electoral bond scheme, an electoral bond was issued in the nature of a promissory note, which was bearer in character. A bearer instrument does not carry the name of the buyer or payee, hence no ownership information is recorded, and the holder of the instrument is presumed to be its owner, according to the [X]. In light of the concerns raised about electoral bonds, there were calls for reforms to ensure greater transparency and accountability in political funding.

<https://www.zeebiz.com>

37. What has been redacted by [X] in this passage?
- (a) Association for Development Resources (ADR)
(b) Association for Direct Reforms (ADR)
(c) Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)
(d) Association for Demographic Resources (ADR)
38. What did the Supreme Court of India dismissed a plea filed by the State Bank of India for?
- (a) Extension to stop issuing fresh electoral bonds
(b) Extension to furnish details of electoral bonds
(c) Extension to challenge the constitutionality of the electoral bond scheme
(d) Extension to delay the implementation of the court's judgment
39. According to the Supreme Court's judgment, what was the electoral bond scheme deemed to be?
- (a) Unconstitutional and arbitrary (b) Constitutional and transparent
(c) Violative of electoral laws (d) Manifestly arbitrary under Article 19
40. Which institution was supposed to receive the details of electoral bonds from the State Bank of India?
- (a) Election Commission of India (ECI) (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
(c) Ministry of Finance (MoF) (d) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
41. Consider the following statements:
- I. Supreme Court dismisses SBI's plea for extension to submit electoral bonds data, orders disclosure by March 12. ECI to publish details by March 15.
- II. A five-judge Supreme Court bench on Monday dismissed an application by State Bank of India (SBI) seeking time till June 30 to submit details of electoral bonds (EBs) purchased since April 12, 2019, to the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- (a) Both I & II are incorrect. (b) Only I is correct.
(c) Both I & II are correct. (d) Only II is correct.

42. Who out of the following was the first Chief Justice of India?
- (a) H. J. Kania (b) D.Y. Chandrachud
(c) M. Patanjali Shastri (d) Mohammad Hidayatullah

Passage (Q.43-Q.48): 7th Indian Ocean Conference

The Indian Ocean Conference is a flagship consultative forum for countries in the Indian Ocean Region, organized annually by the Ministry of External Affairs, in association with the India Foundation. The 7th edition of the Indian Ocean Conference is being held in [X] on 9-10 February, 2024 in association with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Australia, along with S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore and Perth-US Asia Centre in Australia. The theme of this edition of the conference is "[a]". External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar would address the inaugural session of the Conference, along with H.E Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, President of Sri Lanka, Ms Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia and Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore. The 7th Indian Ocean Conference will also bring together delegations led by Ministers from over 22 countries and senior officials from 16 countries and 6 multilateral organizations. The Conference will also witness the participation of over 400 social and corporate leaders, policy practitioners, scholars, professionals, and media personnel from about 40 countries. Since its debut in 2016 in [z], over the years, the Indian Ocean Conference has played an important role in bringing together countries and principal maritime partners of the region together on a common platform to deliberate upon the prospects of regional cooperation for Security and Growth for All in the Region.

<https://www.mea.gov.in/press>

43. What has been redacted by [X] in this passage?
- (a) New Delhi, India (b) Paris, France
(c) Perth, Australia (d) Dubai, UAE
44. What does SAGAR stand for in the context of the Indian Ocean Conference?
- (a) Sustainable Advancements for Global Action and Recovery
(b) Security and Growth for All in the Region
(c) Sustainable Alliance for Global Advancement and Recovery
(d) Stability and Growth for the Asian Region
45. Where was the first edition of the Indian Ocean conference held in 2016?
- (a) Dubai (b) Singapore (c) Perth (d) New Delhi
46. What is the theme of the 7th Indian Ocean Conference?
- (a) Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)
(b) Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean
(c) Enhancing Stability and Sustainability in the Indian Ocean
(d) Collaborative Efforts for Regional Prosperity
47. Who out of the following is the present Prime minister of Australia?
- (a) Andrew Barr (b) Ms Penny Wong (c) Anthony Albanese (d) Katy Gallagher
48. Consider the following statements:
- I. The Indian Ocean Conference has played an important role in bringing together countries and principal maritime partners of the region together on a common platform to deliberate upon the prospects of regional cooperation for Security and Growth for All in the Region.
- II. The theme of the 2024 edition of the conference is "Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean".
- (a) Both I & II are incorrect. (b) Only I is correct.
(c) Only II is correct. (d) Both I & II are correct.

Passage (Q.49-Q.52): Gupteswar Forest in Odisha declared Biodiversity-Heritage Site

The pristine Gupteswar Forest, adjacent to Gupteswar Shiva temple in Odisha's [X] has been declared as the fourth Biodiversity-Heritage Site (BHS) of the state, a government notification said.

The site is spread over 350 hectares of demarcated area. Along with its sacred grooves traditionally worshipped by the local community, the site is bestowed with a wide range of flora and fauna, the notification said.

The biodiversity inventory and survey conducted by the Odisha Biodiversity Board shows the presence of at least 608 faunal species including 28 species of mammals, 188 species of birds, 18 species of amphibia, 48 species of reptiles, 45 species of pisces, 141 species of butterflies, 43 species of moths, 41 species of odonates, 30 species of spiders, six species of scorpion, and 20 species of lower invertebrates, it said.

Significant faunal species like mugger crocodile, kanger valley rock gecko, sacred Grove Bush Frog, and avifauna like black baza, Jerdon's baza, Malaber trogon, common hill myna, white-bellied woodpecker, and banded bay cuckoo and others have also been documented.

The limestone caves of Gupteswar are adorned with eight species of bats out of the total 16 species found in southern Odisha. Among them, two species Hipposideros galeritus and Rhinolophus rouxii are under the near-threatened category of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

<https://indianexpress.com>

49. What has been redacted by [X] in this passage?
- (a) Kandhamal district (b) Kalahandi district
(c) Koraput district (d) Nayagarh district
50. Consider the following statements about the Biodiversity-Heritage Site:
- I. The declaration of Gupteswar as a BHS will not only enhance the cultural significance of the forest, but also ensure the conservation of its precious biodiversity.
- II. With this declaration, the state now has four BHSs, including Mandasaru BHS in Kandhamal district, Mahendragiri BHS in Gajapati district, and Gandhamardan BHS in Bargarh and Balangir districts.
- (a) Both I & II are incorrect. (b) Only I is correct.
(c) Only II is correct. (d) Both I & II are correct.
51. Which of the following is not the Biodiversity-Heritage Site situated in Odisha state?
- (a) Bambarde Myristica Swamps BHS in Jagatsinghpur district
(b) Mandasaru BHS in Kandhamala district
(c) Mahendragiri BHS in Gajpati district
(d) Gandhamardan BHs in Bargarh and Bolangir districts
52. In which of the following year, 'The Biological Diversity Act' was passed by the parliament of India to protect biodiversity?
- (a) 2006 (b) 2002 (c) 2007 (d) 2009

SECTION – C: LEGAL REASONING

Directions (Q.53-Q.84): Read the comprehension carefully and answer the questions.

Passage (Q.53-Q.59): Explaining the difference between the degree of proof in a criminal proceedings and departmental proceedings, the Supreme Court has held that the burden of proof in the departmental proceedings is not of beyond reasonable doubt as is the principle in the criminal trial but probabilities of the misconduct.

In criminal law, burden of proof is on the prosecution and unless the prosecution is able to prove the guilt of the accused “beyond reasonable doubt”, he cannot be convicted by a court of law. In a departmental enquiry, on the other hand, penalty can be imposed on the delinquent officer on a finding recorded on the basis of “balance of probability”.

Acquittal by a criminal court would not debar an employer from exercising power in accordance with the Rules and Regulations in force. The two proceedings, criminal and departmental, are entirely different. They operate in different fields and have different objectives. Whereas the object of criminal trial is to inflict appropriate punishment on the offender, the purpose of departmental/enquiry proceedings is to deal with the delinquent departmentally and to impose penalty in accordance with the service rules.

In a criminal trial, incriminating statement made by the accused in certain circumstances or before certain officers is totally inadmissible in evidence. Such strict rules of evidence and procedure would not apply to departmental proceedings.

The criminal prosecution is launched for an offence for violation of a duty, the offender owes to the society or for breach of which law has provided that the offender shall make satisfaction to the public, whereas, the departmental inquiry is to maintain discipline in the service and efficiency of public service.

53. Sam was the accused in a murder trial. He was accused of murdering an old man X by breaking and entering into his house. The prosecution could prove that Sam had broken into the house through the windows by finding his fingerprints on the glass. However, they found no murder weapon or any other object which could have been used by him to murder the old man. As a result, they could only prove that Sam had broken into the house but could not produce any evidence to directly link him with the murder. Can Sam be convicted by the Court for the murder of X?
- (a) Yes, because a direct link to the murder is not necessary as the balance of probabilities is against Sam
 - (b) Yes, because the prosecution proved that Sam killed the old man beyond any reasonable doubt as no other evidence could be produced besides the fingerprints
 - (c) No, because a direct link to the murder is necessary for proving that the balance of probabilities is in Sam's favour
 - (d) No, because the prosecution could not prove that Sam was the murderer beyond any reasonable doubt as no other evidence could be produced besides the fingerprints
54. Q was an officer at the electricity department. He was accused of misappropriation of funds. A fact-finding enquiry was done internally by the department and it was found that he had misappropriated Rs. 1 lakh, which was to be used for repair and maintenance. The department was able to trace that the money went into his account but they could not trace where the money went subsequently. It was as if the amount vanished into thin air. In this regard, can action be taken against Q?
- (a) No, because in a departmental proceeding the burden of proof is balance of convenience
 - (b) Yes, because in a departmental proceeding the burden of proof is balance of probabilities
 - (c) Yes, because in a departmental proceeding the burden of proof is beyond reasonable doubt
 - (d) No, because in a departmental proceeding the burden of proof is beyond reasonable doubt

55. Based on the enquiry of the electricity department, Q was found to be guilty of misappropriation of funds. Due to this offence, Q's employment was terminated as the electricity department had a zero tolerance of serious offences committed by employees. Q contested the termination of his employment and said that he should be allowed to continue his job as he was not a criminal. Can the electricity department terminate Q's employment?
- (a) Yes, because the object of a criminal trial is to inflict appropriate punishment on the offender
 - (b) Yes, because the object of departmental proceedings is to deal with the delinquent departmentally and to impose penalty in accordance with the service rules
 - (c) No, because in departmental proceedings only penalty can be imposed and Q cannot be terminated from his employment
 - (d) No, because in criminal proceedings only penalty can be imposed and Q cannot be terminated from his employment
56. Q challenged the decision of the department saying that they found no real evidence of misappropriation. The funds were not in his account and the only reason the enquiry was done was because the Q had bragged about receiving "some random money" to his co-workers. Q said that this could not have been the basis for starting an enquiry against him as there was no official complaint registered by anyone. In light of the principles mentioned in the passage, is Q's challenge valid?
- (a) Yes, because an enquiry was initiated against Q without considering strict rules of evidence and procedure in the departmental proceedings
 - (b) No, because an enquiry was initiated against Q while considering strict rules of evidence and procedure in the proceedings
 - (c) Yes, because an enquiry was initiated against Q while considering strict rules of evidence and procedure in the criminal proceedings
 - (d) None of the above
57. M also worked in the electricity department. He was accused of assaulting P. P brought criminal action against M by filing a complaint at the police station. Once the trial concluded, M was found guilty and sentenced to 1 month in jail. M challenged the decision of the Court saying that he should only be fired from his job, like Q, and not be sentenced to imprisonment. Does M's argument hold valid?
- (a) No, because the object of a criminal trial and that of departmental proceedings is different and the punishment is also different
 - (b) No, because the case against M was the result of a departmental proceeding and not a criminal trial
 - (c) Yes, because the case against M was the result of a departmental proceeding and not a criminal trial
 - (d) Yes, because the case against M was the result of a criminal trial and not a departmental proceeding
58. The fact that M assaulted P was proved by way of CCTV footage from the camera across the road from the place of incident. The 12 second clip showed M throwing a hard slap across P's face. On the basis of this video, the judge found M to be guilty of assault. Based on the standard of proof mentioned in the passage, is the finding correct?
- (a) Yes, because the video did not prove M's guilt beyond reasonable doubt so he cannot be convicted by a court of law
 - (b) Yes, because the video proved M's guilt beyond reasonable doubt so he can be convicted by a court of law
 - (c) Yes, because the video proved that the probability of M committing the assault was more favourable than him not committing it
 - (d) Yes, because the video did not prove that the probability of M committing the assault was more favourable than him not committing it

59. Based on the provided passage, which of the following accurately summarizes the difference between the burden of proof in criminal proceedings and departmental proceedings?
- (a) In criminal proceedings, the burden of proof lies with the prosecution to establish guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, whereas in departmental proceedings, the burden is to determine probabilities of misconduct.
 - (b) In both criminal and departmental proceedings, the burden of proof rests with the accused to prove innocence beyond a reasonable doubt.
 - (c) Departmental proceedings require stricter rules of evidence and procedure compared to criminal proceedings.
 - (d) The purpose of criminal trials is to maintain discipline in the service and efficiency of public service, while departmental inquiries focus on inflicting appropriate punishment on the offender.

Passage (Q.60-Q.64): No property may be transferred by anyone who is not authorized to do so. As a result, if a person lacks title to property, he cannot validly transfer it to another. One of the immunities to this provision is stated in Section 43 of the Transfer of Property Act. The doctrine of feeding the grant by estoppel is based on the maxim "nemo dat quod non habet," which means that no one can give to another what he does not have himself. Section 43 of the Transfer of Property Act lays down that "where a person fraudulently or erroneously represents that he is authorized to transfer certain immovable property and professes to transfer such property for consideration, such transfer shall, at the option of the transferee, operate on any interest which the transferor may acquire in such property at any time during which the contract of transfer subsists." The ingredients of section 43 are, namely: 1) Fraudulent or erroneous representation of ownership in the contract; 2) Transfer of consideration; 3) Option of the transferee; 4) Subsisting contract of transfer. The property is acquired after the representation is made by the transferor. In essence, this law protects the transferee who acts in good faith by giving them the right to the property if the seller acquires it later. Once a property is transferred, all rights and encumbrances or obligations on it are also transferred with it to the transferee.

Section 43 is based on two guiding principles –

- Common Law of Estoppel;
- Principle of Equity, which states that when a person promises to fulfil a thing beyond his capacity, he must do it when he gets the ability.

Estoppel is a rule of evidence that prevents a person from rejecting a statement he makes when that statement is used against him. Even so, the Transfer of Property Act depicts the relationship between the transferor (both before and after acquiring the right to transfer) and the transferee for value without providing any notice.

[Source:<https://www.tutorialspoint.com/doctrine-of-feeding-the-grant-by-estoppel>]

60. Mr. Sharma, the owner of a piece of land, tells his neighbor, Mr. Verma, that he has no objection to Mr. Verma using a portion of his land to build a small storage shed in return of some consideration and a contract. Mr. Verma, relying on Mr. Sharma's representation, invests a significant amount of money and effort in constructing the shed on the specified portion of Mr. Sharma's land. Years later, Mr. Sharma decides to sell the land to a third party, Mr. Singh. However, during the transaction, Mr. Sharma does not mention anything about the representation he made to Mr. Verma regarding the use of the land for the storage shed. Mr. Singh completes the purchase and becomes the new owner of the land. Sometime thereafter, Mr. Singh, without prior notice, informs Mr. Verma that he intends to demolish the storage shed to make way for a new development. Can Mr. Verma stop this demolition in light of the passage?
- (a) Yes, because of the rule of estoppel in evidence and transfer of encumbrances along with the sale.
 - (b) No, because there was no erroneous representation of the ownership of the immovable property.
 - (c) Yes, because the ownership of the shed belongs with Mr. Verma as there was a contract to transfer it to him by Mr. Sharma.
 - (d) No, because the complete ownership of the property now vests with Mr. Singh who can take all decisions regarding its use as all rights belongs to him.

61. Mr. Reddy is the owner of a prime piece of commercial real estate in Bangalore. He decides to sell the property and places an advertisement in a local newspaper, mentioning the details of the property, its amenities, and the price. Ms. Desai, a businesswoman, sees the advertisement and expresses her interest in purchasing the property. During negotiations, Mr. Reddy assures Ms. Desai that the property comes with an attached parking lot and the sale agreement drafted later mentions the main building and the parking lot. Relying on Mr. Reddy's assurance, Ms. Desai finalizes the purchase and pays the agreed-upon amount. After the contract is finalized and before the sale is completed, Ms. Desai discovers that there is a dispute over the ownership of the parking lot, and Mr. Reddy did not have the legal right to sell it as part of the property. Later, Mr. Reddy won the case for the parking lot ownership. Ms. Desai files a case for the parking lot, but Mr. Reddy denies it. Is Mr. Reddy correct?
- Yes, because Mr. Reddy has only acquired the ownership before the sale was finalized, making it beyond the contract.
 - No, because he is obligated under the Transfer of Property law to transfer the property in his ownership prior to the contract.
 - Yes, because he is not obligated under the Transfer of Property Act.
 - No, because he is obligated under section 43 of the Transfer of Property Act to undergo the transfer stated in the contract as he has acquired the rights to the property.
62. What is the type and nature of property on which section 43 of the Transfer of Property applies?
- On owned movable property.
 - On owned immovable property.
 - On immovable property subsequently acquired.
 - On movable and immovable property subsequently owned.
63. Mr. Singh owns a prime piece of commercial property in Mumbai and is in discussions with Mr. Verma regarding its potential sale. During negotiations, Mr. Singh makes an oral representation to Mr. Verma, stating that a certain portion of the property, specifically the garden, can be utilized by Mr. Verma for installing a hoarding advertising his business. Mr. Verma, relying on this representation, decides to proceed with the purchase of the property. The sale transaction progresses and both parties enter into a sale agreement. However, when the final sale deed is drafted, the provision regarding the garden and its use for the hoarding is inadvertently omitted. Despite this, Mr. Verma proceeds with the purchase, assuming that the initial representation made by Mr. Singh is sufficient and binding. After the sale is completed with money given, Mr. Singh decides to develop the garden space for his own use and informs Mr. Verma that he can no longer install the hoarding. Mr. Verma, taken aback, reminds Mr. Singh of their earlier discussion and the representation made during the negotiations. Can section 43 be invoked in this situation?
- Yes, because there was an erroneous representation for the sale of the garden by Mr. Singh prior to the contract of sale of immovable property.
 - No, because there was no consideration for the transfer of immovable property which is essential under section 43.
 - Yes, because all the requirements of section 43 are being met in their four-pronged approach.
 - No, because the contract does not mention any erroneous or fraudulent representation of ownership of the property.
64. What is the nature of section 43 in relation to the legal maxim stated in the passage?
- It is in legal congruence with it.
 - It is an exemplification of the maxim.
 - It is an exception to the maxim.
 - It is a corollary to the maxim expanding on it.

Passage (Q.65-Q.70): Malicious prosecution is the malicious intention of unsuccessful criminal or bankruptcy or liquidation proceedings against another without reasonable or probable cause. Generally, it can be said that the malicious prosecution is defined as a judicial proceeding instituted by one person against another, from wrongful or improper motive, without any reasonable and probable cause to justify it.

The essential elements which the plaintiff is required to prove in a suit for damages for malicious prosecution are- The first and most important element that the plaintiff must establish in a damages complaint if the plaintiff was prosecuted by the defendant. In addition, the petitioner must show that the defendant prosecuted him without reasonable and probable cause. Another essential element is that the defendant acted maliciously/wrongfully in prosecuting him and not with a mere intention for carrying the law into effect. Malice need not be a feeling of enmity, spite or ill will or spirit of vengeance but on the other hand it can be any improper purpose which motivates the prosecutor, such as to gain a private collateral advantage. It is necessary to establish that the prosecution complained of ended in favour of the plaintiff in a complaint for damages for malicious proceedings. Termination in the plaintiff's favour does not imply a judicial finding of his innocence; rather, it indicates the absence of a judicial determination of his guilt. The plaintiff is required to prove that he suffered damage as a result of the prosecution. The plaintiff can thus claim damages on the following three counts: -reputation, person, property.

[Source- <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/readersblog/harsh4real/malicious-prosecution-in-torts-42597/>]

65. Saima and Ravi used to study in the same college and soon fell in love. Saima belonged to a conservative family and so her family was against her relationship with Ravi. One day, Ravi receives a letter from Saima that she is marrying somebody else and so will never meet him again. Ravi reaches her home but Saima throws him out of her house. Saima's family then accused Ravi of forcing their daughter for conversion leading to Ravi losing his job. During the proceedings, he brings a suit against Saima for malicious prosecution. In the given situation, which of the following statements is true?
- (a) He cannot bring a suit against Saima since she did not prosecute him.
 - (b) He cannot bring a suit since he was not acquitted yet.
 - (c) He can bring a suit against Saima since she maliciously prosecuted her.
 - (d) He can bring a suit against Saima as he lost his job due to her.
66. Ritesh went to an antique shop to buy a gift for his mother. The shop is attacked by a group of terrorists armed with guns. One of the terrorists, in order to save himself, hands over the gun to Ritesh. Before Ritesh could do anything, police come on the spot and a woman whose son was trapped in the shop assumes Ritesh to be a terrorist. She asks police to arrest him and give him the greatest possible punishment. Soon, Ritesh is proved innocent but he sues the woman for malicious prosecution. Decide.
- (a) He will be successful since his innocence was proven.
 - (b) He will not be successful since the woman had no malice.
 - (c) He will be successful since the woman prosecuted her maliciously without knowing the truth.
 - (d) He will not be successful since he was arrested for a serious crime.
67. Hari and Bhanu were working in the department of education. The manager was thinking of promoting either of them. To select the best candidate, he asked them to get the contract they were trying to get from a company from a long time. Hari was able to get the contract. Bhanu, out of jealousy, accuses Hari of getting the contract by some wrongful means. A departmental enquiry was done against Hari due to which he lost his promotion. Hari due to his loss accuses Bhanu of malicious prosecution. Decide.
- (a) He will be successful since Bhanu acted with malice.
 - (b) He will be successful since he lost his promotion due to Bhanu's accusation.
 - (c) He will not be successful since there was only departmental enquiry held against him.
 - (d) He will not be successful since he was not proven innocent yet.

68. Amita to seek revenge from Disha frames her and falsely accuses her of stealing gold jewellery from her home. The lower court convicts Disha of robbery. Aggrieved by the judgement, she appeals to the High Court, where she is declared innocent. In the given situation, which of the following statements is true?
- (a) Disha can bring a suit for malicious prosecution right after the judgement of Lower court as she was falsely accused.
 - (b) Disha can bring a suit for malicious prosecution after the judgement of High court as she was acquitted.
 - (c) Disha can bring a suit for malicious prosecution after the judgement of either of the courts since she was innocent from the beginning.
 - (d) Disha cannot bring a suit since one cannot bring a suit after appeal.
69. Amit was a policeman and was known for being highly corrupted and had also committed various crimes but was never convicted. Amit's wife, Richa has an extra-marital affair with Hiten. When Amit comes to know about it, he falsely accuses Hiten of sexually assaulting his wife and puts him on trial. Hiten finally gets acquitted after 5 years, brings a suit against Amit of malicious prosecution. Decide.
- (a) He cannot bring a suit since Amit was a policeman.
 - (b) He can bring a suit since he was wrongly accused by Amit.
 - (c) He can bring a suit since Amit used his position wrongly.
 - (d) He cannot bring a suit since the case had become old.
70. From the passage, what cannot be inferred as the essential to constitute malicious prosecution?
- (a) The plaintiff must establish that they were prosecuted by the defendant.
 - (b) The prosecution must have ended in favor of the plaintiff.
 - (c) Malice must be demonstrated as enmity, spite, or ill will towards the plaintiff.
 - (d) The plaintiff must prove that they suffered damage as a result of the prosecution.

Passage (Q.71-Q.77): The Court noted that appellant was the registered owner of the Offending Vehicle as on the date of the accident. The Court relied on *Naveen Kumar v. Vijay Kumar*, (2018) 3 SCC 1, wherein the Supreme Court, while interpreting Section 2(30) of the Act, held that it was the registered owner of the vehicle who would be liable to pay the compensation to the victims of the road accident.

The Court opined that the Insurance Company merely steps in as an indemnifier of the compensation which the registered owner of the Offending Vehicle, as being a primary person liable, must pay to the victims of the road accident. The registered owner could not absolve himself of the liability by contending that he had transferred the offending vehicle to a third person prior to the date of the accident. Neither the victims of the road accident nor the Insurance Company could run after such persons whom the registered owner claimed to have transferred the offending vehicle and could not be burdened with following a trail of successive transfers, which were not registered with the Registering Authority.

The Court further opined that the Insurance Company had no contractual or other relationship with such transferee of the Offending Vehicle. The liability of the Insurance Company arose only because of the contract of insurance between the registered owner of the offending vehicle and itself. If the registered owner of the offending vehicle was to seek any benefit of such contract in form of indemnifying himself against the liability, such registered owner was also liable to reimburse the compensation that might be paid by the Insurance Company to the victims of the road accident, if the Insurance Company was otherwise entitled to the same.

[Extracted with revisions from <https://www.scconline.com/blog/post/2023/12/19/insurance-company-acts-as-indemnifier-has-no-contractual-relationship-with-transferee-of-offending-vehicle-dhc-legal-news/>]

71. In the context of the principles provided in the passage, which of the following statements is true?
- (a) The insurance company is solely responsible for compensating the victims of a road accident.
 - (b) The registered owner can transfer the offending vehicle to avoid liability for compensation.
 - (c) Victims of a road accident can pursue individuals to whom the registered owner claimed to have transferred the offending vehicle.
 - (d) Successive transfers of the offending vehicle must be registered with the Registering Authority to absolve liability.
72. How does the principle affect the liability of the registered owner of an offending vehicle?
- (a) The registered owner remains liable regardless of any transfers of the offending vehicle.
 - (b) The registered owner's liability is transferred to the insurance company upon transfer of the vehicle.
 - (c) The liability of the registered owner is absolved upon transferring the offending vehicle.
 - (d) The liability of the registered owner depends on the severity of the road accident.
73. Which action would NOT absolve the registered owner of liability, according to the principle?
- (a) Transferring the offending vehicle to a third person.
 - (b) Registering the transfer with the appropriate authority.
 - (c) Providing compensation to the victims of the road accident.
 - (d) Proving that the accident was not caused by the offending vehicle.
74. Sarah owned a car that she sold to John a month before it was involved in a hit-and-run accident. John failed to transfer the ownership to himself officially, and the accident resulted in injuries to several pedestrians. Based on the principle provided, is Sarah liable for compensation to the victims of the accident?
- (a) Yes, because Sarah was the original owner of the car.
 - (b) No, because Sarah sold the car to John before the accident occurred.
 - (c) Yes, because John failed to transfer the ownership officially.
 - (d) No, because the accident was caused by John, the current owner.
75. In continuation of the previous question- After the hit-and-run accident involving John's car, the victims filed a claim with John's insurance company for compensation. However, the insurance company denied the claim, arguing that John failed to notify them about the transfer of ownership from Sarah. Based on the principle provided, is the insurance company liable to compensate the victims?
- (a) Yes, because the insurance company is obligated to compensate victims of accidents involving the insured vehicle.
 - (b) Yes, because John failed to notify the insurance company about the transfer of ownership but it is still registered in Sarah's name.
 - (c) Yes, because the insurance company is liable in every case as the primary party.
 - (d) No, because the insurance company's liability is contingent upon proper notification of ownership transfer.
76. Mark sold his motorcycle to Lisa three months ago. Lisa properly transferred the ownership of the motorcycle to her name with the Registering Authority. However, a week after the transfer, the motorcycle was involved in a collision with another vehicle, resulting in damage to both vehicles. The owner of the other vehicle filed a lawsuit against Lisa for compensation. Based on the principle provided, is Lisa liable for the damages caused in the accident?
- (a) Yes, because Lisa is the proper owner of the motorcycle.
 - (b) No, because Lisa transferred the ownership properly to her name.
 - (c) Yes, because the accident occurred within a week of the ownership transfer.
 - (d) No, because Mark is the rightful owner of the vehicle

77. David purchased a car from Emily, who had a comprehensive insurance policy for the vehicle. A month after the transfer of ownership, the car was involved in a collision with another vehicle, resulting in damage to both cars and injuries to the occupants. David filed a claim with Emily's insurance company for compensation. However, the insurance company denied the claim, stating that they had no contractual relationship with David as the new owner of the car. Based on the principle provided, is David entitled to compensation from Emily's insurance company?
- (a) Yes, because Emily's insurance policy covers any damages or injuries involving the car, regardless of ownership transfer.
 - (b) No, because the insurance company is only liable to compensate the registered owner of the vehicle.
 - (c) Yes, because David purchased the car from Emily and is therefore covered under her insurance policy.
 - (d) No, because David failed to notify the insurance company about the transfer of ownership.

Passage (Q.78-Q.84): Data has been at the centre of attention in recent years throughout the world. The awareness regarding the significance of one's data and its economic value has increased drastically. Many western jurisdictions have recognised people's rights upon their personal data and how big players in the information technology market are violating it to make a fortune for themselves. However, in the past few years, these unfair practices have been brought to justice. The companies are held liable for compromising the privacy of their customers/users. There is a need to establish a developed procedure for dealing with the tortious liability in the data breach cases; it is still in its development stage. Many common law jurisdictions are slowly recognising the tort of privacy in various cases.

In *Vidal-Hall v. Google Inc.*, of 2015 the Court successfully held the company liable for compensating the aggrieved party for the distress caused, even though there was no financial loss. And, in *Campbell v. MGN Ltd.* the Court considered the nexus between the breach of privacy and Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights.

Parliament is in the process of developing a Bill called the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 (PDP Bill). This Bill, if enacted, will specifically empower the citizens to safeguard their data and provide them legal remedies against data privacy violations. This draft Bill has provisions enabling compensation to the aggrieved by the offender, introducing tort liability in data protection.

Section 64(1) of the Bill says, Any data principal who has suffered any harm as a result of any violation of any provision under this Act or the rules or regulations made thereunder, by a data fiduciary or a data processor, shall have the right to seek compensation from the data fiduciary or the data processor, as the case may be.

This section empowers the data principal to claim compensation in case their privacy is violated.

[Extracted with revisions from <https://www.scconline.com/blog/post/2022/03/28/personal-data-protection-bill/>]

78. How did the court's decision in *Vidal-Hall v. Google Inc.* impact liability for non-financial harm?
- (a) It established a precedent for holding companies liable for non-financial harm
 - (b) It absolved companies from liability for non-financial harm
 - (c) It increased the burden of proof for proving non-financial harm
 - (d) It limited the scope of non-financial harm claims
79. Sarah, a freelance writer, discovers that her personal information, including private emails and browsing history, has been unlawfully accessed and used by a tech company, TechCorp, without her consent. Despite not suffering any financial loss, Sarah experiences significant emotional distress upon learning about this violation of her privacy. She decides to take legal action against TechCorp. How does Sarah's situation align with the principle established in *Vidal-Hall v. Google Inc.*?
- (a) Sarah's lack of financial loss makes her claim invalid.
 - (b) Sarah's emotional distress may warrant compensation despite the absence of financial loss.
 - (c) Sarah's decision to take legal action against TechCorp is irrelevant to the principle.
 - (d) Sarah's emotional distress is not a valid basis for legal action according to the principle.

80. John, a social media influencer, discovers that his private messages and personal information have been accessed and leaked by a popular social media platform, SocialSphere. Despite not suffering any financial loss, John experiences severe anxiety and fear due to the breach of his privacy. He seeks legal advice to understand his options for holding SocialSphere accountable. How does John's situation reflect the principle established in *Vidal-Hall v. Google Inc.*?
- (a) John's anxiety and fear are irrelevant since he did not suffer any financial loss.
 - (b) John's emotional distress may justify legal action against SocialSphere.
 - (c) John's status as a social media influencer invalidates his claim for emotional distress.
 - (d) John's lack of technical understanding makes his claim against SocialSphere invalid.
81. Emma, a university student, discovers that her personal data, including her academic records and contact information, has been unlawfully accessed and shared by a data processing company without her consent. This breach of privacy causes Emma significant distress and anxiety about the security of her personal information. She decides to take legal action against the data processing company under the provisions of the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 (PDP Bill). How does Section 64(1) of the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019, apply to Emma's situation assuming that the law has been enacted?
- (a) Emma cannot claim compensation since the Bill is still in the process of development.
 - (b) Emma has the right to seek compensation from the data processing company for the violation of her privacy.
 - (c) Emma can only seek compensation if she has suffered financial loss due to the privacy violation.
 - (d) Emma's distress is not considered harmful under the provisions of the Bill.
82. Alex, a small business owner, discovers that his company's confidential financial data has been compromised and leaked by a data processing firm without his knowledge or consent. This breach of data security not only damages Alex's business reputation but also leads to financial losses due to competitors gaining access to sensitive information. Frustrated and seeking justice, Alex decides to pursue legal action against the data processing firm under the provisions of the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 (PDP Bill). How does Section 64(1) of the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019, apply to Alex's situation?
- (a) Alex cannot seek compensation as his situation involves financial loss, which is not covered by the Bill.
 - (b) Alex has the right to seek compensation for both the privacy violation and the financial losses incurred.
 - (c) Alex's situation falls outside the scope of the Bill since it involves a small business owner rather than an individual data principal.
 - (d) Alex's decision to pursue legal action is irrelevant under the provisions of the Bill.
83. How does Section 64(1) of the PDP Bill impact the relationship between data principals and data fiduciaries/data processors?
- (a) It imposes strict penalties on data fiduciaries/data processors for any violation of personal data.
 - (b) It empowers data principals to seek compensation for harm caused by data fiduciaries/data processors.
 - (c) It limits the rights of data principals in protecting their personal data.
 - (d) It places the responsibility of data protection solely on data fiduciaries/data processors.
84. What can be inferred about the scope of harm mentioned in Section 64(1) of the PDP Bill?
- (a) Only financial harm is considered under the provision.
 - (b) Emotional distress and psychological harm are excluded from the provision.
 - (c) Any harm resulting from a violation of the Bill or its provisions is eligible for compensation.
 - (d) Harm caused by unintentional data breaches is not covered by the provision.

SECTION D: LOGICAL REASONING

Directions (Q.85-Q.108): Read the passage carefully and answer the questions.

Passage (Q.85-Q.90): Official attempts to redefine forests altogether have thankfully been stopped in their tracks by the highest court of the land. The Supreme Court effectively suspended last year's amendment to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, directing the government to return to the "dictionary definition" of forests in its ruling in 1996 while implementing policy for forest land use. The fact that the apex court has returned to its earlier verdict in adjudicating petitions against the controversial amendment speaks volumes of attempts to subvert the letter of the law to exploit forest resources; these, however, are not unique to the current dispensation. Even so, the mischievous reworking of the legal language to exclude large tracts of forests which had not been part of pre-1980 government records or those which fall within 100 kilometres of an international border — the petitions referred to these steps as substantial dilutions — is illustrative of concerted efforts to renegotiate the protective ambit of conservation policy in recent years. The Centre's argument was that the amendments would do away with the red tape that had to be cut through to organise permits for infrastructure projects on forested land. This despite a report about wildlife conservation in Madhya Pradesh published by the Comptroller and Auditor General that raised the spectre of habitat fragmentation and stated that "linear infrastructure" like roads, railways and dams posed "the greatest threat of harmful impact on wildlife". The value that dense, undisturbed forests hold not only for protecting diverse ecosystems but also for sustaining forest-dwelling communities cannot be stressed enough. Yet, policy seems unconcerned. Monoculture plantations began to be categorised as forests, while community rights of forest-dwelling communities envisaged in the Forest Rights Act, 2006 have been weakened.

The amendment struck down by the apex court is seemingly part of a wider thrust to enfeeble the legislative shield protecting India's biodiversity — punitive measures for felling trees in a reserved forest being replaced with a paltry fine is another example of this. This derives from a faulty idea of envisioning the environment as a resource to be exploited ceaselessly. A paradigm shift towards accountability for those in power is necessary; but that can only happen if environmental degradation becomes an issue of public interest.

85. Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument that the Supreme Court's decision to suspend the amendment to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, will positively impact the conservation of forests?
- (a) The amendment included provisions for replanting trees in areas where deforestation occurs.
 - (b) Infrastructure projects can provide essential services to remote forest-dwelling communities.
 - (c) Prior to the amendment, forest land use policies were inconsistently applied across states.
 - (d) The definition of forests based on pre-1980 records excludes many ecologically vital areas.
86. Which evidence, if provided, would most strengthen the claim that the amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act were primarily aimed at facilitating infrastructure projects at the cost of forest conservation?
- (a) A report indicating an increase in wildlife sightings in areas adjacent to infrastructure projects.
 - (b) Data showing a significant reduction in the time required to obtain permits for logging.
 - (c) Evidence of a consultation process with infrastructure companies before drafting the amendments.
 - (d) Statistics demonstrating a rise in forest cover due to afforestation projects.
87. The argument concerning the negative impact of the amendment to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, on wildlife conservation in Madhya Pradesh relies on which of the following flawed reasoning?
- (a) The assumption that all infrastructure projects inherently harm wildlife conservation.
 - (b) The belief that habitat fragmentation is solely caused by new infrastructure developments.
 - (c) The notion that amendments will automatically lead to increased deforestation rates.
 - (d) The inference that protective measures for wildlife are not included in the amendments.

88. Which of the following situations is most analogous to the Supreme Court's reliance on the "dictionary definition" of forests to adjudicate petitions against the amendment to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980?
- (a) A teacher using a strict grading rubric to assess students' essays for originality and coherence.
 - (b) A company implementing only those suggestions from employee feedback that align with its original mission.
 - (c) A court deciding a land dispute case based on the original language of the land acquisition act.
 - (d) A city council referring to historical usage patterns to zone areas for commercial development.
89. To evaluate the effectiveness of the Supreme Court's decision to revert to the 1996 "dictionary definition" of forests, which of the following pieces of information would be most necessary?
- (a) The number of infrastructure projects approved since the Supreme Court's decision.
 - (b) The rate of deforestation in India before and after the Supreme Court's decision.
 - (c) The increase in the population of forest-dwelling communities since the decision.
 - (d) The amount of legal disputes over forest land use resolved since the decision.
90. What role does the statement regarding the punitive measures for felling trees in a reserved forest being replaced with a fine play in the argument concerning the legislative shield protecting India's biodiversity?
- (a) It exemplifies the government's commitment to simplifying environmental legislation.
 - (b) It signifies a reduction in the legal consequences for environmental violations.
 - (c) It demonstrates an improvement in the efficiency of enforcing conservation laws.
 - (d) It indicates an increased focus on economic development over environmental protection.

Passage (Q.91-Q.96): The tricks to keep women silent are old ones. Women are supposed to be hysterical, illogical, nervy, inclined to misuse any form of power they get, even if it is the law. Their alleged misuse of Section 498 (A) of the Indian Penal Code is now part of popular discourse; why, then, are cases of domestic violence against women and dowry deaths not myths? The beliefs about women's irrationality are part of society's misogyny and therefore, inevitably, part of institutional attitudes. A study of over four lakh first information reports in Haryana shows that women are at a noticeable disadvantage compared to men from the police station right up to the courts. A man complaining on behalf of a woman has a far better chance of having the FIR registered and its follow-up done faster than a woman complainant. There is a bigger gap between the complaint and the registration of the FIR when a woman complains of anything, from burglary to violence against her, and her complaint stands a bigger chance of being dismissed or the alleged offenders acquitted, often because of the delay. Gender inequality is entrenched in the entire justice system, not just in the police station.

The police station, however, is the first port of call. Before this study, other reports showed how women complainants are turned away from police stations before they can register a complaint; they are also treated with insensitivity and disrespect. The study on FIRs demonstrates indubitably that the gender of the complainant has a discernible effect on the registration and outcome of the complaint. There has been much talk of and some attempts at sensitising the police, establishing all-women police stations and fast-track courts. But there has been little change. The police force still has 11.7% women in it. Since gender bias resides in the whole justice system, it has to be asked whether these improvements — although necessary — would alone work the desired change. The bias has its roots in society's prevalent belief-system. Education and the environment at home must address that. To ask women to speak up, to reach out to institutions dispensing law and justice, seems to hold a false promise since the system is weighted against them. The dominant forces in society would rather that they remained silent.

91. The passage presents a paradox where women are encouraged to speak up and reach out to law enforcement, despite the system being biased against them. Which of the following, if true, would most help to resolve this paradox?
- (a) Speaking up has been shown to gradually change societal attitudes towards gender bias.
 - (b) Women who speak up are provided with legal and psychological support to navigate the system.
 - (c) Law enforcement agencies are actively working to recruit more women to reduce gender bias.
 - (d) Recent reforms have ensured that women's complaints are handled by female officers.
92. The passage suggests that the presence of gender bias in the justice system is linked to societal beliefs. Which assumption is crucial for arguing that changing societal beliefs will significantly improve the treatment of women's complaints in the justice system?
- (a) Societal beliefs are the primary factor influencing individual behaviors and decisions within the justice system.
 - (b) Women's complaints are not given due importance in the justice system due to existing societal stereotypes.
 - (c) Societal beliefs can be effectively changed through education and awareness programs.
 - (d) The justice system is fully reflective of the prevailing societal beliefs about gender roles.
93. The author argues that the presence of women in the police force is insufficient to address gender bias in the justice system. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken this argument?
- (a) Women in the police force are more likely to empathize with and understand women's complaints.
 - (b) Statistical evidence shows a decrease in gender bias incidents in departments with higher female representation.
 - (c) Training programs in the police force are now heavily focused on gender sensitivity and equality.
 - (d) Female officers often hold leadership positions in police departments, influencing department policies.
94. Considering the study's findings on FIR registrations in Haryana, which of the following facts, if true, would most strengthen the author's claim about the disparity in how men's and women's complaints are handled by the justice system?
- (a) The study included a diverse range of complaints, from minor thefts to serious crimes.
 - (b) Men's complaints led to faster investigation and more convictions compared to women's complaints.
 - (c) Women who registered complaints often faced additional scrutiny and questioning.
 - (d) The number of complaints registered by women was significantly lower than those by men.
95. Based on the passage, what can be most reasonably concluded about the effectiveness of current reforms (like all-women police stations and fast-track courts) in reducing gender bias within the justice system?
- (a) These reforms have significantly reduced the time taken for women's complaints to be registered.
 - (b) The reforms are a positive step but have not fundamentally changed the system's inherent gender bias.
 - (c) All-women police stations have led to an increase in the number of women's complaints being filed.
 - (d) Fast-track courts have drastically improved the conviction rates in cases involving women.
96. The passage implies that increasing the percentage of women in the police force is not a sufficient solution to combat gender bias in the justice system. What potential flaw can be identified in this line of reasoning?
- (a) It assumes that gender bias in the justice system is only influenced by the gender of the police force.
 - (b) The reasoning overlooks the possibility that women in the police force might also hold gender biases.
 - (c) It implies that gender bias is prevalent only in the police force and not in other parts of the justice system.
 - (d) This reasoning does not consider the impact of increased female representation in higher-ranking positions.

Passage (Q.97-Q.102): Advising is hard. People seek out advice because they're uncertain, but they are often unsatisfied by being told what to do. People like it if a friend offers advice when asked, but not when a friend offers too much advice, or advises too often. Advice can be legitimately annoying, even when the advisor knows what they're talking about and means well. Advising is a more peculiar practice than it might seem, and it poses distinctive challenges for both advisor and advisee.

One common problem is overbearing advice. An overbearing advisor treats any complaint as an invitation to problem-solve. When actually asked for advice, they are either overly verbose, offering an extensive description of what they know about the topic, or too directive, making immediate pronouncements about what ought to be done. One of the things I've learnt through bitter experience is that I have a tendency towards overbearing advice. I've often found myself in a situation where someone asks me for help but, the more help I offer, the more annoyed they seem to be. These days, I often bite my tongue when people describe their problems to me or seem to be doing things 'the wrong way'. When my friends and family need to talk through their problems, I quite often say: 'I'm not going to give you advice,' in an attempt to make it true. Quite often people just need to vent and, when they do want advice, the manner of advising matters just as much as the content. Having learnt not to give unsolicited advice, I'm not aiming here to give you advice about how to advise. Instead, I want to think a bit about what advising is, as a way to help us both understand how to do it better.

Philosophy might not be the most obvious place to look for help with advising. Philosophers' reputation as know-it-alls is well earned. With that said, actual philosophy practice is an overlooked source for thinking about advising. Notwithstanding the monkish mythology, almost no contemporary philosophical work is the product of one mind. We rely on supervisors, friends, colleagues and audiences to help us think about problems that are almost always too hard for us. We stand in tangled relationships of advising and being advised, and we spend quite a lot of time worrying about how to advise and how to respond to advice.

To think about what makes advising good or bad, let's consider what the point of advising is. Here, I will borrow from the philosopher David Gauthier. Gauthier, who died in November 2023, spent the majority of his career working on social contract theory and the relation between ethics and rationality. In his less well-known doctoral work, published as *Practical Reasoning* (1963), he follows R M Hare and Patrick Nowell-Smith in the Oxford tradition of ordinary language ethics. This approach tries to shed light on ethical questions by thinking about the language of ethics.

It's frustrating when an advisor seems to be more focused on showing how knowledgeable they are. In the course of distinguishing advising from exhortation, commands and the like, Gauthier articulates an important idea about the function of advising. He argues that the point of advising is to assist someone in solving a problem without sharing responsibility. Let's take each part of this claim in turn.

97. Based on the passage, in what way does the author suggest that the manner of advising is as significant as the content of the advice itself?
- (a) The author emphasizes that advice should be delivered with empathy to be effective.
 - (b) Advising is most effective when it is tailored to the specific needs of the advisee.
 - (c) The manner of advising is crucial as it determines the advisee's receptiveness to the advice.
 - (d) The delivery of advice should be as detailed and comprehensive as possible.
98. What implication can be drawn from the author's personal experience with giving advice, particularly in the context of his realization about the reception of his advice?
- (a) People generally prefer advice that is concise and directly addresses their concerns.
 - (b) The author's tendency to offer detailed advice often led to increased frustration in others.
 - (c) Offering advice, regardless of its quality, is generally appreciated by those seeking help.
 - (d) The author learned to avoid giving advice to maintain harmonious relationships.

99. Based on the passage, how does the author's view on the purpose of advising align or contrast with David Gauthier's philosophical perspective on the same?
- (a) Both view advising as a process of sharing responsibility for the problem being discussed.
 - (b) The author sees advising as primarily a form of empathetic support, unlike Gauthier.
 - (c) Gauthier considers advising as assisting without sharing responsibility, which the author echoes.
 - (d) The author emphasizes the importance of collaboration in advising, contrasting Gauthier's view.
100. In the context of the passage, which of the following best represents the reason behind the author's decision to often refrain from giving advice?
- (a) The author believes that most problems presented to him do not require his expertise.
 - (b) He realized that his advice, though well-intentioned, often exacerbated the advisee's frustration.
 - (c) He prefers to maintain neutrality in others' affairs to avoid potential conflicts.
 - (d) The author's past experiences with advising have been largely unsuccessful.
101. How does the passage characterize the common pitfalls of overbearing advisors, and what effect does this have on their advisees?
- (a) Overbearing advisors often lead to the advisees feeling overwhelmed and disregarded.
 - (b) Advisees tend to feel more dependent on advisors who are perceived as overbearing.
 - (c) Overbearing advisors create a sense of inadequacy in advisees, hindering their decision-making.
 - (d) The advisees often become resistant to any form of advice due to overbearing advisors.
102. What conclusion can be inferred about the relationship between the act of advising and the responsibility shared in the outcome, as per the passage?
- (a) Advisors are often held accountable for the outcomes of the advice they provide.
 - (b) The act of advising inherently implies a shared responsibility in the outcome.
 - (c) Advising should assist in problem-solving without the advisor sharing the outcome's responsibility.
 - (d) Responsibility for the outcome of advice is solely on the advisee, not the advisor.

Passage (Q.103-Q.108): The latest Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) focuses on an age group that is critical to India unlocking its demographic dividend — 14- 18-year-olds in rural areas. It confirms the heartening trend of more students transiting to secondary education. Apprehensions that the pandemic-induced economic distress would result in older children dropping out of school have been belied. Education's well-established links with people's aspirations seem to have trumped economic exigencies. ASER 2023 notes that "today more children in India have more years of schooling than ever before". But like ASER's previous editions, the latest report doesn't see enrollment as an end in itself. It lists failings and challenges, and charts opportunities. The more sobering findings relate to foundational skills — about a fourth of those surveyed find it difficult to read a Grade 2 level text in the local language and more than half struggle with arithmetic skills they should have been proficient in by Grade 5. This is a serious deficit that has a bearing on the quality of the country's labour force — no skilling programme, however ambitious and well-designed, can succeed when its targeted beneficiaries have problems with elementary reading and basic arithmetic.

The report engages with one of the most difficult education-related predicaments of recent times — the increasing pressure on young students amidst acute academic competition. The problem, as ASER 2023 reveals, is not confined to urban areas. The difficulties of a section of learners get compounded because they have to juggle academic requirements with responsibilities like working in family farms. ASER suggests reforming pedagogic processes to reduce pressures on such students. The increasing use of smartphones in rural areas — about 95 per cent surveyed households had these devices and nearly 95 per cent men and 90 per cent women could use them — is an opportunity to extend education, and design classrooms that are flexible with time and schedules. Planners will, however, have to find ways to nudge students and their parents to use digital technologies for learning. The use of smartphones for education today is way less than that for entertainment. NEP 2020 envisions embedding digital technologies in the educational landscape. It also talks of pivoting from

a curriculum-centred approach to one focused on the individual learner. The snapshots of the digital — and other educational — capabilities of youngsters in ASER 2023 could provide cues to policymakers in implementing NEP's visions. At the same time, they should also remain alert against lapsing into technological fundamentalism.

China has been able to realise its demographic dividend to a large extent by prudent reforms in its technical and vocational education and training systems. The ASER report shows that India has a long way to go in this respect. Vocational skilling is not the first choice for youth. Only 6 per cent of the surveyed are currently doing vocational courses. This should be a wake-up call for policymakers to re-imagine vocational education — as NEP envisages — and make it truly aspirational.

103. Considering the ASER 2023 report's findings on the increased transition of students to secondary education, which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument that economic challenges have not significantly impacted educational progression in rural India?
- The majority of rural households reported a stable or increased income over the past year.
 - There was a substantial increase in the availability of scholarships for secondary education.
 - Many rural families prioritized educational expenses over other non-essential expenditures.
 - Government programs have successfully provided additional educational resources in rural areas.
104. The passage mentions that about a fourth of the surveyed 14-18-year-olds struggle with reading basic texts and over half with arithmetic skills. What inference can be drawn about the potential effectiveness of advanced skilling programs targeting these individuals?
- Advanced skilling programs will be highly effective as they are tailored to overcome specific educational deficits.
 - Such programs will have limited effectiveness unless foundational skills are addressed first.
 - The programs will need to focus more on practical skills than on theoretical knowledge.
 - These programs will be effective as they provide an alternative to traditional academic routes.
105. Based on the passage, which of the following would most effectively address the challenge of balancing academic requirements with responsibilities like working in family farms, as highlighted in the ASER 2023 report?
- Introducing flexible school hours to accommodate the agricultural seasons.
 - Providing financial incentives for families to prioritize education over farm work.
 - Implementing mandatory evening classes for students involved in daytime farm work.
 - Increasing the number of schools in rural areas to reduce travel time for students.
106. In light of the information that nearly 95% of households in rural areas have access to smartphones, which of the following strategies, if implemented, would best align with NEP 2020's vision of embedding digital technologies in education?
- Distributing smartphones to students who do not have access to them.
 - Developing a government-run online educational platform specifically for rural students.
 - Offering training programs for teachers to integrate smartphone-based learning in their teaching.
 - Encouraging the use of smartphones for research and educational projects in classrooms.
107. The passage indicates that vocational skilling is not the first choice among youth, with only 6% currently pursuing such courses. What does this suggest about the current perception of vocational education in India, and what implications might this have for policy reform?
- Vocational education is perceived as less valuable, necessitating awareness programs to change perceptions.
 - The low enrollment suggests a lack of awareness about vocational courses among the youth.
 - This indicates a preference for traditional academic paths, requiring reforms to make vocational courses more appealing.
 - The low interest in vocational courses suggests the need for integrating them with mainstream education.

108. Given the comparison between China's success in realizing its demographic dividend through educational reforms and the current state of India's educational system as per the ASER report, which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the argument that India is on a similar path to achieving its demographic dividend?
- (a) India's investment in education as a percentage of GDP is lower than China's.
 - (b) The Indian government has recently reduced funding for vocational and technical education.
 - (c) A significant percentage of Indian graduates are not considered employable in their field of study.
 - (d) The rate of technological adaptation in Indian schools is slower than that in China.

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SECTION - E : QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

Directions (Q.109-Q.114): Study the following information carefully to answer the questions that follow.

An online trading company, make its business by selling 5 types of products i.e. mobiles, wrist watches, shoes, laptops and LCDs. It recorded its sales value in 2021, 2022 and 2023. In 2021, sales of mobiles, wrist watches, shoes and LCDs amount for Rs. 6250, Rs. 2200, Rs. 1880 and Rs. 940 respectively. Laptops accounts for 30% of total sales during that year. In 2022, the total sales showed a 10% increase over the previous year. While mobiles and wrist watches registered 8% and 10% increase over their corresponding figures in 2021, shoes sales dropped by Rs. 130, while laptop sales amount to Rs. 5360. In 2023, though the total sales remained the same as in 2022, mobile sales fell by Rs. 220, wrist watches by Rs. 320, shoes by Rs. 100, and LCDs by Rs. 120.

109. What is the ratio of sales value of mobiles in 2021 to that of shoes in 2022?
(a) 5:7 (b) 25:7 (c) 21:8 (d) 25:9
110. What is the total value of sales of laptops in 2023?
(a) Rs.6102 (b) Rs.6210 (c) Rs.6120 (d) Rs.6201
111. Find total amount earned by selling shoes over three years together.
(a) Rs.5802 (b) Rs.5820 (c) Rs. 5208 (d) Rs.5280
112. Find the percentage decrease in value of sales of wrist watches from year 2021 to 2023. (Round off to 1 decimal place).
(a) 6.4% (b) 4.5% (c) 5.8% (d) 7%
113. What is the value of sales of Laptop in year 2021?
(a) Rs.4830 (b) Rs.4803 (c) Rs. 3860 (d) Rs.5360
114. If the sales of shoes in 2024 will be 20% more than that of the previous year, find the sales of shoes in 2024.
(a) Rs.1900 (b) Rs.1890 (c) Rs.1760 (d) Rs.1980

Directions (Q.115-Q.120): For a science exhibition, the school accommodates 2000 students, although not all may choose to participate. 25% of the total are participating in Raman House. Total 50% of the remaining students are participating in Darwin houses and Dalton houses. The ratio of students participating in Darwin to those participating in Dalton houses is 3:2 respectively, and 20% of the rest are participating in all the houses. The remaining students are participating in Raman and Darwin, Darwin and Dalton houses, and Raman and Dalton houses in the ratio of 7:8:10 respectively.

115. The % of the student who did not participating in any house?
(a) 60 % (b) 10 % (c) 0 % (d) 20 %
116. What % of the students who participate in only one house?
(a) 62.5% (b) 25 % (c) 50 % (d) 40 %
117. What is the ratio of the number of students who participate in only Dalton house those students who participate in only Raman and Dalton House?
(a) 3:40 (b) 3:5 (c) 5:4 (d) 1:5
118. Find the number of students who participate in only one house?
(a) 500 (b) 1250 (c) 800 (d) 150
119. The students who participate in all three houses is what percent of the students who participate in only two houses?
(a) 100% (b) 50% (c) 150 % (d) 25 %
120. What is the average of the students participating in only two houses?
(a) 50 (b) 55 (c) 60 (d) 52

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