

MOCK CLAT 10014 (BASIC)

ANSWER & EXPLANATIONS

English Language

1. **Answer:** B

Reference Lines: "Terminating employment because the woman has got married is a coarse case of gender discrimination and inequality."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) This option inaccurately confines the Court's perspective to legalistic interpretations, suggesting a narrow view that overlooks the Court's broader engagement with societal norms and values. The Supreme Court's decision, particularly its strong language against gender discrimination, indicates a deeper understanding and concern for societal impacts beyond mere legal technicalities. This misunderstanding of the Court's approach misses the holistic stance taken against gender biases. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) By explicitly addressing and condemning the practice of terminating employment due to marriage, the Supreme Court demonstrates a clear commitment to challenging systemic gender biases. This decision not only addresses the specific case of Selina John but also sends a broader message that such discriminatory practices will not be tolerated, reflecting a proactive stance in promoting gender equality within the workforce and beyond. This understanding of the Court's actions aligns with the passage's emphasis on addressing and dismantling patriarchal norms that underpin discrimination. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) While the Court did award significant compensation to Selina John, suggesting recognition of the injustice she faced, to infer that the Court believes compensation alone can rectify gender discrimination oversimplifies its stance. The judgment goes beyond financial redress to address the underlying issues of gender bias and discrimination, aiming to set a precedent that discourages such practices in the future. This option fails to capture the broader implications of the Court's decision, which are aimed at systemic change rather than merely compensating for past injustices. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Suggesting that the Court's decisions are primarily influenced by international norms and standards rather than domestic law misrepresents the foundation of the Court's judgment. While international norms may inform the broader context within which the Court operates, its decisions are grounded in the Indian Constitution and legal framework, specifically the principles of equality and non-discrimination. This option overlooks the Court's role in interpreting and applying domestic law to combat gender discrimination within the specific cultural and legal context of India. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

2. **Answer:** B

Reference Lines: "Acceptance of such [a] patriarchal rule undermines human dignity, right to non-discrimination and fair treatment."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) This option incorrectly suggests that the manifestation of gender biases is confined primarily to the realm of employment laws. The Supreme Court's decision to address the issue of employment termination due to marriage as unconstitutional goes beyond the specifics of employment law to challenge the underlying societal and patriarchal norms that enable such discrimination. This perspective is too narrow, failing to acknowledge the broader societal implications of the Court's observations. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option correctly identifies the broader implication of the Supreme Court's decision, which extends beyond the immediate legal context to address the societal and cultural underpinnings of gender discrimination. By condemning the termination of women's employment due to marriage, the Court is highlighting and challenging the pervasive patriarchal norms that exist across both public and private sectors, affecting women's rights and opportunities. This understanding aligns with the passage's emphasis on the need to address and dismantle these broader societal norms. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) Suggesting that the Court implies legal actions alone are sufficient to combat gender inequality overlooks the complexity of the issue as presented in the passage. The Court's decision is an important step in challenging gender discrimination, but the broader discussion in the passage indicates that legal remedies must be part of a wider effort that includes societal change, education, and cultural shift. This option fails to capture the multifaceted approach needed to address gender inequality effectively. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) This option misinterprets the nature of gender discrimination as indicated by the Supreme Court's decision. The issue of gender discrimination, particularly in the context of employment due to marriage, is presented as part of a long-standing and deeply ingrained set of societal and cultural norms, not as a recent development. The passage and the Court's decision highlight the enduring nature of gender discrimination, challenging the notion that it is a recent phenomenon. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

3. **Answer: C**

Reference Lines: The entire passage discusses the Supreme Court's stance against gender discrimination, the ongoing struggle for gender equality in various sectors, and the implications for societal norms and practices.

Difficulty Level: Easy

Explanation: a) While highlighting the role of legal remedies in addressing gender discrimination, this title does not fully encompass the broader themes of the passage, which include the Supreme Court's role in catalyzing societal change beyond the courtroom. The passage discusses the implications of the Court's decisions within a larger context of societal norms and the struggle for gender equality, which extends beyond the immediate legal remedies. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Focusing on the economic impact of gender equality in the workplace, this title misses the broader narrative of the passage, which centers on the legal and societal challenges to gender discrimination and the need for a comprehensive approach to achieving gender equality. The passage emphasizes the Court's role in addressing these challenges, which involves more than just economic considerations. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) This title accurately captures the essence of the passage, which not only discusses specific legal judgments by the Supreme Court but also the broader societal issues of gender discrimination and the need for change. It reflects the interconnectedness of legal decisions and the broader societal implications, highlighting the role of the judiciary in bridging the gap between legal judgments and societal change towards gender equality. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) By focusing solely on a legal analysis of gender discrimination, this title fails to capture the passage's broader scope, which includes the societal and cultural dimensions of the struggle for gender equality. The passage examines the implications of the Supreme Court's decisions within a wider context of changing societal norms and the ongoing effort to achieve gender equality. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

4. **Answer: B**

Reference Lines: The passage discusses the Supreme Court's stance against gender discrimination and the importance of equal treatment in the workplace, specifically in the context of women's rights and employment.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) This option incorrectly minimizes the impact of the Supreme Court's decision, suggesting it lacks broader societal relevance. The passage clearly positions the ruling within the context of ongoing struggles for gender equality and against patriarchal norms, indicating its significance beyond a single case. This misunderstanding overlooks the decision's potential to inspire further legal and societal changes. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option accurately captures the essence of the passage, which presents the Supreme Court's decision as a landmark moment in the fight against gender discrimination and patriarchal oppression in the workplace. By emphasizing the unconstitutionality of penalizing women for marriage, the Court challenges longstanding gender biases and advocates for a more inclusive and equitable work environment. This interpretation aligns with the passage's discussion of broader implications for gender equality. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) While the Supreme Court ordered financial compensation, the passage emphasizes that the ruling's significance extends far beyond the monetary aspects. It addresses systemic issues of gender discrimination and seeks to challenge and change patriarchal norms in the workplace. Focusing solely on compensation misses the broader context of the ruling as a step towards gender equality. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) This option misrepresents the passage, which critiques rather than endorses traditional patriarchal roles and norms. The Supreme Court's decision is framed as progressive, challenging outdated and discriminatory practices, not supporting them. Suggesting that the ruling upholds traditional roles contradicts the passage's portrayal of the decision as advancing gender equality. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

5. **Answer:** C

Reference Lines: The passage provides insights into the issues of gender discrimination and the Supreme Court's actions against such practices, particularly in the context of employment and societal norms.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) This option, while partly accurate, narrowly frames the passage as only an examination of the legal system's responsiveness. It overlooks the broader thematic concerns of gender discrimination in the workplace and the societal implications discussed throughout the passage. The focus is not only on the legal system but also on the need for societal change. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option misinterprets the passage's focus, suggesting a critique of the legal system's overall failures. While the passage does address gender disparities, it specifically highlights the Supreme Court's successful intervention as a positive step toward addressing these issues, rather than pointing out failures. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) This option provides a comprehensive summary that captures the essence of the passage. It acknowledges the pervasive issue of gender discrimination in the workplace and highlights the Supreme Court's active role in challenging these practices, reflecting the passage's emphasis on legal and societal efforts towards gender equality. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) Focusing on Selina John's legal battle and the financial compensation aspect, this option fails to capture the passage's broader discussion on gender discrimination, the Supreme Court's stance, and the implications for societal norms and workplace practices. The passage is not limited to the financial aspects but addresses systemic change. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

6. **Answer:** C

Reference Lines: The passage highlights the Supreme Court's critical stance against gender discrimination and its specific disapproval of penalizing women for marriage.

Difficulty Level: Easy

Explanation: a) This option is the opposite of the Supreme Court's actual stance. The passage clearly indicates that the Court opposes, rather than endorses, rules that discriminate against women based on marital status. Suggesting endorsement contradicts the Court's actions and the passage's portrayal of these actions. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Ambivalence suggests a lack of clear stance or a feeling of uncertainty, which does not align with the Supreme Court's decisive and clear condemnation of gender discrimination. The passage portrays the Court as taking a strong, unambiguous position against such practices. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) This option accurately reflects the Supreme Court's stance as described in the passage. The Court's critical observations and the decision to award compensation demonstrate a clear condemnation of discriminatory rules against women, particularly those penalizing marriage. This term aligns with the passage's depiction of the Court's efforts to combat gender discrimination. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) Indifference implies a lack of interest or concern, which is contrary to the active and engaged stance taken by the Supreme Court. The passage details the Court's proactive and concerned approach to addressing and rectifying instances of gender discrimination. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

7. **Answer:** B

Reference Lines: "The accretion disc of J0529-4351 emits light that is 500 trillion times more intense than that of our Sun."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) This option inaccurately suggests a passive and undisturbed early universe, directly contradicting the described characteristics of J0529-4351, which highlight a period of significant energy

and activity. The discovery of such a massive and bright accretion disc around a black hole implies a universe far more dynamic and tumultuous than one characterized by calmness and minimal occurrences. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Reflecting the passage's details, this option correctly suggests that the early universe was a place of considerable activity, where supermassive black holes played a pivotal role in shaping cosmic evolution. The specific mention of J0529-4351's accretion disc's brightness and size underscores an era of intense gravitational interactions and material consumption by black holes, marking a universe alive with dramatic astronomical events. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) Introducing an idea of civilizations influencing galactic formations adds an element of speculation not supported by the passage. The text focuses on natural astronomical phenomena to explain the conditions of the early universe, without delving into the potential actions of civilizations. This option distracts from the scientific observations and theories presented in the passage. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Misrepresents the evidence provided by the discovery of J0529-4351. The passage suggests that early black holes, such as J0529-4351, were not only larger but also more active than many observed in the current universe, contrary to the implication that they were smaller and exhibited less activity. This misunderstanding overlooks the passage's emphasis on the significant role and presence of supermassive black holes in the early universe. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

8. **Answer: D**

Reference Lines: "The age of the black hole feeding frenzy is over because the gas floating around in galaxies has mostly been turned into stars."

Difficulty Level: Easy

Explanation: a) While the discovery certainly expands our understanding of black holes, the central theme of the passage goes beyond just revising beliefs about their growth and size. It touches upon the broader narrative of how the universe has transitioned from a state of intense activity, as exemplified by J0529-4351, to its current more stable state. This option, therefore, narrows the scope of the passage's main message. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option misses the core message of the passage. The text aims to contrast the turbulent past of the universe, marked by active black hole accretion, with the relative calm of the present era, rather than simply noting the peaceful coexistence of black holes and stars today. It does not capture the evolutionary aspect that is central to the passage. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Focuses on an aspect (technological challenges) that, while important, is not discussed in the passage. The main thrust of the text is on the implications of J0529-4351's discovery for our understanding of cosmic history, not on the observational challenges astronomers face. This option diverts attention away from the passage's discussion of the universe's evolution. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Accurately encapsulates the passage's overarching narrative, which is the transition of the universe from an era of significant black hole activity, symbolized by the discovery of J0529-4351, to a more structured and orderly cosmic environment. This option directly aligns with the information and theme presented, making it the most representative summary of the passage's central idea. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

9. **Answer: D**

Reference Lines: "Astronomers will continue to explore the early universe's conditions, using supermassive black holes as key windows into cosmic history and evolution."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) Incorrectly assumes a decline in interest in black hole research, which contradicts the passage's implications that supermassive black holes remain a focal point for understanding the universe's early conditions and overall evolution. This option overlooks the significance of discoveries like J0529-4351 in providing insights into cosmic history. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) While future research may indeed involve seeking out larger and more luminous black holes, this option narrowly focuses on the quest for extremes rather than the broader scientific goal of understanding the universe's past. The passage suggests that the study of black holes like J0529-4351 is crucial for insights into the early universe, not just for finding bigger objects. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Misleads by suggesting a shift in research focus away from black holes, contrary to the passage's emphasis on their continued importance in cosmic studies. Supermassive black holes are presented as

crucial for understanding the universe's evolution, not as a diminishing area of interest. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Correctly infers from the passage that the study of supermassive black holes, especially those with significant accretion discs like J0529-4351, will remain essential for exploring the universe's early conditions and understanding its evolution. This option aligns with the narrative that black holes provide invaluable insights into the cosmic past, highlighting their role in future astronomical research. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

10. **Answer:** B

Reference Lines: "The accretion disc of J0529-4351 emits light that is 500 trillion times more intense than that of our Sun."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) This option misinterprets the passage. The description of J0529-4351 contradicts the idea of black holes being primarily dormant. The passage focuses on the active nature of this particular black hole, indicating a period of significant growth and energy release. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Correctly captures the essence of the discovery. The immense brightness and mass of J0529-4351's accretion disc suggest that supermassive black holes underwent phases of aggressive material consumption and high activity levels, challenging previous notions of their behavior. This aligns with the passage's depiction of J0529-4351, emphasizing its role in reshaping our understanding. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) Incorrect, as the discovery of J0529-4351 indicates a dynamic evolutionary process for black holes, from highly active states to more dormant phases in the current universe. The passage describes a transition in black hole activity over time, not a consistency in behavior. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) While this option touches on the idea of growth, it does not fully encapsulate the significant implications of J0529-4351's discovery regarding the active consumption and accumulation of material by supermassive black holes in the early universe. The key aspect of intense activity is not as emphasized as in Option B. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

11. **Answer:** B

Reference Lines: "Thanks to a huge astronomical survey of the entire sky, we have now found what may be the most hellish place in the universe."

Difficulty Level: Easy

Explanation: a) Incorrect because the passage does not employ "like" or "as" in its comparison, which is essential for a simile. The direct comparison without these words indicates a different figure of speech is at play, making this option inaccurate. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Correct as it identifies the usage of a metaphor in the passage. The text makes a direct comparison between J0529-4351's conditions and Hell, suggesting extreme conditions without the use of "like" or "as," fitting the definition of a metaphor. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) Incorrect because personification involves giving human characteristics to non-human entities, and the passage does not suggest that the black hole possesses human-like qualities or behaviors. The comparison made is about the conditions, not attributing human traits. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) This option is not accurate because the passage uses the comparison to Hell to convey the severity of conditions around J0529-4351, not necessarily to exaggerate but to highlight its extreme nature. The figure of speech used aims more to compare than exaggerate. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

12. **Answer:** B

Reference Lines: "The disc is heated by friction as the material in it rubs together."

Difficulty Level: Easy

Explanation: a) This option is not correct because it suggests an inaccurate portrayal of the accretion disc. The passage describes the accretion disc as a highly active area, where material is intensely heated due to friction, leading to significant brightness, indicating a dynamic and not a stable structure. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Correct as it precisely reflects the passage's description of the accretion disc around J0529-4351. The disc's intense friction and resulting brightness highlight its dynamic nature and crucial role in the black hole's growth and energy emission. This aligns with the detailed explanation provided in the text. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) Incorrect because the passage explains the accretion disc as a region where material is accumulated before being consumed by the black hole, rather than acting as a barrier. The disc facilitates the process of material moving towards the black hole, not preventing it. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) This option is not correct as the passage discusses the accretion disc of J0529-4351 as an observable and significant feature, not as a purely theoretical concept. The detailed observations and implications for our understanding of black holes confirm its observed nature. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

13. **Answer: C**

Reference Lines: "The job market is transforming, with new careers emerging as automation and artificial intelligence (AI) advances."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) This option misrepresents the passage's message. The passage clearly indicates that the advent of technology and digitalization has dramatically transformed job markets, making some traditional skills obsolete and creating a need for professionals to learn new, relevant skills. There is no indication that technology has stabilized job markets in the sense of keeping traditional skills relevant. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Incorrect as the passage explicitly states that online booking systems and user-friendly publishing software have reduced the demand for travel agents and desktop publishers, respectively. This suggests that technology has not enhanced these roles but rather made them less necessary, highlighting the displacement of certain job functions by technological solutions. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Correctly captures the essence of the passage, which emphasizes the transformative impact of technological progress on the job market. It points out that professionals must continually update their skills to remain competitive and adapt to changes brought about by automation, AI, and other technological advancements. This continuous skill development is essential for navigating the evolving landscape of the job market. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) This option is contrary to the passage's content, which suggests that building a personal brand has become increasingly important in the modern job market. Personal branding, enriched through online education and skill development, helps individuals stand out and access better opportunities, underscoring its growing importance rather than diminishment. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

14. **Answer: B**

Reference Lines: "The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown this trend into overdrive. It has highlighted the need for workers and employers to be flexible to adjust to remote work, evolving job demands and uncertain prospects."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) This option inaccurately reflects the passage's content, which suggests the pandemic has accelerated the shift towards more flexible and independent work modalities, such as freelancing. The trend indicates an increased interest in freelancing due to its inherent flexibility and autonomy, contrasting with the idea of a shift back to more traditional, stable employment. Therefore, this interpretation is at odds with the passage's discussion of changing work dynamics in the context of the pandemic. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option is accurate and aligns with the passage's narrative. The COVID-19 pandemic has indeed amplified the significance of achieving a satisfactory work/life balance and the need for career flexibility in the face of rapidly changing global and professional landscapes. This shift reflects a broader reevaluation among workers of what they value in their careers, underscoring the desire for roles that offer adaptability and a better alignment with personal life and goals. The passage explicitly mentions these evolving preferences as a response to the pandemic, making this the correct answer. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) Contrary to the passage's implications, this option suggests a regression to more traditional career trajectories, which is not supported by the text. The passage clearly indicates a movement towards greater

career fluidity and the exploration of diverse industries and roles, driven by technological advancements and altered work environments due to the pandemic. This misinterpretation overlooks the emphasis on adaptability and exploration in response to changing economic and social conditions. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) This option misrepresents the passage, which notes an increased, not reduced, emphasis on the need for flexibility and the capability for remote work as critical factors in job preferences post-pandemic. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of these aspects due to shifting work conditions and the necessity of adapting to new modes of operation, including remote work arrangements. This discrepancy suggests a misunderstanding of the passage's discussion on how the pandemic has reshaped priorities and expectations in the workforce. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

15. **Answer: C**

Reference Lines: "Jobs can be widely publicised and explored online and are no longer tied to your city of birth. Add to this the rapid technological progress."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) This option misunderstands the passage's message. Rather than reducing the value of traditional jobs and enforcing rigidity, globalization and technological progress have expanded job opportunities, necessitating a more adaptable and flexible approach to career development. The passage emphasizes the diversification of career paths enabled by these factors, contrary to suggesting an imposition of more rigid structures. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Incorrect, as the passage illustrates that the pandemic has not reversed but accelerated trends towards digital accessibility and remote work. It points to an adaptation to and an embrace of these trends, highlighting the increased importance of flexibility and the ability to work remotely, in contrast to advocating for a return to traditional job roles. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Accurately encapsulates the essence of the passage. It reflects the passage's discussion on how globalization, technological advancements, and the COVID-19 pandemic have collectively transformed the job market. This transformation demands continuous skill development and adaptability from professionals to navigate the challenges and opportunities presented by these changes effectively. The summary captures the dynamic nature of the current job market, influenced significantly by technological progress and the pandemic's impact. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) This option is not supported by the passage, which suggests a job market that is becoming increasingly dynamic, with an emphasis on skill development, personal branding, and adaptability. There is no indication that an employer's focus on loyalty is leading to a static job market; rather, the text discusses how employees might seek opportunities elsewhere if their skills are underutilized, indicating a market that values flexibility and continuous learning. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

16. **Answer: C**

Reference Lines: "As a result, career paths have become fluid and multi-directional."

Difficulty Level: Easy

Explanation: a) This option contradicts the passage's message. The term "fluid and multi-directional" suggests adaptability and openness to change, not rigidity or predictability. The passage emphasizes the evolving nature of career paths away from traditional linear trajectories, making this choice incorrect. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Incorrect, as the passage suggests the opposite. The "fluid and multi-directional" nature of career paths highlights a move away from early career specialization towards embracing a broader range of experiences and roles. It indicates a shift towards versatility and adaptability in professional life. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Correct, because it captures the essence of what the passage conveys about the changing nature of career paths. The description of careers as "fluid and multi-directional" points to the increased flexibility in professional life, allowing individuals to explore different paths, switch industries, and adapt to new opportunities. This reflects a significant shift from the traditional, more linear career progression. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) This option is misleading. The passage's discussion of fluid and multi-directional career paths implies a need for ongoing professional development to navigate the changes successfully. It suggests that

continuous learning and skill adaptation are crucial, contrary to the idea that professional development is no longer necessary. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

17. **Answer:** B

Reference Lines: "Globalisation has turned the world economy into a giant, interconnected web."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) Incorrect because the passage clearly states that globalization has expanded the job market beyond local boundaries, making it a vast, interconnected web. This expansion contradicts the notion of limiting opportunities to local markets only. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Correct, as it directly aligns with the passage's description of globalization's effects. By turning the world economy into an interconnected web, globalization has intensified competition in the job market and made talent and opportunities more diverse and digitally accessible, breaking down geographical barriers to employment. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) This option misinterprets the passage, which highlights the increase in diversity and accessibility of talent due to globalization. The passage suggests that globalization has broadened, not decreased, the pool of talent and opportunities available. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Incorrect, as the passage emphasizes the role of digital accessibility and the global nature of job opportunities, suggesting a move towards more modern, digital forms of employment rather than a return to traditional ones. Globalization is portrayed as a driver of change towards digital and remote work environments. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

18. **Answer:** A

Reference Lines: "The job market is transforming, with new careers emerging as automation and artificial intelligence (AI) advances."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) Correct because the passage uses the concept of transformation to describe the changes in the job market brought about by AI and automation. This is a metaphorical use, likening the evolution and shift in the job market to a physical or substantial change, without implying a literal transformation. It effectively conveys the depth and significance of the impact that technological advancements have on career opportunities and job roles. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

b) This option is not accurate in the context provided. The passage discusses the tangible effects of AI and automation on the job market, indicating real and observable changes rather than employing hyperbole to exaggerate these impacts. The description aims to convey the seriousness and reality of these changes, making hyperbole an incorrect interpretation. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Incorrect because the passage does not attribute human qualities to the job market. Personification would involve describing the job market as if it had human emotions, intentions, or behaviours, which is not the case here. The focus is on the changes within the job market due to external factors, not on giving it human characteristics. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) This option misidentifies the figure of speech used in the passage. Alliteration involves the repetition of initial consonant sounds in closely situated words, which is not the technique employed in describing the job market's changes due to AI and automation. The passage does not focus on sound patterns but on the conceptual shift in the job market. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

19. **Answer:** A

Reference Lines: "However, this viewpoint tends to neglect the fact that the challenge is not merely about numbers but about the distribution and utilization of resources..."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) This option is correct. The passage elucidates a paradigm shift from viewing overpopulation solely as a numerical issue to recognizing the underlying problem of resource distribution and access. It criticizes the conventional emphasis on population control, advocating for a broader understanding that includes the equitable allocation of resources as a fundamental aspect of addressing overpopulation. This perspective challenges the traditional narrative by highlighting the complexity of the issue beyond mere numbers, thus accurately reflecting the passage's main argument. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

b) This option is incorrect. While historical approaches and certain discourses have indeed focused on reducing birth rates as a primary solution to overpopulation, the passage critiques this narrow focus. It argues for a reevaluation of overpopulation issues that considers socio-economic factors, especially the distribution and accessibility of resources, suggesting that mere emphasis on birth rate reduction is insufficient and overlooks critical dimensions of the problem. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Incorrect because the passage does not primarily advocate for technological solutions as the shift in narrative. While technology may play a role in modern approaches to managing population growth, the passage emphasizes the need to address the more fundamental issue of resource distribution and access. The focus is on structural and systemic changes rather than solely on technological interventions, making this option misaligned with the passage's main points. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Incorrect as the passage does not specifically highlight international aid as the redirected focus of overpopulation discourse. Although international aid might be part of broader strategies to address global challenges, the passage points to a need for addressing the deeper issues of resource distribution within the context of overpopulation. The emphasis is on changing the framework through which overpopulation is understood, rather than attributing a solution to international aid. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

20. **Answer: C**

Reference Lines: "However, this viewpoint tends to neglect the fact that the challenge is not merely about numbers but about the distribution and utilization of resources..."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) Incorrect because the passage challenges the idea that overpopulation is merely a result of unchecked population growth. It suggests that the real issue lies in the unequal distribution and utilization of resources, indicating that the problem of overpopulation cannot be fully understood or addressed without considering these socio-economic factors. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Incorrect as the passage critiques the effectiveness of traditional population control measures. It argues that these strategies have fallen short because they fail to address the root causes of overpopulation, namely the unequal access to and distribution of resources. The passage calls for a reevaluation of how overpopulation is understood and managed, highlighting the limitations of conventional population control approaches. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Correct because the passage argues that the discourse on overpopulation often overlooks or minimizes the significance of unequal resource distribution and access, which are crucial factors exacerbating the issue. By focusing on population numbers without addressing the underlying socio-economic disparities, the narrative on overpopulation can obscure the more fundamental challenges related to resource allocation and access. This option accurately captures the passage's critique of the overpopulation narrative and its call for a more nuanced understanding of the issue. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) Incorrect as the passage does not claim that concerns about overpopulation are exaggerated or trivial. Instead, it critiques how these concerns are framed and addressed, arguing that the focus should be shifted towards the structural issues of resource distribution. The passage implies that overpopulation is a significant issue but one that is misunderstood and improperly addressed by conventional narratives. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

21. **Answer: C**

Reference Lines: "Many have argued that the focus should shift from limiting population growth to the root cause – unequal access to resources."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) Incorrect because while technological innovation may play a role in addressing various challenges, the passage specifically critiques the narrow focus on population numbers. It suggests that a more fundamental approach addressing equitable resource distribution and access is necessary for effective development policies. Hence, prioritizing technology alone does not align with the passage's argument. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Incorrect as the passage points out the limitations of focusing solely on birth control methods for managing overpopulation. It argues for a broader approach that addresses the structural causes of overpopulation, particularly the unequal distribution of resources. Development strategies that focus only

on birth control miss the critical socio-economic dimensions of the issue. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Correct because it aligns with the passage's argument that development policies should address the root causes of overpopulation, which include unequal access to and distribution of resources. By focusing on creating policies that ensure equitable resource distribution, the fundamental socio-economic factors contributing to overpopulation can be addressed more effectively. This approach represents a shift from symptom management to tackling the underlying issues. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) Incorrect as the passage does not suggest that overpopulation should be ignored in favor of pursuing economic growth. Instead, it calls for a nuanced understanding of overpopulation that includes addressing economic disparities and resource distribution. Ignoring overpopulation in development policies could exacerbate existing inequalities and environmental pressures. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

22. **Answer: B**

Reference Lines: "Overpopulation, as traditionally defined, implies an unsustainable increase in the number of people relative to available resources."

Difficulty Level: Easy

Explanation: a) Incorrect because "overpopulation" is not used as an adjective within the passage. Adjectives describe or modify nouns, but "overpopulation" itself is presented as the main subject or idea being discussed, specifically referring to a condition or state related to population dynamics, rather than describing a state. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Correct as the passage uses "overpopulation" as a noun, delineating a specific condition where the number of individuals surpasses what the environment can sustainably support. The term encapsulates a complex issue involving resource distribution, environmental capacity, and social implications, serving as the central theme around which the passage's arguments are constructed. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) Incorrect because "overpopulation" does not function as a verb in the passage. Verbs denote actions or states of being, but here, "overpopulation" describes a concept or condition related to demographic and ecological balance, rather than an action performed by populations. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Incorrect as "overpopulation" is not used adverbially in the passage. Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs, but the term in question acts as the subject of discourse, identifying a specific demographic and ecological issue, rather than modifying how an action is performed. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

23. **Answer: B**

Reference Lines: "However, this viewpoint tends to neglect the fact that the challenge is not merely about numbers but about the distribution and utilization of resources..."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) Incorrect because, rather than advocating for a simplistic solution focused solely on reducing birth rates, the passage emphasizes understanding overpopulation within the broader context of resource distribution and access. It challenges the reductionist approach to overpopulation, suggesting that addressing the root causes of resource inequity is crucial. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Correct as the passage clearly frames overpopulation not just as an issue of too many people, but as a manifestation of underlying structural problems, including unequal distribution of resources and wealth. This perspective shifts the discourse from population control to a more nuanced analysis of socio-economic disparities and their role in exacerbating the impacts of population growth. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) Incorrect because the passage does not dismiss concerns about overpopulation outright; instead, it critiques the manner in which these concerns are typically addressed. By highlighting the distribution and utilization of resources as central issues, the passage calls for a reevaluation of overpopulation within a broader socio-economic context, rather than suggesting the concerns are unfounded. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Incorrect as the passage suggests that technological advancements, while potentially part of the solution, are not sufficient on their own to resolve the complexities of overpopulation. The emphasis is on

addressing the systemic issues of resource allocation and access, indicating that a multifaceted approach is necessary beyond just technological fixes. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

24. **Answer:** C

Reference Lines: "Many have argued that the focus should shift from limiting population growth to the root cause – unequal access to resources."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) Incorrect because the passage does not limit the discussion to the moral dimensions of population growth. While ethical considerations may underpin aspects of the debate on overpopulation, the passage focuses more on practical and systemic approaches to addressing the issue, particularly through resource distribution and access. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Incorrect as the passage does not advocate for punitive measures like international sanctions against countries experiencing population growth. Instead, it calls for understanding and tackling the root causes of perceived overpopulation, emphasizing constructive solutions that address systemic inequalities rather than imposing sanctions. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Correct because the passage specifically identifies the need to reorient the discourse on overpopulation towards addressing systemic issues related to how resources are distributed and accessed. This approach recognizes the complexity of overpopulation, suggesting that solutions should aim to rectify the unequal distribution of resources as a fundamental cause of the challenges associated with population growth. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) Incorrect as the passage critiques the tendency of Global North countries to scapegoat the Global South for overpopulation and pollution, suggesting skepticism towards interventions that do not address the underlying issues of resource inequity. The passage calls for a more nuanced understanding of overpopulation that goes beyond external intervention in policies of Global South countries. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

Current Affairs and General Knowledge

25. **Answer:** A
Explanation: The color of the white tiger's fur is the result of a genetic mutation called leucism. In fact, this white coat would be a hindrance in the wild, as it doesn't provide a tiger with any camouflage, which greatly reduces their chance of survival.
26. **Answer:** C
Explanation: It has also been designated as a Global Network of Biospheres site since 2009.
27. **Answer:** D
Explanation: The highest population of Tigers in India is in the state of Madhya Pradesh, with 526 Tigers, followed by Karnataka, with 524 Tigers. The total population of Tigers in the world increased considerably in the past decade, and India has a major role in this achievement.
28. **Answer:** D
Explanation: Odisha is set to unveil the world's first melanistic tiger safari near the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR). Melanism is a genetic condition, that results in increased melanin production, leading to black or nearly black skin, feathers, or hair in animals.
The Royal Bengal Tigers of Similipal boast a distinctive lineage with elevated melanin levels, giving rise to black and yellow interspersed stripes, making them pseudo-melanistic.
According to the All India Tiger Estimation, 2022, Similipal Tiger Reserve houses 16 tigers, with 10 of them displaying melanistic traits. Similipal is situated in the Deccan Peninsula Biogeographic Zone. Predominantly moist mixed deciduous forest with tropical semi-evergreen patches and sporadic dry deciduous forests and grasslands. Holds 7% of India's flowering plants and 8% of its orchid species.
29. **Answer:** D
Explanation: Spanning approximately 200 hectares near Dhanbad-Balasore National Highway-18, the safari site lies in close proximity to STR, providing a landscape akin to Simlipal.
In the beginning, three melanistic tigers from Nandankanan Zoo, along with rescued or orphaned tigers, will occupy the open enclosures of the safari.
30. **Answer:** D
Explanation: The 66th Annual Grammy Awards honored the best recordings, compositions, and artists from October 1, 2022, to September 15, 2023, as chosen by the members of The Recording Academy, on February 4, 2024.
Date: 5 February 2024 at 6:30 am IST
Host: Trevor Noah
Location: Crypto.com Arena
Nominations announcement: Friday 10 November, 2023
Most awards: Phoebe Bridgers (4)
Network: CBS; Paramount+
31. **Answer:** A
Explanation: Grammy Award (originally named Gramophone Award) is a series of awards presented annually in the United States (US) by the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (NARAS) or the Latin Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (LARAS), (LARAS only for recordings in Spanish/Portuguese languages).
This annual event to recognize musical achievements was started in 1959 to respect the performers for the year 1958. The honorees receive a golden statuette of a gramophone
32. **Answer:** D
Explanation: Shakti's third studio album, "This Moment," was released on 23rd June 2023, marking their return after 46 years under the same name.

33. **Answer: C**
Explanation: Shakti, comprising Zakir Hussain, Shankar Mahadevan, John McLaughlin, Ganesh Rajagopalan, and Selvaganesh Vinayakram, won the 2024 Grammy for their album "This Moment." Described as an "unprecedented transcontinental collaboration," Shakti brings together musicians from both Eastern and Western traditions, pioneering the blueprint for what is now recognized as world music. Shakti, a fusion music group comprising tabla maestro Zakir Hussain and singer Shankar Mahadevan, has won the 66th Grammy Award (2024) for Best Global Music Album for "This Moment".
34. **Answer: D**
Explanation: Shakti, comprising Zakir Hussain, Shankar Mahadevan, John McLaughlin, Ganesh Rajagopalan, and Selvaganesh Vinayakram, won the 2024 Grammy for their album "This Moment." Described as an "unprecedented transcontinental collaboration," Shakti brings together musicians from both Eastern and Western traditions, pioneering the blueprint for what is now recognized as world music.
35. **Answer: C**
Explanation: In the EU Parliament which consists of 720 members, the number of seats is divided between 27 member countries based on the principle of 'degressive proportionality'. Under this principle, the ratio of population to the number of seats shall increase as the population increases.
For example, Denmark with a population of around 60 lakh has 15 seats (average population of 4 lakh per member) as against Germany with a population of 8.3 crore having 96 seats (average population of 8.6 lakh per member).
36. **Answer: C**
Explanation: Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census. Under Article 170, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.
37. **Answer: B**
Explanation: The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
- Retired Supreme Court judge
 - Chief Election Commissioner
 - Respective State Election Commissioners
38. **Answer: D**
Explanation: The Assam state Cabinet recently approved the merger of four districts with their constituent districts.
On 27th December, the EC announced the process of delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies in Assam, saying it would be based on Census data from 2001. Assam currently has 14 Lok Sabha constituencies and 126 Assembly constituencies.
Functions & Powers of Delimitation Commission-
To determine the number and boundaries of constituencies to make the population of all constituencies nearly equal.
To identify seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, wherever their population is relatively large.
Powers:
In case of a difference of opinion among members of the Commission, the opinion of the majority prevails.
The Delimitation Commission in India is a high-power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court.
39. **Answer: B**
Explanation: States that take little interest in population control could end up with a greater number of seats in Parliament. The southern states that promoted family planning faced the possibility of having their seats reduced.

In 2002-08, Delimitation was done based on the 2001 census, but the total number of seats in the Assemblies and Parliament decided as per the 1971 Census was not changed.

The 87th Amendment Act of 2003 provided for the delimitation of constituencies on the basis of 2001 census and not 1991 census. However, this can be done without altering the number of seats allotted to each state in the Lok Sabha.

The Constitution has also capped the number of Lok Shaba & Rajya Sabha seats to a maximum of 550 & 250 respectively and increasing populations are being represented by a single representative.

40. **Answer: B**

Explanation: India has a vast coastline of 7500 km, and its exclusive economic zones (EEZ) extend over 2.2 million square km. Also, India is home to 12 major ports, over 200 other ports, 30 shipyards and a comprehensive hub of diverse maritime service providers.

It advocates the greening of ocean development strategies for higher productivity and conservation of the ocean's health.

Oceans cover three-quarters of the Earth's surface, contain 97% of the Earth's water, and represent 99% of the living area on the planet.

41. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Blue economy refers to the sustainable use of marine resources for exploration, economic growth, improved livelihoods, and transport while preserving the health of marine and coastal ecosystems. In India, the blue economy encompasses a wide range of sectors, including shipping, tourism, fisheries, and offshore oil and gas exploration.

This is reflected in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 14), which calls to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

42. **Answer: C**

Explanation: The Sagarmala Programme (transl. Garland of the sea) is an initiative by the Government of India to enhance the performance of the country's logistics sector. The programme envisages unlocking the potential of waterways and the coastline to minimize infrastructural investments required to meet these targets.

It entails investing ₹8.5 trillion (equivalent to ₹11 trillion, US\$140 billion or €140 billion in 2023) (2018) to set up new mega ports, modernizing India's existing ports, developing of 14 Coastal Economic Zones (CEZs) and Coastal Economic Units, enhancing port connectivity via road, rail, multi-modal logistics parks, pipelines & waterways and promoting coastal community development, with the aim of boosting merchandise exports by US\$110 billion and generating around 10 million direct and indirect jobs.

The Sagarmala Programme is the flagship programme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to promote port-led development in the country by exploiting India's 7,517 km long coastline, 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways and its strategic location on key international maritime trade routes. Sagarmala aims to modernize India's Ports, so that port-led development can be augmented and coastlines can be developed to contribute to India's growth. It also aims at "transforming the existing Ports into modern world-class Ports and integrate the development of the Ports, the Industrial clusters and hinterland and efficient evacuation systems through road, rail, inland and coastal waterways resulting in Ports becoming the drivers of economic activity in coastal areas.

43. **Answer: C**

Explanation: The cabinet approved Umbrella scheme "Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science (O-SMART)".

The scheme encompasses a total of 16 sub-projects addressing ocean development activities such as Services, Technology, Resources, Observations and Science.

Implementation period is from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

The project will be implemented by Ministry of Earth Sciences.

The ocean advisory services and technologies being rendered and developed under the scheme will play a pivotal role in the development activities over many sectors, working in the marine environment including the coastal states of India, contributing significantly to the GDP.

44. **Answer:** B
Explanation: Recently, the India-Norway Task Force on Blue Economy for Sustainable Development was inaugurated jointly by both the countries. This task force was launched during Norwegian Prime Minister's visit to India earlier in 2019.
The two countries also commenced a new collaboration on Integrated Ocean Management & Research. The purpose of the task force is to develop and follow up joint initiatives between the two countries. It also intends to mobilise relevant stakeholders from both Norway and India at the highest level, and ensure continued commitment and progress across ministries and agencies.
45. **Answer:** A
Explanation: Loss and Damage (L&D) Fund:
COP28, member countries reached an agreement to operationalize the Loss and Damage (L&D) fund aimed at compensating countries grappling with climate change impacts.
The World Bank will be the "interim host" of the fund for four years, aligning with UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.
All developing countries are eligible to apply, and every country is "invited" to contribute voluntarily. A specific percentage is earmarked for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.
46. **Answer:** C
Explanation: The European Union (EU) has recently introduced its new proposed 2040 climate goal, outlining a net emissions reduction target of 90% by 2040 compared to the 1990 baseline levels.
47. **Answer:** D
Explanation: EU's previous goal set in September 2020 aimed at cutting greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 55% below 1990 levels by 2030, which was later enshrined in the EU Climate Law along with a commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.
48. **Answer:** D
Explanation: The latest 2024 proposal is an interim step required by the EU Climate Law, which outlines a process to develop a 2040 target within six months of the first Global Stocktake (GST), which concluded at the 28th CoP to the UNFCCC in Dubai.
The proposal highlights the need for a significant reduction in coal usage by 2040, with natural gas expected to decline rapidly, and oil being the last to be phased out. However, some fossil fuels will remain in use for non-energy purposes and long-distance transport.
49. **Answer:** C
Explanation: NPCI launched UPI with 21 member banks in 2016.
50. **Answer:** B
Explanation: Developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in 2016, UPI is an instant payment system that integrates multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application, simplifying various banking functions, fund transfers, and merchant payments.
51. **Answer:** D
Explanation: The partnership between NPCI's subsidiary, NPCI International Payments (NIPL), and France's Lyra Collect has led to an agreement to introduce UPI in France and Europe. The collaboration between National Payments Corporation of India's arm International Payments Limited (NIPL) and France's Lyra Collect resulted in an agreement to implement UPI in France and Europe. This initiative is expected to facilitate seamless financial transactions for Indian tourists in France.
52. **Answer:** C
Explanation: Unified Payments Interface (UPI):
It is an advanced version of Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)- round-the-clock funds transfer service to make cashless payments faster, easier and smoother.
-

UPI is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application (of any participating bank), merging several banking features, seamless fund routing & merchant payments into one hood.

UPI is currently the biggest among the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) operated systems including National Automated Clearing House (NACH), Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS), Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), RuPay etc.

The top UPI apps today include PhonePe, Paytm, Google Pay, Amazon Pay and BHIM, the latter being the Government offering.

As part of an agreement, India's UPI will be linked to Singapore's PayNow.

NPCI launched UPI with 21 member banks in 2016.

Legal Reasoning

53. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Option B is correct. Habeas Corpus is the appropriate legal remedy when someone is unlawfully detained. If Nia is held in police custody without proper legal justification, a Habeas Corpus petition can be filed to secure her release. Option A is incorrect. Habeas Corpus can be filed against the police when someone is unlawfully detained. Option C is incorrect. While it is important to address the sexual assault incident, the immediate concern is Nia's unlawful detention. Habeas Corpus focuses on the right to personal liberty, and addressing the sexual assault can be a separate legal action. Option D is incorrect. Mandamus is not the appropriate remedy in this context. A mandamus is used to compel a public authority to perform a duty that it is legally obligated to perform. In this case, Habeas Corpus, which addresses unlawful detention, is more suitable.

54. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Option A is correct. If Nia is detained by the servants of Kevada Thakur and prevented from registering an FIR, Habeas Corpus can be filed against Kevada Thakur to secure her release. Habeas Corpus addresses unlawful detention, and in this case, it would be against private individuals acting as agents of Kevada Thakur. Option B is incorrect. Habeas Corpus can be filed against private individuals if they are involved in the unlawful detention of another person. It is not limited to actions by state authorities. Option C is incorrect. Mandamus is not the appropriate remedy in this context. Mandamus is used to compel a public authority to perform a duty. Private individuals like Kevada Thakur's servants are not public authorities in the legal sense. Option D is incorrect. While filing an FIR is crucial for addressing the sexual assault, Habeas Corpus can still be filed to secure Nia's release from unlawful detention. These legal actions can run concurrently.

55. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Option B is correct. Ramesh, as a family member and concerned individual, can file a Habeas Corpus petition to secure the release of his daughter if she is unlawfully detained. Habeas Corpus is a remedy available to anyone who is unlawfully detained. Option A is incorrect. Ramesh, as the father of Nia, has the legal standing to file a Habeas Corpus petition, especially if his daughter has been unlawfully detained by private individuals. Option C is incorrect. Mandamus is not the appropriate remedy in this context. Mandamus is used to compel a public authority to perform a duty. Private individuals like Kevada Thakur's servants are not public authorities in the legal sense. While filing a missing person report is a practical step, Habeas Corpus directly addresses the issue of unlawful detention. Both actions can be taken, but Habeas Corpus is specifically designed for situations where someone is detained against their will.

56. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Option C is correct. Mandamus cannot be filed against Bhide because he is not a public authority, and mandamus is not applicable to private individuals or entities. Mandamus is typically used to compel action from government officials. Option A is incorrect in the same reasoning as Option C. Option B is incorrect. Habeas Corpus is a writ used to secure the release of a person who is unlawfully detained. It is not applicable in a situation where someone is not physically detained.

57. **Answer:** C

Explanation: This statement is correct. If Hari Singh, as a governmental officer, is not fulfilling his duty of giving out governmental contracts, Nilofar can file a writ of mandamus to compel him to perform that duty. Option A is incorrect. Mandamus is not limited to cases where the petitioner is directly suffering harm. It can be filed to compel a public official to perform a duty for the public good. Nilofar's concern about bad roads and accidents could be a legitimate reason to seek mandamus. Option C is incorrect. The key is that the duty in question must be a public duty. Option D is incorrect. Habeas Corpus is a writ used to secure the release of a person who is unlawfully detained. It is not applicable in a situation where someone is not physically detained.

58. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option B is correct as it correctly acknowledges that filing an RTI application may not be appropriate in this scenario. Personal exam scores are private information, and the RTI Act may not be applicable for resolving personal disputes or bets. Option A is incorrect as this suggests that filing an RTI application is necessary for the resolution of a personal bet. However, personal bets and private matters are generally not valid reasons for seeking information through the RTI Act. RTI is designed to promote transparency in the functioning of public authorities and is not intended for personal disputes or individual grievances. Option C is incorrect it being neighbours gives someone the right to know the academic scores of another person. In reality, the RTI Act has specific provisions and limitations, and personal privacy is generally respected. Option D is incorrect. The examination department does not have the right to reject the application based on triviality, but privacy is a criterion.

59. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option B is correct. The policy mentioned, stating that non-reply to an RTI application should be considered as a denial, is not in line with the provisions of the RTI Act. According to the RTI Act, if there is no response to an application within the stipulated time frame, it is not automatically considered a denial. Instead, it may be treated as a deemed refusal, and the applicant has the right to appeal the non-response. Option A is incorrect. The Right to Information Act in India does not discriminate based on the nationality of the applicant. Both Indian and foreign nationals can file RTI applications to seek information from public authorities. Option C is incorrect. The RTI Act allows individuals to seek information for personal use, public interest, or any other legitimate reason. If the information sought is not exempted under the Act, it should be provided. Option D is incorrect as it misleads by giving other irrelevant sources which it is not provided in the passage.

60. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option B is correct. Private companies like Algo Tech are generally not obligated to respond to RTI applications. The RTI Act primarily applies to public authorities, government agencies, and organizations substantially funded or controlled by the government. Option A is incorrect. This option is incorrect. Private companies, especially those not substantially funded or controlled by the government, are generally not covered under the Right to Information (RTI) Act in India. Option C is incorrect as it misleads by giving other irrelevant sources which it is not provided in the passage. Option D is incorrect as it is not mentioned in the passage for approval by the court.

61. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Option A is correct. According to the Right to Information Act, public authorities are mandated to respond to RTI applications within 30 days. Harish, as an environmental activist seeking information about tree felling permits, has a legitimate reason, and the Forest Department is obligated to provide a response. Option B is incorrect. The Right to Information Act allows individuals to seek information on various matters, including environmental issues. Harish has a right to file an RTI application to inquire about tree felling permits for research purposes. Option C is incorrect as it is not mentioned in the passage for approval by the court. Option D is incorrect as the information is not covered under any exceptions.

62. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Option D is correct. Attorney-client privilege is a legal concept that protects certain communications between a client and their attorney from being disclosed. The information shared between a client and their attorney is considered confidential, and the privilege is designed to encourage open and honest communication between them and it is covered under the exceptions of RTI. Option A is incorrect as alone being a public company does not obligate them to provide all information. Option B is incorrect for the same reason as Option D that the information is covered under the Attorney-client privilege. Option C is incorrect as both Options A and B are incorrect.

63. **Answer:** C

Explanation: The first condition of a valid custom is that the custom has to be ancient. The antiquity of a custom is an essential and foremost element of a valid custom. It must be followed by people from time immemorial. In this case, the custom was established now and it was not an ancient practice. A custom cannot be new. Thus, it is not a valid custom, and Option C is correct. Option A is incorrect because all the essentials are not satisfied, the custom is not ancient. Option B is incorrect as per the same reasoning. Option D is incorrect because the practice is clear, but it is not ancient.

64. **Answer:** D

Explanation: The essentials of a valid custom include that the practice in question must be in consonance with moral policy and public policy. It should be aimed at the well-being of the public and only be followed for the good of the people. In this case, the practice is not resulting in anyone's well-being. Contrarily, this practice has resulted in the killing of many innocent females. Thus, it is opposed to public policy. This is not a valid custom and option D is correct. Option A is incorrect because all the essentials have to be satisfied, merely being an ancient practice is not enough. Option B is incorrect because the custom is clear. Option C is incorrect because the practice has been continuously followed from time immemorial in the village.

65. **Answer:** C

Explanation: In this case, the custom is valid because it satisfies all the essentials of a valid custom. It is ancient, continuous, unambiguous, and not opposed to moral policy. As the custom is valid, it will supersede the statutory personal law. Thus, the court will permit this adoption, and option C is correct. Option A is incorrect because as explained above, a valid custom has a force of law. Option B is incorrect because the custom is valid as it satisfies all the essentials. Option D is incorrect because it is vague.

66. **Answer:** B

Explanation: For a custom to be valid, it should be followed without any interruption. If a custom is not continued for a period of time or is discontinued it comes to an end and such tradition or practise is no longer considered to be a custom. In this case, the custom was discontinued which made the custom come to an end. Thus, it is not valid and option B is correct. Option A is incorrect because it is clearly given that practice was ancient. Option C is incorrect because the custom is cleared with its usage. Option D is incorrect because a valid custom has a force of law and a custom can go against the personal laws and still be valid.

67. **Answer:** C

Explanation: A valid custom should not be against the public policy which means it should aim at the well-being of the people, good of the people. Customs should not be against the social rules. Customs should not be against the moral values or set of ethical standards that the society follows. In this case, the custom was not only immoral, it qualifies as a crime that violates the safety of the people. Thus, it is invalid and option C is correct. Options A and B are incorrect because even though these two points are satisfied, all the essentials have to be met in order to validate a custom. Option D is incorrect because the custom is not unreasonable, but it is immoral.

68. **Answer:** D

Explanation: For an invention to be patentable, it must be used in society in a bona fide manner and it must be useful in well-being of the society. The invention of Mr Virus cannot be used in a good manner because it promotes the intake of alcohol which is harmful to any society. Thus, it is not patentable and

option D is correct. Options A and B are incorrect because even though the other two conditions are satisfied, it does not make the invention patentable unless all the conditions are satisfied. Option C is incorrect because it is clearly provided in the case that it was Mr Virus' original idea and a novel invention.

69. **Answer: C**

Explanation: A patent is a territorial right which means that it can only be applied where it has been granted. The action for infringement can only be taken in the country where the patent has been granted. Thus, Mr Nobita cannot sue Ms Shizuka in Japan and option C is correct. Because of this reasoning, options A and can be eliminated. Option B is incorrect because the invention was patentable, it is given that the invention was patented, thus this question does not arise.

70. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer because the patent is a territorial right. Once the patent has been granted in one country, the suit for infringement of such patent cannot be filed in another country. Option A is incorrect because it is a requirement for the grant of a patent that it must not be in existence in any form, it must be a novel invention. Option B is incorrect because the patentee has a right to transfer the patent. Since option C is correct. Option D cannot be the answer.

71. **Answer: B**

Explanation: A patentee has the exclusive right to make use, exercise, sell or distribute the patented article or substance in India. This right to sell the patents can be exercised either by the patentee or by his agent. The manager was acting in his capacity as the agent of Mr Verma; thus, he had the right to sell the patent, and option B is correct. Option A is incorrect because the agent of Mr Verma can also exercise the right to sell the patent. Option C is incorrect because once the right to patent is sold, Mr Gupta cannot be held liable for infringement. Option D is incorrect because nothing of this sort is provided in the question and it is also irrelevant in this context.

72. **Answer: D**

Explanation: None of the provided options can be inferred correctly from the passage. Option A is incorrect because the notice of surrender has to be provided to all the persons having interest in the patent and their objections are to be taken into consideration before exercising such a right. Option B is incorrect because the patent is an exclusive right granted by the government and not any private body. Option C is incorrect because for an invention to be patentable it must be new, and a new invention is one which is not known by the people at the time of filing the application, even orally. Hence, option D is the answer.

73. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Mere silence does not amount to fraud unless the person had a duty to speak. In this case, Aditya had a duty to disclose his medical history, this concealment by him is an act of fraud because this information was vital to the contract between him and the insurance company. Therefore, option C is correct. Option A is incorrect because silence does amount to fraud when there is a duty to speak about a relevant fact. Option B is incorrect because concealment of his medical history depicts his dishonest intentions. Option D is incorrect because it cannot be inferred from the facts.

74. **Answer: D**

Explanation: When a person conceals or does not mention any vital information related to the contract, which he is fully aware of, it amounts to active concealment and the party that conceals such information becomes guilty of fraud. In this case, Honey was aware of the default, and he was aware of the purpose that Mani was buying the car for. Still, he did not disclose the true condition of the car. He is guilty of fraud and option D is correct. Option A is incorrect because Honey had a duty to reveal the true condition of his car to the buyer because this information was important to determine the will of the buyer to enter into the contract. Option B is incorrect because Honey's fraudulent intentions can be inferred from the facts as he voluntarily represented that the car was fit to travel long distances. Option C is incorrect because he concealed the information, he did not state any false fact and represented it to be true.

75. **Answer: A**

Explanation: The passage provides that it amounts to fraud when a person has a reason to believe that his statement is untrue, but he chooses not to confirm it. In this case, Asim had a suspicion that his son might not be mentally healthy, still he did not confirm his suspicion before assuring the girl's father of his son's health. This amounts to fraud and thus, option A is correct. Option B is incorrect because it was vital information, the contract of marriage was dependent on Asad's health only. Option C is incorrect because Asim's ignorance in this case amounted to deception. Option D is incorrect because Asim only had a suspicion which he did not confirm, he was not sure or fully aware of his son's insanity.

76. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Fraud is committed when a person makes a promise without an intention of performing it. In this case, Zainab had the intention of performing her part of the contract. This can be inferred from the fact that she prepared the commodity for delivery and after that, it was stolen. Thus, it cannot be said that Zainab has committed fraud and option C is correct. Option A is incorrect because she had the intention of selling the oil to Dua. Option B is incorrect because it cannot be inferred from the facts that she had any intention to deceive Dua. Option D is incorrect because it is not the correct reasoning, the given facts pose the question of intention, that is why, Option C is a preferred answer than option D.

77. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Mere silence does not amount to fraud unless the promisor conceals some vital information related to the contract. Being silent about facts is not necessarily deception. Facts that are or could be equally within the means of knowledge of both parties are not generally required to be disclosed. This was not vital information related to the contract that needed to be disclosed by Kusum. This does not amount to fraud and thus, option B is correct. Option A is incorrect because Kusum had no intention to deceive Neelam. Option C is incorrect because in his case, silence does not amount to fraud because this information did not need to be disclosed. Option D is incorrect because it is out of the scope of the question.

78. **Answer: D**

Explanation: In this case, silence of Dr. Hope and his concealment of the true condition of Love amounted to fraud because he had a duty to disclose the condition and true facts to Love. Hence, option D is correct. Option A is incorrect because his intention to deceive and defraud Love is clear from the given facts, he hid the true facts to siphon off more money from his patient. Option C is incorrect because it is out of the scope of the passage. Option B is incorrect because his silence did amount to fraud, as he had a duty to disclose the information in this case.

79. **Answer: B**

Explanation: When a promise is made with no intention of keeping it, then fraud is committed but any future conduct is not considered for this purpose; instead, it must be demonstrated that the promisor had no intention of keeping the promise when it was taken. In this case, Arjun had the intention to perform his promise when the contract was entered into, his future wish to cancel the deal does not amount to fraud, thus option B is correct. Option A is incorrect because Arjun intended to sell the house at the time of the contract. Option C is incorrect because his devious or fraudulent intentions cannot be inferred from the given facts. Option D is incorrect because this is not relevant to the given situation.

80. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Option B is a correct statement because fraud is committed when a person conceals the information from the other party, that he is fully aware of. If the person concerned is not himself aware of such information, it would amount to misrepresentation and not fraud. Option A is incorrect because it is written opposite, fraud is committed with the intention to deceive a person while misrepresentation can be a genuine false presentation, that might not involve any devious intentions. Option C is incorrect because in case of concealment of some vital information, silence can also amount to fraud.

81. **Answer:** B
Explanation: The most appropriate choice is B. As per the passage, arbitration is consensual and can only be pursued when both parties mutually agree to it. In this case, both Company Delta and Company Sigma need to jointly choose arbitration to adhere to the consensual nature of this dispute resolution method. Option A is incorrect, suggesting a unilateral decision, which contradicts the essence of arbitration outlined in the passage. Option C is inaccurate as it implies that Company Sigma can independently opt for litigation, bypassing the need for mutual agreement. Option D is also incorrect, as it implies independent choices without emphasizing the essential requirement of mutual consent emphasized in the passage.
82. **Answer:** C
Explanation: The correct choice is C. According to the WIPO Arbitration Rules, if the parties opt for a three-member arbitral tribunal, each party appoints one arbitrator, and these two arbitrators then agree on the presiding arbitrator. Option A is incorrect as it suggests a unilateral decision, which contradicts the WIPO rules. Option B is not suitable as it implies individually as the passage says that the parties must together choose an arbitrator. Option D is also incorrect, as it wrongly assigns sole authority to one party in selecting the presiding arbitrator, contrary to the WIPO rules.
83. **Answer:** C
Explanation: The correct choice is C. As per the WIPO Rules, a party can, in certain circumstances, restrict access to trade secrets or other confidential information submitted to the arbitral tribunal. Option A is incorrect, as it contradicts the confidentiality provisions outlined in the WIPO Rules. Option B is not accurate, as the passage clearly mentions the WIPO Rules' provision for protecting confidential information. Option D is also incorrect, as it wrongly suggests public disclosure, which is contrary to the confidentiality principles emphasized in the passage.
84. **Answer:** B
Explanation: The correct choice is B. The passage underscores the consensual, neutral, and confidential nature of arbitration, providing strong support for including arbitration clauses in contracts. Option A is incorrect as the passage does not discourage arbitration but highlights its benefits. Option C is inaccurate as the passage doesn't suggest that arbitration is time-consuming. Option D is also incorrect as the passage emphasizes consensual decision-making in arbitration, aligning with its principles.

Logical Reasoning

85. **Answer:** B
Reference Line: "Private sector participation in municipal solid waste management, by design, alienates them, aggravating their vulnerability and loss of rights over waste picking."
Difficulty Level: Moderate
Explanation: a) Despite their crucial recycling role, the informal sector's waste management contributions are overlooked. This statement aligns with the narrative that the informal sector plays a pivotal role in waste management and recycling, yet their efforts and contributions are often not recognized or valued appropriately by society and formal waste management systems. As per the author, the waste pickers face "systemic marginalization due to *non-recognition*". Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.
b) Private sector efficiency and sustainability gains do not detrimentally affect informal waste pickers. This option directly contradicts the passage's message that the involvement of the private sector in waste management, often under the guise of efficiency and sustainability, tends to exclude and negatively impact informal waste pickers. The passage likely critiques this perspective by highlighting the adverse effects on informal waste pickers, such as job loss, reduced access to recyclables, and increased vulnerability. Therefore, this is the statement the author is most likely to disagree with, making Option (b) the correct answer.
c) Informal waste pickers, excluded from formal systems, endure health risks and social marginalisation. The passage discusses the waste pickers' "health risks" by mentioning that their "health issues include dermatological and respiratory health issues apart from regular injuries". Further, the author discusses

social “marginalization” of the waste pickers when he says “they face systemic marginalisation” and that they have a “subordinate position in the caste hierarchy”. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Formal waste management integration could elevate informal waste pickers' economic and social standing. Although not specifically stated, This option suggests a solution or positive outcome that the passage likely advocates for. Integrating informal waste pickers into formal waste management processes could provide them with legal recognition, stable income, and improved working conditions, thereby addressing some of the core issues of marginalisation and vulnerability they face. The passage likely supports this view as a means to enhance both the efficiency of waste management and the well-being of informal waste pickers. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

86. **Answer: A**

Reference Line: "Private sectors employ expensive machinery, offering competitive rates to waste generators such as households and businesses, which marginalises informal pickers."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: Option a) directly challenges the private sector's competitive advantage by providing informal waste pickers with a formal mechanism to secure their livelihoods, thus potentially undermining the private sector's competitive pricing and their marginalizing impact on informal pickers. This scenario offers a direct counter to the private sector's competitive edge by formalizing the role of informal waste pickers within the municipal waste management framework. By securing contracts, these cooperatives can ensure a steady income for waste pickers and affirm their legal rights to collect waste, challenging the dominance of private companies and their competitive pricing strategies. This move could potentially shift the balance of power and resources towards informal waste pickers, undermining the private sector's ability to marginalize them. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

b) Private sector's recycling cost reductions enhance profitability across the board due to technological innovations. While this option might seem beneficial for the waste management industry as a whole, it does not directly address the issue of competitive rates undermining the position of informal waste pickers. Technological advancements leading to cost reductions could further empower private companies, potentially increasing their market share and influence without necessarily improving the situation for informal waste pickers. This option does not undermine the effectiveness of competitive rates in marginalizing informal pickers but rather could exacerbate the issue. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Non-governmental organizations equip most informal waste pickers with health insurance and safety gear. Providing health insurance and safety gear is undoubtedly beneficial for the well-being of informal waste pickers. However, this option does not directly challenge the private sector's competitive rates or their impact on the marginalization of informal waste pickers. While improving health and safety conditions is crucial, it does not address the economic dynamics and competitive pressures brought by the private sector that undercut informal waste pickers' livelihoods. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Private companies now exclusively hire informal waste pickers, offering them social security and stable salaries. This option presents a scenario where private companies integrate informal waste pickers into their operations, potentially improving their working conditions and economic stability. While it suggests a form of inclusion, it does not inherently undermine the competitive rates' impact on the broader informal waste picking community. The core issue is the systemic marginalization and exclusion from waste materials caused by competitive pricing strategies, not just employment status. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

87. **Answer: B**

Difficulty level: moderate

Explanation: Option B strengthens the main argument by providing external validation from a reputable international organization, the World Health Organization, regarding the health hazards faced by informal waste pickers. This strengthens the argument that informal waste pickers deserve inclusion in social security schemes, which is one of the key points made in the passage.

Option A is incorrect because formalizing waste management systems might decrease the number of waste pickers, but it doesn't necessarily address the issue of their marginalization and vulnerability, which is the main focus of the passage.

Option C is incorrect because while providing safety equipment and training would benefit waste pickers, it doesn't address the broader issues of social security, legal protection, and systemic marginalization discussed in the passage.

Option D is incorrect because while legislation mandating profit allocation sounds promising, it doesn't directly address the systemic issues faced by waste pickers nor does it ensure their inclusion in social security schemes and legal protection frameworks as advocated in the passage.

88. **Answer:** B

Reference Line: "Their poor health, irregular work, low income, and regular harassment are compounded by their subordinate position in the caste hierarchy."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) Informal waste pickers deciding to pursue alternative employment due to the hazardous conditions of waste picking. This option does not resolve the paradox but rather sidesteps the issue by suggesting that informal waste pickers leave the sector. While it might reduce the number of people facing marginalization within waste picking, it does not address the underlying value of their work or the need for systemic change to recognize and integrate their contributions into formal waste management systems. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Governments implementing stringent regulations to ensure that private companies include informal waste pickers in their operations. This option directly addresses the paradox by creating a legal and operational framework that recognizes the importance of informal waste pickers and mandates their inclusion in formal waste management processes. By doing so, it not only acknowledges their crucial role but also actively works to reduce their marginalization through formal recognition and integration. This approach could lead to improved working conditions, legal rights, and social recognition for informal waste pickers, effectively bridging the gap between their importance and their current marginalized status. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) Technology advancements allowing for the complete automation of waste collection, eliminating the need for manual labor. While technological advancements could streamline waste collection processes, this option does not resolve the paradox of the crucial yet marginalized role of informal waste pickers. Instead, it could potentially exacerbate their marginalization by rendering their labor obsolete without addressing the systemic issues of social and economic inclusion. The passage likely advocates for solutions that integrate and value human contributions rather than replacing them with technology. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Private waste management companies increasing their service fees to cover the cost of integrating informal waste pickers. This option suggests a financial strategy for integrating informal waste pickers, but it does not directly resolve the paradox. Increasing service fees might provide the means for including informal waste pickers, but it does not guarantee their integration or address the systemic barriers to their inclusion. The core issue is not just financial but involves legal, social, and operational changes to ensure that informal waste pickers are recognized and valued within the waste management ecosystem. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

89. **Answer:** A

Difficulty level: Moderate

Explanation: Option A is correct because the passage primarily discusses the challenges faced by waste pickers globally, particularly in India, highlighting their marginalized status and health risks. The passage emphasizes the importance of understanding and addressing these challenges. Options B, C, and D are incorrect because they either focus on a specific event (International Waste Pickers Day in Colombia), a different aspect of the issue (economic impact), or a proposed solution (government regulation) rather than the main focus of the passage, which is to shed light on the difficulties faced by waste pickers.

B) The passage briefly mentions International Waste Pickers Day in Colombia as a point of reference but does not focus on its history or significance. Therefore, option B is incorrect.

C) While the passage mentions the economic aspect of waste picking, it does not primarily analyze its impact on urban populations globally. Therefore, option C is incorrect.

D) While the passage mentions the need for government regulation to protect waste pickers' rights and safety, this is not the main purpose of the passage. The primary focus is on highlighting the challenges faced by waste pickers. Therefore, option D is incorrect.

90. **Answer:** B

Reference Line: "Their health issues include dermatological and respiratory health issues apart from regular injuries."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) Launching educational programs to raise awareness about the contributions of informal waste pickers. While raising awareness is important for changing public perceptions and potentially influencing policy, this option does not directly improve the working conditions of informal waste pickers. Awareness campaigns can build support for more substantive changes but, in isolation, do not provide immediate benefits or protections for the waste pickers themselves. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option addresses key issues faced by informal waste pickers, such as lack of safety, health risks, and absence of formal recognition. By providing safety equipment and training, it directly improves their ability to work in safer conditions, and health benefits offer much-needed support for a group that often lacks access to medical care. This comprehensive approach directly targets the improvement of working conditions, making Option (b) the correct answer.

c) Increasing the reliance on technological solutions to reduce the physical risks associated with waste picking. Using this option, the "condition of workers" is not getting improved. While technological solutions can play a role in improving efficiency and reducing risks, they do not address the broader challenges faced by informal waste pickers, such as social marginalization, economic instability, and lack of legal protections. Technology might mitigate some physical risks but without addressing the systemic issues, the overall working conditions of waste pickers may not significantly improve. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Encouraging private waste management companies to outsource waste collection to informal waste picker cooperatives. This option could provide more stable income opportunities for informal waste pickers by linking them directly with private companies. However, without adequate safeguards, it may not guarantee improved working conditions or address issues such as health benefits, safety training, or social recognition. While potentially beneficial, it lacks the direct and comprehensive approach to improving working conditions outlined in option (b). Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

91. **Answer:** C

Reference Line: "It outlines key differences in preferences of online shoppers in these two geographies which can be ignored by digital sellers at their own risk."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) Digital literacy and internet connectivity play significant roles in enabling and shaping online shopping behaviors across India. However, focusing solely on these factors misses the nuanced understanding required to effectively cater to India's diverse online market. While digital literacy and connectivity are foundational to the growth of online shopping, they do not directly address the strategic nuances businesses must consider when approaching different geographical markets within India. The emphasis on these aspects alone oversimplifies the complex landscape of online shopping preferences that vary significantly between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Social media undeniably influences consumer behavior by enhancing product awareness and shaping demand, particularly in India's expansive and diverse market. This influence is even more pronounced in smaller cities and towns, where social media can bridge information gaps and introduce products to new audiences. However, this option narrows the scope of the argument by ignoring the broader strategic considerations that businesses need to make when addressing different geographical segments. It suggests that social media's role is paramount while sidelining other critical factors like logistical preferences, payment methods, and tailored marketing strategies that account for regional differences. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) The author emphasizes the importance of businesses adopting differentiated strategies to cater to the distinct online shopping preferences of metropolitan versus non-metropolitan residents. This theme recognizes the diversity within India's online marketplace and the critical need for businesses to understand and adapt to these differences to be successful. It acknowledges that what works in one geographical area may not be effective in another, highlighting the complexity of India's online shopping ecosystem. This nuanced approach encourages businesses to consider a wide range of factors, including

delivery preferences, payment methods, and product selection, tailored to the unique needs of different customer segments. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) While the rise of UPI payments signifies a significant shift towards digital transactions in India, and the persistent preference for cash on delivery (COD) in smaller towns highlights the diverse payment preferences across different regions, focusing on this aspect alone does not capture the full breadth of the author's argument. The option addresses a specific facet of the online shopping experience but overlooks the broader theme of needing tailored business strategies that consider various other preferences and behaviors influenced by geographical differences. The argument is not limited to payment preferences; it extends to understanding and addressing the comprehensive differences in online shopping behaviors between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

92. **Answer:** D

Reference Line: "Location can shape buyer preferences in radically different ways."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) Suggesting that geographical differences in shopping preferences are transient overlooks the depth and permanence of these differences as indicated in the passage. This perspective undermines the argument's basis that these differences are not only significant but are also enduring aspects that businesses must strategically address. The passage suggests that geographical variations in consumer behavior are deeply ingrained and influenced by a variety of factors, including cultural, economic, and logistical considerations, which are not fleeting but rather stable characteristics of the market. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option inaccurately suggests that the diverse needs of shoppers across India's regions have been effectively addressed by businesses, contradicting the passage's premise. The passage argues for the necessity of ongoing adaptation and customization in business strategies to cater to these regional differences. By implying that this challenge has already been met, the option misses the critical ongoing nature of the adaptation required to successfully engage with India's diverse online shopping market. The passage highlights the need for businesses to continuously evolve their strategies to meet the distinct preferences of different geographical areas, a need that is ongoing and not yet fully addressed. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Proposing that the future of online shopping in India will lead to uniformity in preferences across regions contradicts the passage's emphasis on the importance and persistence of regional differences. The passage suggests that these geographical distinctions in consumer behavior are becoming more pronounced, not less, as the online market matures. This option ignores the dynamic nature of India's market, where regional identities and preferences play a crucial role in shaping consumer behavior. It overlooks the complexity and diversity of the Indian online shopping landscape, which is characterized by varying preferences that are deeply influenced by geographical, cultural, and economic factors. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) The assumption that the geographical location of a person can influence their preferences in life is a foundational element of the author's argument. This perspective acknowledges the complexity of India's market, where varying regional characteristics such as infrastructure, economic conditions, and cultural factors shape consumer behaviors and preferences in distinct ways. The passage argues that understanding and addressing these geographical influences are crucial for businesses aiming to effectively engage with and serve the diverse Indian online market. This assumption underlines the necessity for tailored business strategies that consider the unique preferences and needs of consumers in different parts of the country. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

93. **Answer:** B

Reference Line: "It may seem so but online shopping is no longer primarily a metropolitan phenomenon. Just as growing digital literacy and widespread internet connectivity drive the trend in smaller cities and towns, significant variations are coming up in the purchasing habits, choices, and mindsets of online shoppers nationwide.."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) Revealing that online shoppers across India prioritize speed of delivery over discounts, regardless of location, would suggest a uniform preference that contradicts the premise of significant geographical influences on shopping preferences. This finding would indicate that, despite regional

differences, there exists a common priority among Indian consumers that transcends geographical boundaries. It would challenge the notion that businesses need to adopt vastly different strategies based on location, as it points to a shared value among consumers nationwide. However, this scenario strengthens rather than weakens the argument by showing a pan-Indian preference, thus not directly addressing the claim of geographical influence. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) If income levels are found to be the primary driver of online shopping preferences across India, this would directly challenge the argument that geographical location is a significant influencer. This analysis would suggest that economic status, rather than the region of residence, dictates consumer preferences, implying that businesses might need to focus more on economic segmentation rather than geographical. This finding would undermine the basis of the author's argument by indicating that geographical differences may be less pivotal in shaping online shopping behavior than previously thought, pointing instead to a more uniform consumer behavior influenced by income. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) An increase in the use of digital payment methods in smaller towns, surpassing the preference for cash on delivery, would indicate a shift in payment preferences across different regions but does not directly challenge the broader claim that geographical location influences overall shopping preferences. This scenario suggests a convergence in payment methods but does not address other aspects of online shopping preferences such as product selection, delivery priorities, and customer service expectations. While it highlights a change in one aspect of consumer behavior, it does not provide comprehensive evidence against the influence of geographical location on a wider range of shopping preferences. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Similar social media usage patterns across metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas could indicate a level of uniformity in how consumers across different regions are exposed to products and influenced in their purchasing decisions. However, this does not directly weaken the argument that geographical location significantly influences online shopping preferences. Social media might play a similar role in product awareness across regions, but this does not necessarily translate to uniform preferences in terms of product selection, delivery options, and payment methods. This option points to a specific aspect of the consumer journey but fails to address the broader spectrum of shopping preferences that could still be influenced by geographical differences. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

94. **Answer:** A

Reference Line: "Online shoppers in big cities where traffic jams and long distances are common features of daily life don't value what shoppers in small towns do where distances are shorter."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) The preference of urban residents for speed and prompt delivery services highlights a specific geographical distinction in online shopping behavior. This preference is directly linked to the unique challenges of city living, such as dealing with traffic jams and long distances, which are less of a concern in smaller towns where distances are shorter. This option illustrates how geographical location—characterized by urban versus non-urban settings—shapes consumer priorities and expectations from online shopping. It supports the author's argument by showing a clear example of how living conditions in different geographical areas lead to distinct shopping preferences. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

b) Rapid urbanization leading to increased demand for online shopping across the board suggests a general growth trend in e-commerce but does not specifically support the idea that preferences are influenced by geographical differences. This option points to an overall increase in online shopping activity due to urbanization but fails to differentiate between the unique preferences of consumers in different regions. It overlooks the nuanced distinctions in shopping behaviors and needs that the author argues are critical for businesses to understand and address. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) The uniform adoption of digital payment methods like UPI across both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas would suggest a convergence in payment preferences rather than a geographical difference. While this points to a significant trend in how transactions are conducted, it does not support the argument that there are distinct online shopping preferences influenced by geographical location. This option indicates a shared aspect of the online shopping experience across different regions, which contrasts with the premise that geographical differences lead to varied consumer behaviors and preferences. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) The global trend towards increasing online shopping due to its convenience does not directly support the argument regarding geographical differences within India. This option speaks to a broad, worldwide shift in consumer behavior towards e-commerce but does not address the specific influence of geographical location on shopping preferences within the Indian context. It generalizes the appeal of online shopping without considering the localized differences that the author emphasizes are crucial for businesses to recognize and cater to effectively. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

95. **Answer:** C

Reference Line: "As incomes in the rest of India improved, so did the spending on these categories."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) Assuming that the preference for cash on delivery in smaller towns is primarily due to a fear of fraud addresses a specific aspect of consumer behavior but does not constitute a comprehensive flaw in the author's reasoning. This preference could be influenced by multiple factors, including but not limited to, trust issues, banking infrastructure, and personal habit. While focusing solely on fraud concerns might oversimplify the reasons behind COD preference, the passage's broader argument about geographical influences on shopping preferences encompasses a range of factors beyond payment methods. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) It is not correct because the author does no comparative analysis between the different causes of there being a difference in online shopping behaviour. They are merely discussing the impact of location, that in itself doesn't mean the author has any opinion about other causes. Hence, Option (b) is an incorrect answer.

c) The potential for urban dwellers to seek discounts and deals, not just prioritize speed in delivery, highlights a more nuanced consumer behavior that could be overlooked in the author's argument. This critique points to a dimension of consumer preference that might be underexplored, and if urban dwellers seeking discounts proves to be true then it fundamentally challenges the argument's core premise that geographical location influences shopping preferences. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) Suggesting that social media's influence on product awareness is uniform across all regions of India could be seen as a simplification of the actual impact of social media on consumer behavior. However, the passage implies that while social media is a significant factor in shaping demand, the critical argument revolves around geographical differences in online shopping preferences. The potential flaw here would be if the author assumed uniformity in social media's effectiveness without considering regional variations in access, usage patterns, and cultural responsiveness. Nonetheless, this critique does not directly address the passage's main focus on the strategic importance of recognizing and adapting to geographical differences. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

96. **Answer:** C

Reference Line: "Businesses that sell online need different strategies for shoppers in big cities and those in small cities and towns."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) The study on students' performance in rural versus urban schools draws a parallel to environmental influences on behavior but does not directly correlate with the commercial and consumer preference focus of the author's argument. While it highlights how different environments can affect outcomes, it does not specifically address how geographical location impacts consumer preferences in the context of online shopping. This scenario is more related to educational outcomes than to consumer behavior and business strategy, making it less relevant to the discussion of geographical differences in shopping preferences. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) The survey finding that climate influences shopping venue preferences touches on how environmental factors can affect consumer behavior but does not capture the depth of the author's argument about geographical influences on online shopping preferences. This option simplifies the impact of geography by focusing on physical comfort preferences rather than exploring the broader range of factors, including logistical challenges, cultural norms, and economic conditions, that the author suggests influence online shopping behavior. It lacks the specificity in addressing how businesses need to adapt their strategies to cater to these geographical differences. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) The marketing analysis showing the need for fast-food chains to adapt their menus to local tastes closely aligns with the author's argument about the necessity for businesses to tailor their strategies based

on geographical differences. This scenario directly mirrors the concept that consumer preferences are influenced by regional characteristics, requiring businesses to adopt a customized approach to meet these diverse needs effectively. It highlights the practical application of understanding and catering to geographical differences in preferences, which is the core of the author's argument regarding the strategic adaptation required for success in India's varied online shopping market. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) Observations by car manufacturers on regional preferences for vehicle features based on climate conditions illustrate the concept of product customization according to geographical differences but focus narrowly on product features rather than the broader strategic implications for businesses. While this scenario reflects an understanding of geographical influences on consumer preferences, it does not fully capture the range of considerations the author argues businesses must address, including marketing, product selection, and service delivery strategies. It presents a specific example of adaptation to geographical differences but does not encompass the comprehensive strategic approach the author suggests is necessary for effectively engaging with the diverse Indian online market. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

97. **Answer:** A

Reference Lines: "Perhaps, Nvidia is an indicator of what kind of company will be the most valuable in the future."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) This option is directly supported by the passage's suggestion that Nvidia's success could be a harbinger of future economic trends, where technology and AI-driven companies gain precedence over traditional sectors. The mention of Nvidia as an indicator of future valuable companies implies that industries focusing on AI and technological innovations are poised to become central to economic growth and wealth generation. The passage hints at a transformative shift in the economic landscape, favoring companies at the forefront of AI advancements. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

b) The passage acknowledges the challenges AI faces, including ethical and regulatory hurdles. However, it does not argue that these hurdles are insurmountable or that they will render AI's advancements negligible. Instead, the context suggests a balanced view that, while challenges exist, they are part of the evolution and integration of AI into society. This option presents an extreme view not supported by the passage, which maintains a more optimistic outlook on AI's potential despite the hurdles. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) The assertion that AI will eliminate the need for human intelligence in all professional sectors is an oversimplification of the passage's content. While the passage discusses the transformative potential of AI, it does not claim that AI will render human intelligence obsolete across the board. The focus is on the changing nature of what constitutes valuable intelligence and the roles that humans and AI will play, suggesting a complementary rather than a replacement relationship. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) While the passage calls for legal regulations to manage the growth and integration of AI, it does not conclude that such regulations will inevitably hinder innovation. The suggestion is more nuanced, indicating the need for a balanced approach that fosters innovation while addressing ethical and societal concerns. This option presents a pessimistic view of regulation that the passage does not support. The text implies that thoughtful regulation is necessary and can coexist with continued innovation. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

98. **Answer:** B

Reference Lines: "Today, Nvidia's GPU chips are used in generative bots like OpenAI's ChatGPT and by companies like Microsoft and Amazon."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) The passage underscores Nvidia's significant impact on the AI sector, indicating that its market success reflects broader economic and technological trends rather than being a mere fleeting trend. It suggests that Nvidia's achievements are indicative of the growing importance of AI and technology in the economy, contradicting the idea that its success lacks broader implications. The passage positions Nvidia as a key player in the AI revolution, not as a temporary phenomenon. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option aligns with the passage's portrayal of Nvidia as a significant contributor to the AI revolution, underscoring its role in powering AI applications for major companies. The passage suggests that Nvidia's contributions are not just technical achievements but pivotal economic activities that spotlight the company's central role in the emerging AI-driven economy. This perspective is supported by examples of Nvidia's involvement in critical AI applications, reinforcing its importance beyond mere technology provision. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) The passage acknowledges Nvidia's roots in video game graphics but emphasises its broader significance in the AI industry, making this option an inaccurate representation of the author's viewpoint. The text highlights Nvidia's expansion into AI as transformative, indicating that its impact extends far beyond its initial niche. This option underestimates Nvidia's contribution to the AI revolution, contradicting the passage's emphasis on its wide-reaching influence in shaping the future of technology and economy. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Suggesting that Nvidia's success is primarily due to aggressive marketing overlooks the substance of the passage, which attributes Nvidia's prominence to its technological innovations in AI. The passage highlights Nvidia's role in powering AI advancements, suggesting that its success is rooted in its contributions to the field rather than marketing strategies. This option fails to capture the essence of Nvidia's impact as described in the passage, which is centered on technological breakthroughs rather than marketing prowess. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

99. **Answer:** C

Reference Lines: "There is a need for legal regulation without hampering innovations in AI."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) The passage suggests that AI is still in a phase of significant transformation and innovation, contradicting the notion that AI technologies have reached their peak. It implies ongoing developments in AI that continue to redefine intelligence and economic structures, making this statement incompatible with the author's arguments. The text supports a view of AI as a dynamic and evolving field, with future innovations expected to further impact society and the economy. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Contrary to this option, the passage argues that technology-based companies, particularly those involved in AI, are increasingly overshadowing traditional industries in economic significance. This shift suggests a changing landscape where tech companies are becoming the primary drivers of economic value, challenging the dominance of traditional sectors. The passage does not support the idea of indefinite economic dominance by traditional industries but points to a transition towards tech and AI companies. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) The passage explicitly states the need for legal regulation to manage the ethical deployment of AI while ensuring that innovation continues unabated. This reflects a recognition of the dual necessity of fostering AI development and addressing potential ethical and societal concerns through regulation. The author argues for a balanced approach that allows for innovation within a framework that ensures its responsible use, making this statement a necessary truth derived from the arguments presented. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) While acknowledging Nvidia's early success in video gaming graphics, the passage points to its broader impact in AI as the primary reason for its success, making this option too narrow. The text emphasizes Nvidia's significant contributions to the AI revolution, suggesting that its success cannot be solely attributed to its focus on video gaming graphics. The passage argues for a more comprehensive understanding of Nvidia's success, considering its pivotal role in the broader context of AI advancements. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

100. **Answer:** B

Reference Lines: "It was technology-based companies that shattered the domination of traditionally natural resource-based (oil or gas) or large manufacturing behemoths in the list of the world's highest market-capitalised companies."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) While public trust is important, it does not directly support the argument that AI is redefining intelligence and wealth generation. This option highlights the public perception of AI technologies but does not provide evidence of AI's transformative impact on the economy or the nature of

intelligence. The passage focuses on the positive economic and technological shifts brought about by AI, making this option less relevant to strengthening the argument. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option provides direct evidence supporting the argument that AI-driven companies are becoming increasingly significant in the economy, which aligns with the passage's discussion on the transformative potential of AI. By showing that AI firms are outperforming traditional sectors in the stock market, this option reinforces the idea that AI is not only changing the landscape of intelligence but also reshaping which companies are leading in wealth generation. This evidence directly bolsters the passage's claims about the economic impact of AI innovations. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) Suggesting that tech companies, including those focused on AI, are hitting an innovation plateau contradicts the passage's premise that AI is continuously transforming the economy and the concept of intelligence. This option implies a stagnation in development, which goes against the argument that AI is a driving force behind ongoing economic and technological shifts. The passage supports a view of AI as a dynamic and evolving field, making this option counterproductive to strengthening the argument. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) The introduction of strict laws limiting AI in essential sectors highlights the ethical and regulatory challenges facing AI deployment. While these considerations are important, this option does not inherently strengthen the argument that AI is redefining intelligence and wealth generation. Instead, it points to potential obstacles to AI's integration and impact. The passage's focus is on the transformative potential of AI, making this option less relevant to reinforcing the main argument. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

101. **Answer:** C

Reference Lines: "In a recent year, Forbes' list of top five companies has technology and oil giants at the forefront, showing that four of the world's most valuable companies are technology-based."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) Although the passage may mention historical innovations as context, it does not rely on them to directly support the main argument about AI's role in the economy and Nvidia's significant position within it. The comparison with past innovations serves more as a backdrop to highlight the current transformative potential of AI rather than as the primary evidence for the argument. The focus is on the present and future impact of AI, making this option less directly relevant to the argument's support. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) The passage does not provide direct statistical data comparing the decline of traditional industries to the rise of tech companies. While it implies a shift in economic dominance towards technology-based companies, it does not rely on statistical data to make this case. The argument is built more on qualitative assessments and examples of specific companies' successes, such as Nvidia, rather than broad statistical comparisons between sectors. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) The passage uses Nvidia's growth and its position on Forbes' list of top companies as concrete evidence to illustrate the shift towards technological dominance in the economy. This evidence supports the main argument by showing real-world examples of how AI and technology companies are reshaping the economic landscape. Nvidia's example, in particular, highlights the company's influence and the broader trend of tech companies becoming the most valuable and impactful in the global market. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) Personal testimonials from industry leaders are not mentioned as evidence in the passage. While such testimonials could provide insight into the impact of AI on society, the passage bases its arguments on the observable success of companies like Nvidia and the composition of lists ranking the world's most valuable companies. The focus is on tangible examples and trends rather than anecdotal evidence, making this option less accurate in describing the evidence provided. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

102. **Answer:** D

Reference Lines: "Importantly, Nvidia with its significant market cap was among the most valuable companies, showcasing its dramatic rise in value."

Difficulty Level: Easy

Explanation: a) The passage does begin with a brief mention of historical innovations, but this serves more as a context-setting introduction rather than the primary focus. The main content shifts to discuss the

current and future impact of AI on the economy, with a particular emphasis on Nvidia's role in this transformation. This option does not accurately capture the essence of the passage, which is more specifically concerned with the implications of AI and technological advancements in the present day. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) While ethical considerations and challenges associated with AI technologies are acknowledged in the passage, they are not the central theme. The primary focus is on the economic and technological implications of AI, particularly through the lens of Nvidia's success. This option misrepresents the passage's emphasis, which is more on the transformative impact of AI and the rising dominance of tech companies in the economy. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Legal ramifications and the need for regulation in the context of AI innovations are discussed as important considerations, but they do not constitute the passage's primary focus. The main argument revolves around the changing economic landscape due to technological advancements and AI, using Nvidia as a case study. This option narrows the passage's scope to legal aspects, overlooking its broader discussion on the economic significance of AI and technology companies. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) This option accurately encapsulates the central theme of the passage, which revolves around Nvidia's emergence as a significant player in the tech industry and its implications for the future of AI and the economy. The passage details Nvidia's contribution to the AI revolution and how it exemplifies the broader shift towards a tech-dominated economic landscape. This summary captures the essence of the passage's argument, focusing on the role of AI and technology companies like Nvidia in shaping future economic trends. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

103. **Answer:** C

Reference Lines: "But when they do it at a greater rate—either with humans for profit or through inadvertent transport through global shipments—a 'biological invasion' is initiated."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) This option acknowledges climate-induced migration as a factor in the spread of invasive species but positions it as less impactful compared to human actions. While it's true that human activities have a significant role in the spread of invasive species, this option's comparative nature doesn't directly address the multifaceted ways in which human actions contribute to the problem. It fails to capture the breadth of human involvement, such as the intentional and unintentional introduction of species across global ecosystems. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option touches on an important aspect of human involvement in the spread of invasive species through conservation efforts. However, it narrows the focus to a single aspect of human activity, overlooking the broader spectrum of human actions that contribute to the spread of invasive species, such as global trade, transportation, and other forms of human-mediated movement. While valid, it does not fully encapsulate the primary drivers as directly as human-mediated transport does. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) This choice precisely targets the crux of the issue by highlighting specific human activities that are known to significantly contribute to the spread of invasive species. By pointing out agriculture, horticulture, and the pet trade, it covers a broad range of human actions responsible for the intentional and unintentional movement of species across borders. This directly aligns with the passage's assertion that human-mediated transport is a key factor in the spread of invasive species, making it the strongest argument among the options provided. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) While the comparison between the impacts of natural disasters and human activities on species translocation is relevant, this option simplifies the issue. It acknowledges the role of human activities but does not specify the mechanisms through which humans contribute to the problem. The statement is too broad and lacks the direct link to human actions such as transport for agriculture, horticulture, and the pet trade, which are more concrete examples of how humans drive the spread of invasive species. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

104. **Answer:** A

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) This option criticizes the passage for not accounting for the adaptability of native species, suggesting that the impact of invasive species might be overstated. The impact of invasive species can be

reduced by the adaptability of individual species or ecosystems. Thus, adaptability is a relevant factor in the ecological impact of invasive species, and not directly addressing it is a logical flaw in the argument regarding the overall threat posed by and impact of invasive species. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

b) We have no basis of challenging the fact that the passage's sweeping claim that no ecosystem is untouched by invasive species overlooks the existence of isolated or minimally impacted ecosystems. For all we know, the author may have done their research. This critique does not identify a flaw in "reasoning" and merely challenges the fact that there are might be untouched or less affected areas, which could provide counterexamples to the claim of "universal" impact. The universality is not the central claim, the "deep and pervasive" impact is, Hence, Option (b) is an incorrect answer.

c) This option suggests that the passage's exclusive focus on human-driven spread overlooks the role of natural species migration. While natural migrations do occur and can contribute to the spread of invasive species, the passage specifically emphasizes the accelerated spread due to human actions, which is a distinct and significant factor in the context of invasive species proliferation. This critique misdirects from the passage's focus on the amplifying effect of human activities, thus not effectively revealing a flaw in the passage's reasoning. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Suggesting that the passage's emphasis on invasive species as a major change driver could diminish the perceived importance of climate change and pollution is an interesting critique. However, the passage likely presents invasive species as one of several significant factors affecting biodiversity and ecosystem health, not in isolation from other environmental threats. This option misinterprets the passage's intent, which is to highlight the significance of invasive species without necessarily ranking it above other environmental challenges. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

105. **Answer:** A

Reference Lines: "This comes as the last warning for the planet."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) This option accurately captures an underlying assumption of the passage—that there is still time and means to effectively address the issue of invasive species through global cooperation and action. The passage's urgent tone and call for action imply a belief in the potential for mitigation and reversal of the negative impacts of invasive species if there is a swift and comprehensive response. This reflects an optimistic view on the efficacy of global efforts, aligning with the passage's call to action. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

b) Contrary to asserting that current measures are sufficient, the passage's urgent tone and call for increased action suggest that existing efforts to combat the spread and impact of invasive species are deemed inadequate. This option misinterprets the passage's message, which implicitly calls for more robust global measures rather than expressing satisfaction with current efforts. The assumption here is not about the adequacy of current measures but about the potential effectiveness of enhanced global action. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Suggesting that the passage views the proliferation of invasive species as unstoppable and beyond human intervention misreads the urgency and intent of the call to action. The passage likely emphasises the significant role of human activity in the spread of invasive species and suggests that human efforts can also play a crucial role in mitigating this issue. This option presents a fatalistic interpretation that contradicts the passage's underlying assumption of the possibility for effective intervention. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) By implying that the passage assumes global awareness and educational efforts are already widespread, this option overlooks the passage's likely emphasis on the need for increased awareness and action. The call for urgent and comprehensive global action suggests an acknowledgment that current levels of awareness and effort are insufficient, indicating an assumption that more needs to be done to educate and mobilize global responses. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

106. **Answer:** B

Reference Lines: "There is no place on the planet that remains untouched by biological invasion, which is also driving thousands of species to extinction."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) While acknowledging the resilience of some ecosystems could provide a nuanced view of the impacts of invasive species, this option does not strengthen the argument about their profound and escalating impact on global biodiversity. Instead, it suggests a counterpoint that some ecosystems may not be as severely affected, potentially undermining the argument's urgency and scale. This option, therefore, does not support the argument but rather introduces a mitigating perspective on the impacts of invasive species. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option directly supports the argument by providing empirical evidence of the severe consequences of invasive species on biodiversity. By stating that invasive species are leading to the extinction of native species at an unprecedented rate, it underscores the profound and escalating nature of the threat they pose. This aligns with the passage's claim about the significant impact of invasive species, reinforcing the argument with concrete evidence of their detrimental effects on global biodiversity. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) While successful control efforts are positive and indicate potential for mitigating the impacts of invasive species, this option does not directly support the argument about the overall profound and escalating threat. It highlights localized successes rather than addressing the global scale and increasing trend of invasive species' impact on biodiversity. This does not strengthen the argument but instead points to the effectiveness of management strategies in specific contexts. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Comparing threats to biodiversity introduces a different argument about the relative significance of various environmental challenges. By suggesting that climate change is a more significant threat, this option shifts focus away from the specific issue at hand—the impact of invasive species. While important, this comparison does not strengthen the argument regarding the profound and escalating impact of invasive species on global biodiversity but rather diverts attention to another environmental concern. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

107. **Answer:** D

Reference Lines: "Invasive alien species are a major threat to biodiversity and can cause irreversible damage to nature."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) The development of effective methods for removing invasive species is a positive step toward mitigating their impact. However, this option does not directly address the argument about the irreversible nature of the damage caused by invasive species. While it suggests potential for remediation, it does not fundamentally challenge the claim of irreversible damage, as the existence of removal methods does not guarantee the restoration of ecosystems to their original states. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) A reduction in new introductions of invasive species is beneficial for biodiversity conservation. However, this option does not directly weaken the argument about irreversible damage already caused by existing invasive species. The focus on prevention of future introductions does not address the consequences of invasions that have already occurred and their claimed irreversible impacts on ecosystems. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Enhancing international trade regulations to prevent the spread of invasive species addresses a significant pathway for their movement. While this is a crucial preventive measure, it does not directly counter the argument about the irreversible damage caused by invasive species that are already established. This option focuses on prevention rather than the reversibility of existing impacts, which is central to the argument being challenged. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) This option provides a direct counterpoint to the argument about irreversible damage by suggesting that invasive species can integrate into ecosystems in a way that does not harm biodiversity. If many invasive species fill ecological niches without displacing native species, it challenges the premise that their impact is universally negative and irreversible. This undermines the argument by indicating that the ecological dynamics involving invasive species can be more complex and not necessarily detrimental, questioning the assertion of irreversible damage. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

108. **Answer:** C

Reference Lines: "Its findings acknowledge the alarming fact that invasive species will continue to conquer new geographies."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) This option suggests exclusivity in the solution to invasive species impacts, emphasizing human intervention as the sole viable approach. While the passage likely advocates for human action in response to the threat of invasive species, it does not claim that human intervention is the only solution. The passage's argument is broader, focusing on the urgency and scale of the threat rather than prescribing a singular form of response. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Describing the threat as not significant contradicts the sense of urgency and scale conveyed in the passage. The passage likely highlights the serious and growing nature of the threat posed by invasive species, calling for immediate and substantial action. This option, by suggesting insignificance, does not fully capture the passage's emphasis on the need for urgent and comprehensive responses to what is portrayed as an escalating problem. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) This option succinctly encapsulates the main message of the passage, emphasizing both the urgency and the growing nature of the threat that invasive species pose to global biodiversity. It accurately reflects the passage's call for immediate action in response to this escalating threat, making it the most suitable inference as the passage's conclusion. The use of "urgent and escalating threat" aligns with the tone and content of the passage, summarizing its primary focus and call to action effectively. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) While the study of invasive species indeed may provide insights into ecosystem resilience and adaptability, this option diverts from the main argument of the passage. The focus on the value of studying invasive species, though relevant, does not directly relate to the passage's primary concern about the urgent threat posed by invasive species to global biodiversity. This option introduces a different focus and does not encapsulate the passage's main conclusion about the need for immediate action against the threat of invasive species. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

Quantitative Techniques

109. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Required ratio = $(900 + 20) : (1100 - 20)$
= $920 : 1080 = 23 : 27$

Hence, option D.

Common Explanation (Q109 to Q113):

In shop 'A',

Let the total number of electronic items sold = '100a'

Then, number of laptops sold = $100a \times 0.4 = '40a'$

Number of tablets sold = $(40a + 600)$ (or) $(40a - 600)$

So, number of cameras sold = $\{40a + 600 - 1400\}$ (or) $\{40a - 600 - 1400\}$
= $\{40a - 800\}$ (or) $\{40a - 2000\}$

Case I:

$40a + (40a + 600) + (40a - 800) = 100a$

Or, $120a - 200 = 100a$

So, $120a - 100a = 20a = 200$

So, $a = 200 \div 20 = 10$

So, total number of electronic items sold = $100 \times 10 = 1000$

Case II:

$40a + (40a - 600) + (40a - 2000) = 100a$

Or, $120a - 2600 = 100a$

Or, $120a - 100a = 20a = 2600$

So, $a = 2600 \div 20 = 130$

So, total number of electronic items sold = $130 \times 100 = 13000$

In shop 'B',

Let the total number of electronic items sold = '100b'

Then, number of laptops sold = $100b \times 0.36 = '36b'$

Number of tablets sold = $(36b + 200)$ (or) $(36b - 200)$

Number of cameras sold = $(36b + 200 - 600)$ (or) $(36b - 200 - 600)$
= $(36b - 400)$ (or) $(36b - 800)$

Case I:

$$36b + 36b + 200 + 36b - 400 = 100b$$

$$\text{Or, } 108b - 200 = 100b$$

$$\text{So, } b = 200 \div 8 = 25$$

$$\text{So, total number of electronic good sold} = 25 \times 100 = 2500$$

Case II:

$$36b + 36b - 200 + 36b - 800 = 100b$$

$$\text{Or, } 108b - 1000 = 100b$$

$$\text{So, } b = 1000 \div 8 = 125$$

$$\text{So, total number of electronic goods sold} = 125 \times 100 = 12500$$

Given that, sum of number of electronic items sold by shops 'A' and 'B' together is 15500.

So, only possibility is that total number of electronic items sold by shop 'A' is 13000 and total number of electronic items sold by shop 'B' is 2500

$$\text{So, number of laptops sold by shop 'A'} = 13000 \times 0.4 = 5200$$

$$\text{Number of tablets sold by shop 'A'} = 5200 - 600 = 4600$$

$$\text{Number of cameras sold by shop 'A'} = 4600 - 1400 = 3200$$

$$\text{Number of laptops sold by shop 'B'} = 2500 \times 0.36 = 900$$

$$\text{Number of tablets sold by shop 'B'} = 900 + 200 = 1100$$

$$\text{Number of cameras sold by shop 'B'} = 1100 - 600 = 500$$

In shop 'C',

Let the total number of electronic goods sold = '100c'

$$\text{Then, number of laptops sold} = 100c \times 0.28 = '28c'$$

$$\text{Number of tablets sold} = (28c + 100) \text{ (or) } (28c - 100)$$

$$\text{Number of cameras sold} = (28c + 100 + 300) \text{ (or) } (28c - 100 + 300)$$

$$= (28c + 400) \text{ (or) } (28c + 200)$$

Case I:

$$28c + 28c + 100 + 28c + 400 = 100c$$

$$\text{Or, } 84c + 500 = 100c$$

$$\text{Or, } c = 500 \div 16 = 31.25$$

$$\text{So, total number of electronic items sold} = 31.25 \times 100 = 3125$$

Case II:

$$28c + 28c - 100 + 28c + 200 = 100c$$

$$\text{Or, } 84c + 100 = 100c$$

$$\text{So, } c = 100 \div 16 = 6.25$$

$$\text{So, total number of electronic items sold} = 6.25 \times 100 = 625$$

In shop 'D',

Let the total number of electronic gadgets sold = '100d'

$$\text{Then, number of laptops sold} = 100d \times 0.3 = '30d'$$

$$\text{Number of tablets sold} = (30d + 150) \text{ (or) } (30d - 150)$$

$$\text{Number of cameras sold} = \{30d + 150 + 350\} \text{ (or) } \{30d - 150 + 350\}$$

$$= (30d + 500) \text{ (or) } (30d + 200)$$

Case I:

$$30d + 30d + 150 + 30d + 500 = 100d$$

$$90d + 650 = 100d$$

$$\text{Or, } d = 650 \div 10 = 65$$

$$\text{So, total number of electronic items sold} = 65 \times 100 = 6500$$

Case II:

$$30d + 30d - 150 + 30d + 200 = 100d$$

$$\text{Or, } 90d + 50 = 100d$$

$$\text{Or, } d = 50 \div 10 = 5$$

$$\text{So, total number of electronic items sold} = 5 \times 100 = 500$$

Given that sum of number of electronic items sold by shops 'C' and 'D' together is 7125.

So, only possibility is that number of electronic items sold by shop 'C' is 625 and number of electronic items sold by shop 'D' is 6500.

$$\text{So, number of laptops sold by shop 'C'} = 625 \times 0.28 = 175$$

Number of tablets sold by shop 'C' = $175 - 100 = 75$
 Number of cameras sold by shop 'C' = $75 + 300 = 375$
 Number of laptops sold by shop 'D' = $6500 \times 0.3 = 1950$
 Number of tablets sold by shop 'D' = $1950 + 150 = 2100$
 Number of cameras sold by shop 'D' = $2100 + 350 = 2450$

Shop	Number of laptops sold	Number of tablets sold	Number of cameras sold
A	5200	4600	3200
B	900	1100	500
C	175	75	375
D	1950	2100	2450

110. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Sum of number of laptops and cameras sold by shop 'C' = $175 + 375 = 550$
 Sum of number of tablets and cameras sold by shop 'E' = $550 + 70 = 620$
 So, number of cameras sold by shop 'E' = $620 \times (16/31) = 320$
 Hence, option B.

111. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Average number of cameras sold by shops 'A' and 'B' together = $(3200 + 500) \div 2 = 1850$
 So, required difference = $4600 - 1850 = 2750$
 Hence, option B.

112. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Required difference = $2450 - 1950 = 500$
 Hence, option D.

113. **Answer:** A

Explanation: $K = 5200 - 2100 = 3100$
 So, L.C.M of 'K' and 465 = L.C.M of 3100 and 465 = 9300
 Hence, option A.

114. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Number of laptops sold by A = 520
 Number of tablets sold by D = 2100
 Number of cameras sold by B = 500
 As asked in question, there sum will be = $5200 + 2100 + 500 = 7800$

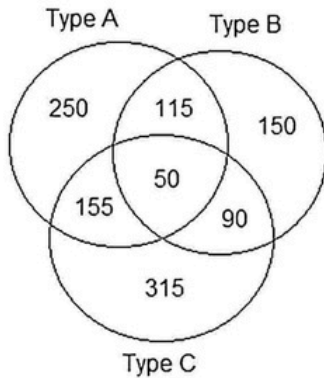
115. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Required number of people = 250
 Hence, option C.

Common Explanation (Q115 to Q120):

Number of people who bought all the three types of chocolates = 'x' = 50
 Number of people who bought only type B chocolates = $3x = 150$
 Number of people who bought only type A chocolates = $5/3 \times 3x = 5x = 250$
 Number of people who bought both type A and type C chocolates but not type B chocolates
 = $0.62 \times 5x = 3.1x = 155$
 Number of people who bought only type C chocolates = $x + 265 = 315$
 Number of people who bought both type A and type B chocolates but not type C chocolates = $2.3x = 115$
 Number of people who bought both type B and type C chocolates but not type A chocolates
 = $0.6 \times 3x = 1.8x = 90$
 Let the number of people who bought all the three types of chocolates be 'x'
 So, number of people who bought only type B chocolates = $3x$
 Number of people who bought only type A chocolates = $5/3 \times 3x = 5x$
 Number of people who bought both type A and type C chocolates but not type B chocolates = $0.62 \times 5x = 3.1x$

Number of people who bought only type C chocolates = $x + 265$
 Number of people who bought both type A and type B chocolates but not type C chocolates = $2.3x$
 Number of people who bought both type B and type C chocolates but not type A chocolates = $0.6 \times 3x = 1.8x$
 So, $2.3x + 3x + x + 1.8x = 405$
 $8.1x = 405$
 $x = 50$



116. **Answer:** D
Explanation: Required number of people = $115 + 155 + 90 = 360$
 Hence, option D.
117. **Answer:** A
Explanation: Required revenue generated = $(315 + 155 + 50 + 90) \times 12 = \text{Rs.}7320$
 Hence, option A.
118. **Answer:** B
Explanation: Required percentage = $(315 - 250)/250 \times 100 = 26\%$
 Hence, option B.
119. **Answer:** C
Explanation: Required ratio = $90:115 = 18:23$
 Hence, option C.
120. **Answer:** B
Explanation: People who buy only type B chocolates = 150
 People who buy type D chocolates = $150 \times 60\% = 90$
 Ratio of type D chocolates to type E chocolates is given i.e, 3 : 5
 So, $(90/3) \times 5 = 150$