

MOCK CLAT 10015 (BASIC)
ANSWER & EXPLANATIONS**English Language**1. **Answer: B**

Reference Lines: "This undermines the role of women in peacekeeping and protection during ongoing conflict and violence."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: This choice might appear to reflect a positive portrayal, suggesting that by focusing on their protection, women's importance is underscored in society. However, the passage argues the opposite, stating that such portrayals actually lessen women's societal roles by boxing them into victimhood. This framing does not elevate their status but rather constricts their recognized capabilities and contributions, misrepresenting the passage's critique on the matter. Hence, this is not the correct answer.

B: Aligning with the passage's critique, this option captures the essence of the argument that stereotypical victimization narratives reduce women to roles that solely require protection. It critically points out that such framing overshadows women's active participation in peace and conflict resolution, effectively diminishing the broader perception of their capabilities. This misperception is what the passage seeks to challenge, making this the correct answer.

C: While seemingly positive, this option overlooks the passage's core argument that the victim narrative makes women more vulnerable rather than supported or recognized for their resilience. The passage suggests that these portrayals, far from ensuring support, actually contribute to a diminishing view of women's capabilities and resilience in conflict situations. Therefore, this interpretation is misguided and not the correct answer.

D: This option introduces an unrelated consequence that, while beneficial, is not discussed or implied in the passage. The focus of the passage is on the immediate impact of victim portrayal on societal perceptions of women's roles in conflicts, not on proactive societal investments in education or empowerment as a response to conflict. This diversion misses the passage's critique on the implications of victim portrayal. Hence, this is not the correct answer.

2. **Answer: A**

Reference Lines: "It becomes an instrument, then, to justify state secrecy: by limiting access to national security discussions only to those deemed 'manly' and rational."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: This choice directly reflects the passage's critique on the gendered assumption that marginalizes women in national security discussions. The passage denounces the notion that rationality and strategic thinking, traits attributed to men, justify their dominance in security matters. It highlights a systemic issue where women are excluded based on unfounded stereotypes, emphasizing the need for a reevaluation of these roles. This is accurately represented in the critique, making this the correct answer.

B: Misinterpreting the passage's critique, this option suggests that women are naturally suited for peace negotiations due to emotional qualities, a point the passage does not make. Instead, the passage challenges the exclusion of women from security roles, arguing against the stereotypical beliefs that limit their participation. This option redirects the focus away from the critique of exclusion to an assumption not explicitly addressed, therefore, this is not the correct answer.

C: Presenting an ideal scenario of equality in representation, this option misses the passage's focus on critiquing existing stereotypes that exclude women. The passage does not argue for equal representation based on an acknowledgment of equal rational and strategic capabilities but criticizes the gendered assumptions that lead to unequal participation. This misunderstanding of the passage's argument means this is not the correct answer.

D: Introducing an entirely unrelated concept, this option strays from the passage's discussion on gender roles in national security to involve children's perspectives, which the passage does not address. The critique is aimed at challenging the gendered assumptions that hinder women's

participation, not at advocating for children's involvement in security discussions. This makes the option irrelevant to the passage's argument, and thus, this is not the correct answer.

3. **Answer: C**

Reference Lines: "The framing also erases the specific and distinct types of violence and harm that women and children undergo separately."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: While this option seems to align with tactics used in conflict, it simplifies the passage's argument. The critique is centered on how the narrative of victimization is strategically used to justify aggression, not necessarily by aggressors portraying themselves as protectors. This nuance is crucial as the passage emphasizes the exploitation of vulnerability rather than the self-portrayal of aggressors, making this option an incomplete reflection of the passage's critique. Hence, this is not the correct answer.

B: This option touches on a consequence of the victimization narrative but does not capture the passage's main critique. While claiming moral ground might be a side effect, the passage specifically discusses how such narratives justify aggression by exploiting vulnerabilities, not just by diverting attention. This option overlooks the strategic exploitation of the narrative for justification purposes, failing to capture the depth of the passage's argument. Therefore, this is not the correct answer.

C: Precisely aligning with the passage's critique, this option identifies the use of victimization narratives as a strategic tool for justifying aggression. By exploiting the perceived vulnerabilities of women and children, aggressors can frame their actions in a manner that seeks to legitimize or garner support for their cause. This exploitation is at the heart of the passage's argument, making this option the correct answer.

D: This option, while addressing manipulation of opinion, veers away from the passage's focus. The passage critiques the exploitation of vulnerability narratives for the purpose of justifying aggression, rather than the manipulation of international opinion through exaggeration. While related, this option does not directly address the strategic justification of conflict as discussed in the passage, missing the specific critique presented. Hence, this is not the correct answer.

4. **Answer: B**

Reference Lines: "However, it inadvertently has counterproductive consequences – reducing women to 'victims,' and men to 'protectors' and 'perpetrators.'"

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: This option overlooks the critical analysis provided by the passage, which argues that the simplification associated with the phrase "women and children" does not lead to an accurate representation or effective aid. Instead, it suggests a positive outcome that the passage explicitly contradicts, indicating that such framing often overlooks the nuanced needs and contributions of these groups in conflicts. Hence, Option (A) is not the correct answer.

B: This choice directly addresses the passage's critique that the use of "women and children" as a collective group in discussions around conflict reduces their experiences to simplistic narratives. Such narratives fail to capture the complexity of their situations and the active roles women can play beyond being victims, such as their contributions to peacekeeping and conflict resolution. This simplification not only misrepresents their experiences but also detracts from recognizing their potential as agents of change. Hence, Option (B) is the correct answer.

C: Contrary to the passage's argument, this option implies a positive outcome from the framing, which the text critiques for its reductionist approach. The passage emphasizes that such framing tends to diminish the perceived agency and resilience of women and children by casting them primarily in the role of victims, rather than highlighting their strength and capacity to contribute to conflict resolution and peace efforts. Hence, Option (C) is not the correct answer.

D: This option suggests an ideal outcome that is, in reality, argued against in the passage. The critique is centered on how the phrase "women and children" moves away from an intersectional feminist approach by oversimplifying and generalizing the experiences and needs of these groups

during conflicts. The passage calls for a more nuanced understanding that recognizes the diversity of experiences and contributions, which this framing fails to do. Hence, Option (D) is not the correct answer.

5. **Answer: B**

Reference Lines: "Moreover, scholars have also noted that the concept of 'protectors' and 'protected' lends greater credence to the prevailing belief that the protectors – typically, men – are more rational and strategic, while the protected – often, women – are in need of guidance and protection."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: This option misrepresents the passage's critical stance on the 'protectors' and 'protected' dichotomy. The passage does not praise this distinction but instead critiques it for reinforcing harmful gender stereotypes that pigeonhole individuals into predefined roles. This binary is shown to limit the scope of women's roles and contributions, particularly in contexts like national security, where their insights and capabilities are equally valuable. Hence, Option (A) is not the correct answer.

B: Reflecting the passage's critique, this option accurately captures the argument that the distinction between 'protectors' and 'protected' serves to reinforce gender stereotypes that marginalize women, restricting their access and participation in critical areas such as national security discussions. By critiquing this dichotomy, the passage highlights the need to challenge and reevaluate the roles that individuals can play, advocating for a more inclusive approach that recognizes women's capabilities and contributions. Hence, Option (B) is the correct answer.

C: This choice inaccurately suggests that the passage supports the gendered distinction as a reflection of inherent strengths, which it explicitly critiques. The passage challenges such essentialist views by arguing that they contribute to a restrictive understanding of gender roles, particularly in the context of conflicts and crises, where such stereotypes can significantly impact the participation and recognition of women's roles and contributions. Hence, Option (C) is not the correct answer.

D: Proposing a necessity for the distinction, this option diverges from the passage's argument against the restrictive nature of the 'protectors' and 'protected' binary. The passage suggests that these roles are socially constructed and serve to perpetuate stereotypes that are detrimental to an effective and equitable organization of society, especially during crises. The text advocates for moving beyond these binaries to recognize the diverse capabilities and contributions of all individuals, irrespective of gender. Hence, Option (D) is not the correct answer.

6. **Answer: D**

Reference Lines: "framing the issue thus implies that women and children together comprise one vulnerable group, rather than two distinct groups," and "This undermines the role of women in peacekeeping and protection during ongoing conflict and violence."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: By suggesting a seemingly positive impact, this option overlooks the passage's critique that such framing, rather than being beneficial, actually oversimplifies the complexities of the situations faced by women and children in conflicts. The passage argues that this generalization fails to acknowledge the unique experiences and needs of these groups, potentially leading to interventions that do not adequately address their situations or leverage their potential contributions. Hence, Option (A) is not the correct answer.

B: While the passage does discuss the exploitation of narratives by aggressors, this option does not fully address the critique related to the internal dynamics of framing women and children as a single vulnerable group. The primary critique is on the impact this framing has on the perception and role of women in conflict situations, specifically how it diminishes their agency and contributions, rather than focusing solely on the strategic use of such narratives by external parties. Hence, Option (B) is not the correct answer.

C: This option misinterprets the passage's critique by suggesting a benefit that the text argues against. The passage indicates that the simplification resulting from this framing undermines the

ability to mobilize support effectively by failing to recognize and address the distinct experiences and contributions of women and children in conflict situations. This leads to a one-size-fits-all approach that may not be as effective as interventions tailored to the specific needs and roles of these groups. Hence, Option (C) is not the correct answer.

D: This option accurately encapsulates the passage's critique regarding the framing of women and children as a singular group. The passage emphasizes that such a collective framing not only neglects the unique experiences and needs of each group but specifically undermines the recognition of women's agency and their critical roles in areas like peacekeeping and conflict resolution. By simplifying their experiences and lumping them together with children, the nuanced understanding necessary for effective intervention and support is lost. Hence, Option (D) is the correct answer.

7. **Answer: C**

Reference Lines: "A devotee of Stoic philosophy, Cato put virtue and civic responsibility above all else, an uncompromising idealism that deeply influenced his daughter."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: This option inaccurately portrays Porcia's philosophical inclinations as described in the passage. The text emphasizes her deep-rooted Stoicism, influenced by her father, rather than an eclectic philosophical approach. The passage provides no evidence of her exposure to or adoption of philosophies outside Stoicism, making this option misleading. Hence, Option (A) is not the correct answer.

B: While the passage acknowledges the significant influence of Porcia's family, it specifically highlights the alignment of her personal beliefs with her father's philosophical teachings, rather than a conflict. Her active role in and support of the plot against Caesar suggest that her actions were in harmony with her Stoic beliefs, not contrary to them. This option suggests a discrepancy not supported by the passage. Hence, Option (B) is not the correct answer.

C: Reflecting the passage's content, this option accurately conveys the profound impact of Cato the Younger's devotion to Stoicism and republican ideals on Porcia. It highlights how these values were not just familial or political positions but deeply held convictions that shaped her character and motivated her actions, including her involvement in one of history's most famous conspiracies. This alignment between personal virtue and civic responsibility showcases the depth of Stoic influence on her life. Hence, Option (C) is the correct answer.

D: Although the passage situates Porcia within a turbulent political era, it does not suggest that this environment led her to adopt pragmatic views at odds with her family's idealism. Instead, it portrays her as embodying the Stoic virtues of courage, logical reasoning, and willingness to sacrifice, suggesting a consistent adherence to her philosophical and familial teachings rather than a clash with them. Hence, Option (D) is not the correct answer.

8. **Answer: C**

Reference Lines: "Porcia's courage, logical mind, and willingness to sacrifice were celebrated by Roman historians..."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: Directly contradicting the passage's portrayal, this option misrepresents Porcia's character. The text praises her Stoic virtues, including a rejection of luxury and an emphasis on sobriety and spirit, which align with her father's teachings. The passage clearly positions her as embodying Stoic principles, making this option incorrect. Hence, Option (A) is not the correct answer.

B: This option introduces a perspective not supported by the passage. Porcia's historical portrayal, as detailed in the text, focuses on her unwavering commitment to Stoic values and the republican cause, rather than a pragmatic or compromising political stance. Her willingness to be privy to the plot against Caesar indicates a dedication to her beliefs over political pragmatism. Hence, Option (B) is not the correct answer.

C: Aligning with the passage's depiction, this option accurately highlights the celebrated aspects of Porcia's personality. Her courage, logical thinking, and readiness to sacrifice for her beliefs are central

themes in the historical accounts, reflecting her adherence to Stoic philosophy and the influence of her father's ideals. These traits are emphasized as defining elements of her character, underscoring her significance in the historical narrative surrounding Julius Caesar's assassination. Hence, Option (C) is the correct answer.

D: The passage does not suggest that Porcia distanced herself from political activities in favour of personal enlightenment. Instead, it underscores her active involvement and commitment to the political cause of her time, particularly through her connection to the plot against Caesar. This portrayal contrasts with the notion of detachment, highlighting her engagement with the political intrigues of her era. Hence, Option (D) is not the correct answer.

9. **Answer: D**

Reference Lines: "Porcia Catonis (ca 73-43 b.c.) was 'the only woman who was privy to the plot,' as the Roman historian Cassius Dio described her."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: This option significantly understates Porcia's role and importance as described in the passage. Rather than being a peripheral figure, Porcia is noted for her unique position and involvement in one of the most pivotal moments in Roman history. Her being privy to the plot against Caesar marks her as a significant historical figure, not one of minimal influence. Hence, Option (A) is not the correct answer.

B: While Porcia's involvement in the plot is emphasized, the passage does not position her as the principal architect. Instead, it highlights her unique status as the only woman involved, focusing on her personal qualities of loyalty and strength. The text does not suggest she overshadowed Brutus or Cato in planning or executing the plot. Hence, Option (B) is not the correct answer.

C: Although Porcia's portrayal can be seen as empowering, the passage specifically emphasizes her role in the context of the assassination plot rather than framing her broadly as a symbol of female empowerment. While her involvement indeed breaks the conventional boundaries of female participation in political affairs, the text focuses more on her personal qualities and specific actions. Hence, Option (C) is not the correct answer.

D: This option most accurately reflects the passage's portrayal of Porcia Catonis. It captures her historical significance by highlighting her loyalty and strength, as well as her unique involvement in the assassination plot. This portrayal distinguishes her not just for her actions but for the qualities she exhibited in a historically male-dominated arena, marking her as a key figure in the events surrounding Caesar's end. Hence, Option (D) is the correct answer.

10. **Answer: C**

Reference Lines: "A devotee of Stoic philosophy, Cato put virtue and civic responsibility above all else, an uncompromising idealism that deeply influenced his daughter."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: This option suggests a broader philosophical exposure than the passage indicates. While the text acknowledges Porcia's philosophical inclinations, it specifically credits her father's Stoicism as the primary influence, without mentioning her engagement with other philosophical traditions. The passage underlines Stoicism as the core of her beliefs, not a diversity of philosophies. Hence, Option (A) is not the correct answer.

B: The passage does not support the notion that Porcia's political roles conflicted with her philosophical ideals. Instead, it portrays her as embodying the Stoic principles taught by her father, indicating a harmonious integration of her personal beliefs with her actions, even in the political arena. Her involvement in the conspiracy against Caesar appears to be an extension of these ideals, not a departure from them. Hence, Option (B) is not the correct answer.

C: This option correctly captures the essence of Porcia's upbringing and its impact on her life. The passage highlights how Cato the Younger's dedication to Stoicism and the republican cause shaped Porcia's own values and actions. Her philosophical and political engagements are presented as deeply influenced by her father's teachings, suggesting a direct link between her upbringing and her

later decisions and actions. This alignment with Stoic virtues and civic responsibility is emphasized as a defining feature of her character. Hence, Option (C) is the correct answer.

D: While the passage situates Porcia within a volatile political context, it does not imply that this climate prompted a pragmatic approach in her that conflicted with her family's ideals. Instead, Porcia is depicted as steadfast in her commitment to Stoicism and the ideals of her father, suggesting that her philosophical and political convictions were aligned rather than at odds with each other. Hence, Option (D) is not the correct answer.

11. **Answer: C**

Reference Lines: "Porcia's courage, logical mind, and willingness to sacrifice were celebrated by Roman historians..."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: Contrary to the portrayal in the passage, this option inaccurately characterizes Porcia. The text emphasizes her adherence to Stoic principles, which value simplicity and virtue over luxury and comfort. Porcia's historical depiction as embracing Stoic values, including a rejection of luxury, underlines the misalignment of this option with the passage's content. Hence, Option (A) is not the correct answer.

B: This choice misrepresents Porcia's approach to politics as depicted in the passage. Rather than adopting a pragmatic stance, Porcia is celebrated for her unwavering commitment to her beliefs, influenced by Stoicism and her father's example. The passage highlights her courage and willingness to sacrifice, suggesting a principled rather than a pragmatic approach to her political engagement. Hence, Option (B) is not the correct answer.

C: Reflecting the passage's depiction, this option accurately captures the celebrated aspects of Porcia's personality. Her courage, logical thinking, and readiness to sacrifice for her beliefs are underscored as defining characteristics. These traits, highlighted by historical accounts, demonstrate her profound commitment to Stoic philosophy and the ideals she inherited from her father, influencing both her personal and political actions. Hence, Option (C) is the correct answer.

D: The passage does not suggest that Porcia distanced herself from political affairs in favor of personal enlightenment. Instead, it portrays her as deeply involved in the political machinations of her time, including the conspiracy against Caesar. Her engagement is framed as an active choice informed by her Stoic beliefs and political convictions, contradicting the idea of detachment suggested by this option. Hence, Option (D) is not the correct answer.

12. **Answer: B**

Reference Lines: "Porcia's courage, logical mind, and willingness to sacrifice were celebrated by Roman historians... the only woman who was privy to the plot."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: While the historical context indeed featured prominent male figures, the passage makes clear that Porcia's legacy is not merely overshadowed. Instead, it highlights her unique role and contributions, celebrating her as a key figure with distinct courage and philosophical commitment. The passage suggests that her contributions, especially her involvement in the plot and her Stoic virtues, are recognized and celebrated, contrary to the implication of this option. Hence, Option (A) is not the correct answer.

B: This option aligns closely with the portrayal provided in the passage. Porcia is depicted as a remarkable figure who embodies resilience and philosophical dedication amid a male-dominated narrative. Her involvement in the conspiracy and her adherence to Stoic principles, despite the societal expectations of her time, leave a legacy of female strength and intellectual integrity. The passage underlines her significance in the historical narrative, making her a symbol of these qualities. Hence, Option (B) is the correct answer.

C: The passage does not primarily frame Porcia's involvement in the assassination plot as a negative reflection on her political ambitions or their impact on her relationships. Instead, it highlights her actions as stemming from a deep commitment to Stoic ideals and republican values, portraying her in

a positive light. This option introduces a narrative of detriment not supported by the text. Hence, Option (C) is not the correct answer.

D: While engaging in political conspiracies carries inherent risks, the passage celebrates Porcia's role in the plot against Caesar as an expression of her virtues and convictions. It does not depict her story as a cautionary tale but rather as one of moral fortitude and commitment to principle, emphasizing the positive aspects of her legacy rather than the dangers of her actions. Hence, Option (D) is not the correct answer.

13. **Answer: C**

Reference Lines: "At bottom, sumptuary laws are an expression of social anxiety over the blurring of classes and statuses."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: This option suggests a modern perspective on fashion as a form of personal expression, which is not supported by the passage. The passage indicates that the authorities' primary concern was the societal impact of fashion, particularly its potential to blur class distinctions, rather than fostering individual creativity. This misunderstanding of the passage's content makes this option incorrect. Hence, Option A is not the correct answer.

B: While the passage discusses the authorities' response to fashion trends, it does not suggest that the evolution of fashion was welcomed as cultural progress. Instead, it highlights the regulatory measures taken to maintain social order and class distinctions, indicating a more cautious or negative view of fashion's impact. This option misrepresents the authorities' perspective as described in the passage. Hence, Option B is not the correct answer.

C: This option correctly infers the main concern highlighted in the passage: fashion trends challenged established class distinctions, leading to the enactment of sumptuary laws. The passage explicitly mentions sumptuary laws as a response to social anxiety over blurring class lines, making this inference accurate and directly supported by the text. Hence, Option C is the correct answer.

D: The passage indicates that sumptuary laws were rarely enforced and that there is little evidence to suggest they effectively curtailed the spread of new fashions. Instead, it suggests that the popularity and availability of new fashions eventually evaded all controls, contradicting the idea that these laws were effective in their intended purpose. This option contradicts the passage's content. Hence, Option D is not the correct answer.

14. **Answer: B**

Reference Lines: "In practice, European sumptuary laws were rarely enforced, with the exception of Italy, which focused on women's clothing and ornaments."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: The passage does mention specific regulations in England, such as those concerning the cost of cloth and the length of pointed shoes. However, it does not indicate that England was an exception in the enforcement of these laws, especially when compared to the broader context of European practices. This option introduces an assumption not supported by the passage. Hence, Option A is not the correct answer.

B: This option is directly supported by the passage, which explicitly states Italy as an exception in the enforcement of sumptuary laws, with a specific focus on women's clothing and ornaments. This distinguishes Italy from the general trend in Europe where sumptuary laws were rarely enforced, making this option accurate and well-supported. Hence, Option B is the correct answer.

C: While the passage references the early adoption of sumptuary laws in Spain, it does not suggest that Spain was particularly notable for the enforcement of these laws. The mention of Spain serves to illustrate the historical presence of sumptuary laws rather than enforcement practices. This option misinterprets the passage's focus. Hence, Option C is not the correct answer.

D: The passage does not mention France specifically in the context of sumptuary law enforcement or focus. The inclusion of France and the specific focus on limiting the importation of foreign fashion

items is not supported by the passage, making this option speculative and incorrect. Hence, Option D is not the correct answer.

15. **Answer: B**

Reference Lines: "As clothes became more elaborate, such laws needed refining."

Difficulty Level: Easy

Explanation: A: "Refining" can indeed function as a verb in other contexts, where it would describe the action of improving or perfecting something. However, in this specific phrase from the passage, "refining" is used as a gerund, which is a verb form acting as a noun within the sentence. It is the object of the verb "needed," indicating the action or process that the laws required, not actively performing the action of refining at the moment. Hence, Option A is not the correct answer.

B: In this context, "refining" is a gerund, meaning it is derived from a verb but used as a noun within the sentence. It denotes the action or process that the sumptuary laws required to become more effective or precise. This grammatical form fits the structure and meaning of the sentence as provided in the passage, accurately reflecting the function of "refining" here. Hence, Option B is the correct answer.

C: An adjective is used to describe or modify a noun or pronoun, which is not the role "refining" plays in this phrase. "Refining" here does not describe any noun but instead names the process itself, making its use as an adjective incorrect in this context. Hence, Option C is not the correct answer.

D: An adverb modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb, which does not apply to "refining" in the given phrase. "Refining" is part of the noun phrase that is the direct object of "needed," indicating what the laws required, not modifying the action of needing or any other part of speech. Hence, Option D is not the correct answer.

16. **Answer: C**

Reference Lines: "At bottom, sumptuary laws are an expression of social anxiety over the blurring of classes and statuses."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: While some sumptuary laws indeed aimed to protect local economies, the passage highlights a broader, more dominant concern with social structures rather than purely economic motivations. The emphasis on economic measures is a partial view and does not capture the passage's main focus on class distinctions and social anxiety. Therefore, this option does not fully align with the central idea presented. Hence, Option A is not the correct answer.

B: The passage specifically mentions that sumptuary laws' enforcement varied significantly, with Italy being a notable exception for its focus on women's attire. This variability suggests that there was no uniform enforcement or shared cultural stance across Europe, contradicting the implication of this option. The passage does not support the notion of a collective cultural resistance to fashion excess. Hence, Option B is not the correct answer.

C: This option directly captures the essence of the passage. Sumptuary laws emerged as a tool to preserve existing social hierarchies in the face of fashion trends that blurred traditional class lines. The passage underscores these laws as manifestations of societal efforts to maintain class distinctions amidst changing fashion landscapes, making this the most accurate reflection of the passage's central idea. Hence, Option C is the correct answer.

D: While controlling expenditure might be an ancillary benefit or intention of sumptuary laws, the passage identifies the primary motive as addressing the social implications of fashion — specifically, its ability to challenge established class boundaries. The passage does not suggest that these laws significantly impacted wealth distribution or were primarily aimed at economic equality. Thus, this option misses the passage's main point. Hence, Option D is not the correct answer.

17. **Answer: D**

Reference Lines: "As fashion spread down the social scale, sumptuary laws dwindled, disappearing altogether in the 18th century when fashion had become universal."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: This option inaccurately narrows the purpose and challenge of sumptuary laws to economic considerations and suggests their failure was due to public apathy. The passage, however, emphasizes the social and class-based motivations behind these laws and their decline due to the democratization of fashion, not merely public indifference. Hence, Option A is not the correct answer.

B: While the passage mentions the reinforcement of group or national identities as a facet of sumptuary laws, it does not indicate a shift in focus from fashion control to national identity. The primary theme remains the social impact of fashion and the laws' ineffectiveness in preserving class distinctions as fashion became more accessible. Hence, Option B is not the correct answer.

C: The passage does not suggest that the laws initially had strength or focus specifically on foreign fashion influence, nor does it frame their failure in these terms. The broader narrative is about the social implications of fashion and the eventual ubiquity of fashion trends, making this summary inaccurate. Hence, Option C is not the correct answer.

D: Accurately synthesizes the passage's discussion by highlighting the intent behind sumptuary laws—to address the social disruptions caused by evolving fashion—and their decline as fashion became a universal phenomenon. This summary directly aligns with the passage's narrative about the rise and fall of sumptuary laws in relation to fashion's increasing accessibility and social influence. Hence, Option D is the correct answer.

18. **Answer:** B

Reference Lines: "At bottom, sumptuary laws are an expression of social anxiety over the blurring of classes and statuses."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: This option misinterprets the dynamic nature of the period covered in the passage. Sumptuary laws, as described, were not signs of an unchanging society but rather evidence of its attempt to address and manage the social challenges posed by evolving fashion trends. The laws reflect societal change and anxiety, not rigidity. Hence, Option A is not the correct answer.

B: Correctly identifies the synthesis presented in the passage. Sumptuary laws emerged as societal responses to the challenges brought about by changing fashion trends, reflecting an effort to navigate the implications of these changes on established social orders and class distinctions. This option captures the essence of societal transitions and the role of sumptuary laws within that process. Hence, Option B is the correct answer.

C: The passage does not primarily frame sumptuary laws as tools for containing foreign cultural influences, although restrictions on foreign goods are mentioned. The main focus is on the social dynamics within societies, particularly the blurring of class distinctions due to fashion trends, making this option an inaccurate synthesis. Hence, Option C is not the correct answer.

D: While economic motivations behind some sumptuary laws are noted, portraying these laws as attempts at economic self-isolation oversimplifies their purpose and ignores the broader social context presented in the passage. The primary concern was with social order and class distinctions, not economic isolationism. Hence, Option D is not the correct answer.

19. **Answer:** B

Reference Lines: "You need a continuous source, and that's what cosmic dust is."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: This option inaccurately minimizes the role of cosmic dust by comparing it unfavourably to meteorites, suggesting it's a minor contributor. The passage, however, highlights cosmic dust as a significant and continuous source of essential elements for life, challenging the previously held belief that meteorites were the primary contributors. This misalignment with the passage's emphasis makes this option incorrect. Hence, A is not the correct answer.

B: This choice aligns with the passage's discussion, which emphasizes the crucial role of cosmic dust in providing a steady supply of essential elements necessary for prebiotic chemistry. It highlights the advantage of cosmic dust's continuous influx over the sporadic nature of meteorite contributions,

underlining its potential significance in the origin of life on Earth. This understanding is directly supported by the text, making this option correct. Hence, B is the correct answer.

C: By suggesting that cosmic dust's role is mainly atmospheric, this option diverts from the core argument of the passage. The text primarily focuses on the chemical contributions of cosmic dust relevant to the origins of life, rather than its impact on Earth's atmosphere. This misinterpretation of the passage's content makes this option incorrect. Hence, C is not the correct answer.

D: This option introduces an unrelated function of cosmic dust, focusing on its potential as a thermal insulator and its impact on climate. The passage, however, concentrates on the chemical elements cosmic dust provides, which are essential for the emergence of life, not on its thermal properties. This deviation from the passage's key points makes this option incorrect. Hence, D is not the correct answer.

20. **Answer: A**

Reference Lines: "the most promising environments were glaciers, both because they could trap lots of dust and because they have very little contamination from terrestrial dirt."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: This option is in direct accordance with the passage's explanation that glaciers are advantageous for the accumulation of cosmic dust due to their ability to trap significant amounts and their minimal contamination from terrestrial sources. This unique environment allows for the effective concentration of essential elements, making it pivotal for the hypothesis regarding the origins of life. The passage supports this rationale, making this option correct. Hence, A is the correct answer.

B: Misrepresents the process described in the passage by attributing dust accumulation to the reflective surface of glaciers. The actual mechanism involves cosmic dust absorbing sunlight and melting ice, which leads to further dust capture, not the reflectivity of the glacier itself. This misunderstanding of the process makes this option incorrect. Hence, B is not the correct answer.

C: Introduces an unsupported notion of chemical interaction between glacier composition and cosmic dust. The passage focuses on the physical accumulation and concentration of cosmic dust in glaciers, without mentioning any specific chemical enhancements due to the glaciers' composition. This addition of information not present in the passage makes this option incorrect. Hence, C is not the correct answer.

D: Suggests a preservation role for the cold temperature of glaciers that is not discussed in the passage. While temperature could theoretically play a role in preserving molecular integrity, the passage emphasizes the physical trapping and concentration of cosmic dust, not the preservation of its molecular structure. This extraneous focus makes this option incorrect. Hence, D is not the correct answer.

21. **Answer: B**

Reference Lines: "In the past, researchers searching for the origin of such elements on Earth largely focused on larger objects like meteorites..."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: Mischaracterizes the historical scientific stance by suggesting a consistent favouring of cosmic dust over meteorites. The passage indicates that the significance of cosmic dust as a continuous source of essential elements for life has been underestimated in favour of meteorites, contrary to this option's claim. This discrepancy makes this option incorrect. Hence, A is not the correct answer.

B: Accurately reflects the passage's implication that historical research predominantly focused on meteorites for the delivery of life's essential elements, overlooking the steady contribution of cosmic dust. This perspective is now being challenged as the continuous supply of cosmic dust is recognized as potentially crucial for prebiotic chemistry, aligning perfectly with the passage. This correct interpretation makes this option the right choice. Hence, B is the correct answer.

C: Incorrectly suggests a historical balance in research focus between cosmic dust and meteorites, which the passage does not support. The text indicates a shift in attention towards the potential of

cosmic dust, previously overshadowed by the emphasis on meteorites. This misunderstanding of the passage's content makes this option incorrect. Hence, C is not the correct answer.

D: Incorrectly implies that early scientific perspectives dismissed extraterrestrial sources like cosmic dust and meteorites in favour of terrestrial sources for life's essential elements. The passage, however, discusses the underestimation of cosmic dust's role compared to meteorites, not a disregard for extraterrestrial sources altogether. This misinterpretation makes this option incorrect. Hence, D is not the correct answer.

22. **Answer: B**

Reference Lines: "You need a continuous source, and that's what cosmic dust is."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: This option inaccurately minimizes the significance of cosmic dust in prebiotic chemistry. Craig Walton emphasizes the need for a continuous source of elements essential for life, a role that cosmic dust fulfills. Contrary to suggesting its negligible role, the passage highlights cosmic dust as integral for providing a steady supply of key elements, thus making this option incorrect. Hence, A is not the correct answer.

B: This choice perfectly captures the essence of Walton's argument by underlining the crucial role of cosmic dust as a continuous source of essential elements. Unlike meteorites, which deliver elements randomly and sporadically, cosmic dust provides a consistent influx that could sustain prebiotic chemistry, making it indispensable for the development of life on Earth. This understanding is in direct alignment with the passage, making this option correct. Hence, B is the correct answer.

C: Suggesting that the contributions of cosmic dust are overshadowed by larger celestial bodies contradicts Walton's insights. The passage clearly indicates that cosmic dust's steady contribution of essential elements is vital for sustaining prebiotic chemistry, a role that larger celestial bodies like meteorites cannot fulfill due to their sporadic nature. This misinterpretation makes the option incorrect. Hence, C is not the correct answer.

D: This option incorrectly shifts the focus of cosmic dust's role to atmospheric contributions rather than its direct impact on prebiotic chemistry. The passage emphasizes the chemical significance of cosmic dust in providing essential elements for life, rather than its effects on Earth's atmosphere. This deviation from the passage's main point renders the option incorrect. Hence, D is not the correct answer.

23. **Answer: C**

Reference Lines: "They found that the most promising environments were glaciers, both because they could trap lots of dust and because they have very little contamination from terrestrial dirt."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: This option misrepresents the information provided in the passage, which suggests that cosmic dust could accumulate in significant enough quantities, especially in glacial regions, to impact the development of prebiotic chemistry. The passage indicates that cosmic dust, despite its widespread distribution, found a mechanism through glaciers for effective concentration, making this option incorrect. Hence, A is not the correct answer.

B: While the passage mentions the role of cosmic dust and meteorites, it does not specifically discuss their interaction creating a rich sedimentary layer for life's chemical reactions. The focus is rather on how cosmic dust alone, especially when accumulated in glaciers, could have facilitated the conditions necessary for life, making this option misleading. Hence, B is not the correct answer.

C: Accurately reflects the passage's discussion by highlighting glaciers as critical environments for the accumulation and concentration of cosmic dust. This process created potentially life-sustaining conditions by enabling the concentration of essential elements necessary for prebiotic chemical reactions. This summary aligns well with the passage, making it the correct choice. Hence, C is the correct answer.

D: This option introduces a concept not directly discussed in the passage. While cosmic dust's role in melting ice is mentioned, the passage focuses on its contribution to life's chemical beginnings through

its concentration in glaciers, not on climate change or the melting of ice caps as a mechanism for life development. This makes the option incorrect. Hence, D is not the correct answer.

24. **Answer: C**

Reference Lines: "Up to 40,000 tonnes of this dust falls to Earth every year... the dust could have been moved around by wind and water to collect in high enough concentrations to help spark life."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: A: While the discovery of cosmic dust's role might feel serendipitous, the passage details a more deliberate and understood process of accumulation rather than a chance event leading to beneficial outcomes. The term does not precisely reflect the systematic gathering and potential impact of cosmic dust as described, making this option not suitable. Hence, A is not the correct answer.

B: Catalyst is a term that suggests a direct involvement in speeding up chemical reactions without being consumed. The passage, however, emphasizes the role of cosmic dust in providing the necessary elements for life through its accumulation, not as an agent that catalyzes reactions without change. This misalignment with the passage's content makes this option incorrect. Hence, B is not the correct answer.

C: Perfectly describes the process highlighted in the passage, where cosmic dust gradually gathers, especially in glacial regions, and potentially reaches concentrations high enough to influence the chemistry necessary for life. This term accurately captures the essence of cosmic dust's contribution as implied in the text, making this option the most fitting. Hence, C is the correct answer.

D: Synthesis implies the creation of a new whole through the combination of parts, which, although relevant to the broader topic of life's origins, does not directly address the specific role of cosmic dust as described in the passage. The focus is on the accumulation of dust and its elements, not the synthesis of new compounds. This distinction makes the option less accurate. Hence, D is not the correct answer.

Current Affairs and General Knowledge

25. **Answer: D**

Explanation: At the 28th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, India announced its partnership with Sweden under the LEAD-IT initiative which had a focus on industrial Decarbonisation, especially the steel sector.

26. **Answer: B**

Explanation: At the 28th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, India announced its partnership with Sweden under the LEAD-IT initiative which had a focus on industrial Decarbonisation, especially the steel sector.

Swedish company SSAB was the first globally to produce steel through hydrogen back in 2018.

Yet another Swedish company, H2-Green Steel, is also planning to roll out its first batch of green steel using hydrogen by 2025.

Similar initiatives are being taken by Nippon Steel in Japan and other competitors in France and Germany.

27. **Answer: C**

Explanation: The Hub and Spoke (H&S) model is used when there are multiple locations sourcing, with a central location called the 'Hub.' The location provides a single point of contact to the client, whilst the in-country extensions, called 'Spokes'.

Under the Policy, formal and scientific collection, dismantling and processing activities for the end of life products, that are sources of recyclable (ferrous, non-ferrous and other non-metallic) scraps, are being promoted.

4 collection and dismantling centres will cater to 1 scrap processing centre.

28. **Answer: D**

Explanation: PAT covered about 13 energy-intensive sectors: Thermal power plants (TPP), cement, aluminium, iron and steel, pulp and paper, fertiliser, chlor-alkali, petroleum refineries, petrochemicals, distribution companies, railways, textile and commercial buildings (hotels and airports).

29. **Answer: B**

Explanation: The government released scheme guidelines on Wednesday to aid pilot projects using green hydrogen as a fuel for buses, trucks, and four-wheelers.

The scheme will be implemented with a total budgetary outlay of Rs 496 crore till the financial year 2025-26, a statement by the Ministry of New Renewable Energy said.

The central government has come out with guidelines for undertaking pilot projects for using green hydrogen in the transport sector. The guidelines also note that upcoming steel plants should be capable of operating with green hydrogen, thus ensuring that these plants are able to participate in future global low-carbon steel markets.

The scheme will also consider greenfield projects aiming at 100 per cent green steel.

30. **Answer: D**

Explanation: The Good Friday Agreement, also known as the Belfast Agreement, is a historic peace treaty signed on 10th April, 1998, in Northern Ireland.

It aimed to bring an end to the violence and conflict that had plagued the region for decades, particularly during the period known as "The Troubles."

The Troubles:

Northern Ireland was the site of a 30-year civil war (1968-1998) known as 'The Troubles' between the Republicans and the Unionists, which killed over 3,500 people.

It also had a religious aspect to it with the Republicans being mostly Catholic and the Unionists being largely Protestants.

Northern Ireland was formerly part of the Ulster province, which lies to the north of modern-day Ireland.

31. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Northern Ireland was the site of a 30-year civil war (1968-1998) known as 'The Troubles' between the Republicans and the Unionists, which killed over 3,500 people.

It also had a religious aspect to it with the Republicans being mostly Catholic and the Unionists being largely Protestants.

Northern Ireland was formerly part of the Ulster province, which lies to the north of modern-day Ireland.

32. **Answer: B**

Explanation: After a bloody war, it was able to gain independence from England with the Anglo-Irish treaty of 1921.

However, Ireland was split into two territories. As there was a protestant majority in Ulster, out of the 32 counties in Ireland, six remained with the U.K, forming the region of Northern Ireland.

33. **Answer: A**

Explanation: The Good Friday Agreement, also known as the Belfast Agreement, is a historic peace treaty signed on 10th April, 1998, in Northern Ireland. Conflict between the Protestants and the Irish Catholics goes all the way back to 1609, when King James I started an official policy of migration wherein people from England and Scotland were encouraged to move to Ulster to work in his various plantations there.

The religious war that was being waged in much of Europe at the time, between the Protestants and the Catholics, made its presence felt in Ulster as well.

However, a much stronger resistance was brewing. Ireland at the time was under the rule of England. The growing resistance against colonial English rule, especially after the Potato Famine of 1845 where over 1 million Irish people died due to disease and starvation, cemented these sectarian and religious differences.

Finally, in 1916, in the middle of the First World War, during Easter week, Ireland rose up in arms against colonial rule under the leadership of the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

34. **Answer: C**

Explanation: About:

The Good Friday Agreement, also known as the Belfast Agreement, is a historic peace treaty signed on 10th April, 1998, in Northern Ireland.

It aimed to bring an end to the violence and conflict that had plagued the region for decades, particularly during the period known as "The Troubles."

Key Provisions:

- **Power Sharing:** The agreement established a devolved government in Northern Ireland, with power shared between Unionists (who generally want Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom) and Republicans (who generally seek reunification with Ireland). This power-sharing arrangement was intended to ensure that both communities had a voice in governing Northern Ireland.
 - **Consent Principle:** It recognized the principle of consent, meaning that the status of Northern Ireland would not change without the consent of a majority of its people. This provision allowed for the possibility of reunification with Ireland through a referendum, but only if the majority of people in Northern Ireland voted for it.
 - **Human Rights:** The agreement emphasised the importance of human rights and equality for all citizens of Northern Ireland, regardless of their background or political beliefs.
 - **Decommissioning of Weapons:** While the agreement did not explicitly require the immediate disarmament of paramilitary groups, it set out a process for the decommissioning of weapons held
-

by such groups. This process was meant to take place in parallel with the implementation of other aspects of the agreement.

- **Cross-Border Cooperation:** The agreement encouraged cooperation and reconciliation between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, as well as between the UK and Ireland more broadly. It promoted economic, social, and cultural ties across the border, while also recognizing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both states.

35. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, confers authority upon the RBI to issue directives to banks and undertake necessary actions to prevent the operations of any banking entity from being conducted in a manner detrimental to the interests of depositors or prejudicial to the bank's own interests.

In this case, sources indicate concerns over dubious transactions involving significant sums of money between Paytm and its associated banking entity prompted the RBI to take action against the business.

PPBL reportedly had numerous non-compliant accounts lacking proper KYC verification, with thousands of instances where a single PAN was used to open multiple accounts.

Additionally, transactions exceeding regulatory limits in minimum KYC prepaid instruments raised red flags about potential money laundering activities.

36. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Minimum Paid-up Capital: The minimum paid-up equity capital has been fixed at Rs 100 crore.

The promoter's minimum initial contribution to the paid-up equity capital shall be at least 40% for the first 5 years.

Prohibited Services: They are prohibited from conducting lending operations or issuing credit cards.

Therefore, they are also exempt from priority sector lending regulations that typically apply to traditional banks.

Rural Outreach Requirements: At least 25% of a Payments Bank's physical access points have to be in rural centers.

37. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Payment banks are a specialized type of bank introduced by the RBI in 2014. They are designed to promote financial inclusion by offering basic banking services to the unbanked and underbanked population.

They were introduced on the recommendations of the Nachiket Mor committee set up by the RBI to examine financial services for small businesses and low-income households.

Example: Airtel Payments Bank, India Post Payments Bank, etc.

38. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Major Activities Performed by Payment Banks:

Accepting deposits from individuals and small businesses, up to a certain limit (currently set at Rs 2 lakh per account).

Providing remittance services, and facilitating domestic money transfers.

Issuing ATM/debit cards, prepaid payment instruments, and other electronic payment methods.

Offering internet banking services, including online fund transfers and bill payments.

39. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Starting from February 29, Paytm Payments Bank won't be able to accept new users. If you're not already using Paytm, you can't create a new account after this date. Existing users won't be able to use Paytm wallets, Fastags, or Mobility Cards after this date. This is because the Reserve Bank of India has barred the listed fintech's payment bank from offering banking services after

February. The action against One 97 Communications, the parent company that runs Paytm, is due to “non-compliance and continued material supervisory concerns in the bank,” RBI said.

Key Restrictions:

- Deposit Bar: PPBL is barred from accepting further deposits, top-ups, or credit transactions into its accounts or wallets from 29th February, 2024.
- This also applies to its prepaid instruments for FASTags and National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC) cards.
- Service Limitations: The ban extends to banking services such as Aadhaar Enabled Payment System, Immediate Payment Service, bill payments, and UPI transactions.
- The bank must settle all pipeline and nodal account transactions by 29th March, with no further transactions permitted thereafter.
- Closure of Nodal Accounts: PPBL is directed to terminate nodal accounts of its parent company and Paytm Payments Services before 29th February, 2024.

40. **Answer: C**

Explanation: INSAT-3DS is designed to enhance meteorological observations, aid in weather forecasting, and improve disaster warning capabilities.

Fully funded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), it follows the lineage of Third Generation Meteorological Satellites from Geostationary Orbit.

The satellite will monitor land and ocean surfaces, augmenting the services provided by existing INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR satellites.

India gets weather updates through INSAT-3D & 3DR weather satellites. INSAT 3DR was launched in 2016 as a follow up on INSAT-3D which was launched in 2013.

41. **Answer: B**

Explanation: GSLV is a space launch vehicle designed, developed, and operated by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to launch satellites and other space objects into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbits.

GSLV has been designed for launching communication satellites.

Geosynchronous satellites are launched into orbit in the same direction the Earth is spinning and can have any inclination.

The satellites in the geosynchronous orbits appear to remain permanently fixed in the same position in the sky.

GSLV has the capability to put a heavier payload in orbit than the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

It is a three-stage launcher with strap-on motors.

42. **Answer: B**

Explanation: PSLV's first launch was in 1994, and it has been ISRO's main rocket ever since. Today's PSLV, however, is vastly improved and several times more powerful than the ones used in the 1990s.

It is the first Indian launch vehicle to be equipped with liquid stages.

PSLV is the most reliable rocket used by ISRO till date, with 52 of its 54 flights being successful.

It successfully launched two spacecraft – Chandrayaan-1 in 2008 and Mars Orbiter Spacecraft in 2013 – that later traveled to Moon and Mars respectively.

ISRO currently uses two launch vehicles – PSLV and GSLV (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle), but there are lots of different variants of these.

43. **Answer: A**

Explanation: INSAT-3DS will be launched aboard the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle F14 (GSLV F14).

GSLV-F14 is a three-stage launch vehicle.

The first stage (GS1) has a solid propellant motor and four earth-storable propellant stages (EPS). EPS includes a supporting structure, propellant tanks, and an engine.

The second stage (GS2) is also an earth-storable propellant stage

The third stage (GS3) is a cryogenic stage, with propellant loading of liquid oxygen (LOX) and liquid hydrogen (LH2).

The GSLV-F14 is the 16th flight of the GSLV, and the 10th flight with the indigenous cryo stage.

44. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Satellite INSAT-3DS on launch vehicle GSLV-F14, fully funded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), was successfully launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, today at 1730 hrs.

INSAT-3DS will augment the country's meteorological (weather, climate, and ocean related) services with the presently operational INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR in-orbit satellites. The newly launched INSAT-3DS satellite aims to enhance the monitoring of Earth's surface, atmosphere, oceans, and environment, elevate capabilities in data collection and dissemination and satellite-aided search and rescue services. The initiative will boost India's weather, climate, and ocean-related observations and services, expanding knowledge and better disaster mitigation and preparedness in the future.

45. **Answer: B**

Explanation: The first BIT signed by India was with the UK in 1994.

The BIT regime gained attention in the year 2010 with the settlement of the first-ever investor treaty claim filed against India.

46. **Answer: C**

Explanation: In 2011, India suffered its first adverse award in a dispute arising out of the Australia-India BIT (*White Industries v Republic of India*) where the Indian government was ordered to pay USD 4.1 million by the International Chamber of Commerce.

By 2015, India faced 17 known BIT claims, notably including one with Cairn Energy Plc, a British oil and gas company, resulting in a USD 1.2 billion award against the Indian government.

Given the burden that was being levied on the public exchequer, the government was compelled to revisit the 1993 BIT model. This led to the adoption of the 2016 model BIT resulting in the government terminating 68 of the 74 treaties it had executed until 2015 with a request to renegotiate terms based on the revised text.

The adoption of the 2016 BIT model was seen more as a knee-jerk protectionist measure rather than a nuanced and calibrated approach to encouraging foreign investment.

47. **Answer: C**

Explanation: While presenting the interim Union budget 2024-25, the Indian Finance Minister stated that India will be negotiating Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) with its trade partners to boost the inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

This announcement comes at a time when India's bilateral treaties have dried up, more so, since the adoption of the Model BIT in 2016.

48. **Answer: C**

Explanation: India's ranking in ease of contract enforcement is still abysmally low at 163 out of 190 and therefore, it is critical that these recommendations are implemented in letter and spirit.

Robust international trade and stable investments will be critical to India's pursuit of a \$5-trillion economy. A progressive approach to BITs will be an important component to attract and sustain long-term foreign investments. The government's renewed push is a step in the right direction. However, it must do away with its one-size-fits-all approach, while paving the way for rapid yet sustainable growth in cross-border flows.

49. **Answer:** D

Explanation: The Schengen Agreement is a treaty signed in 1985 by five member states (Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands) of the European Economic Community. The agreement aims to create a border-free area in Europe that allows the free movement of people, goods, services, and capital called the Schengen Area, where internal border checks are largely abolished.

50. **Answer:** D

Explanation: All EU member states without opt-outs must join Schengen upon meeting technical requirements.

Non-EU countries like Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Iceland are part of Schengen through special association agreements.

Over time, the Schengen area has grown to encompass 27 countries, spanning over 4 million square kilometers and hosting nearly 420 million inhabitants.

- Schengen enables seamless travel for over 400 million individuals across member states without border checks.
- Facilitates approximately 1.25 billion journeys annually, fostering tourism, cultural exchange, and economic prosperity.
- Schengen promotes cooperation among police, customs, and border control authorities to combat terrorism and organized crime.
- For nationals of Schengen countries, visa-free travel and the absence of internal border checks enhance convenience and facilitate economic integration.
- Schengen's border-free regime symbolises European values of unity and solidarity.

51. **Answer:** A

Explanation: What was India's Stand on the Status of Kosovo?

India claims that Kosovo does not fulfill the three principles required for recognition: a defined territory, a duly constituted government accepted by the people, and effective control over an area of governance.

India has opposed Kosovo's membership in international bodies such as UNESCO, Apostille Convention, Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, and Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units.

India's non-recognition of Kosovo is based on its support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Serbia, with whom it has a long-standing relationship.

52. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Serbia: Serbia is a landlocked country in eastern Europe that shares borders with Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria.

Kosovo: Kosovo is a small landlocked region that lies to Serbia's southwest, sharing borders with North Macedonia, Albania, and Montenegro. Many Serbs consider Kosovo the birthplace of their nation.

Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008, but Serbia does not recognize Kosovo's statehood.

Recently, Kosovo achieved a significant milestone after facing delays in Schengen approval. It has secured visa-free access to the Schengen zone, the world's largest area of free movement.

Kosovo becomes the last non-European Union (EU) country in the Western Balkans to enjoy this privilege.

Legal Reasoning

53. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Option D is correct as if Riya's design involves a unique process or method that contributes to the increased fuel efficiency of the hovercraft, she can file for a process patent even if the Ratt industry has another process patent. Option A is incorrect as even if there is an existing patent for the hovercraft, Riya can still file for a patent if her design involves a novel and inventive improvement, especially if it pertains to a specific process. Option B is incorrect. The 20-year duration is a general maximum duration for patent protection. However, Riya can file for a patent once she has developed a novel and inventive hovercraft design. Option C is incorrect as Hovercraft is already present with a process patent from the Ratt industry, If the improvement is related to a specific process or method, a process patent is more appropriate.

54. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Option C is the correct option. To be eligible for a patent, an invention should be novel, useful, and non-obvious. If Riya's hovercraft design is found to be impractical, violating basic norms for patentability, it will not qualify for a patent. Option A is incorrect as even if there is an existing patent for the hovercraft, Riya can still file for a patent if her design involves a novel and inventive improvement, especially if it pertains to a specific process. Option B is incorrect. The 20-year duration is a general maximum duration for patent protection. However, Riya can file for a patent once she has developed a novel and inventive hovercraft design. Option D is incorrect on the same reasoning as Option C.

55. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Option A is correct because the patent cannot be given on hypothetical thinking and drawing. The patent needs to be practical and follow the condition of novelty, use, and innovation. Option B is incorrect as the product needs to be actual and not hypothetical. Moreover, the product cannot be based on a drawing, the qualities needed to be proved by actually making the spacecraft. Option C is incorrect as it is immaterial to file a product patent based on drawings without that being made. Option D is incorrect on the same reasoning as Option C.

56. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Option D is correct because both Option A and Option B are correct. Option C is incorrect as commercial success can be an indicator of the utility of an invention, it does not guarantee eligibility for a patent. The key criteria are still usefulness, novelty, and inventiveness. Option A is correct because the fan is not useful in the sense that it consumes more electricity and contributes nothing additional (in a good sense) to the original design of the fan. Option B is correct as it is not an innovation as it is obvious to someone of average skill who works in the field of your invention to make that fan and also the same logic as in Option A.

57. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option B is correct. Since Rippon Pharma holds a product patent for Pinto in the USA, Manunkind Pharma cannot sell Rinto in the USA without infringing on Rippon Pharma's patent rights. Option A is incorrect. The patent system is territorial, and patents granted in one country do not automatically extend to the entire world. In this scenario, the patent for Rinto is granted in India (with a process patent), but it does not cover the USA. Option C is incorrect as it is not given in the passage anything about patent approval. Option D is incorrect even though, it seems that it is correct on a legal point of view but in the question, it is only asked about the selling of Rinto in the USA and not providing legal advice to Manunkind Pharma.

58. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Option C is correct as Dr. Karthik performed the surgery and even though he is a fresher surgeon, the same will not attract liability towards the hospital. Option A is incorrect as it is mentioned in the passage that "...simply because a more skilled doctor would not have chosen to follow or resort to that practice or procedure which the accused followed." Option B is incorrect as even if Ramesh consented to the surgery, the same will not vitiate Ramesh from getting any compensation if there is a proven negligence on behalf of the hospital. Option D is incorrect. This is a broad statement, and liability would typically be assessed based on the specific circumstances, adherence to medical standards, and the actions of the medical professionals involved.

59. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Option C is correct. Leaving a foreign object, such as a cotton swab, inside a patient's body after surgery is a serious medical error and can be considered a form of medical negligence. It is a breach of the standard of care expected from medical professionals during surgical procedures. Option A is incorrect as it is mentioned in the passage that "...simply because a more skilled doctor would not have chosen to follow or resort to that practice or procedure which the accused followed." Option B is incorrect as even if Ramesh consented to the surgery the same will not vitiate Ramesh from getting any compensation if there is a proven negligence on behalf of the hospital. Option D is incorrect. This is a broad statement, and liability would typically be assessed based on the specific circumstances, adherence to medical standards, and the actions of the medical professionals involved.

60. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Option C is correct. If the surgery was unsuccessful due to the surgeon being drunk, resulting in the removal of the kidney, the hospital will be liable for medical malpractice. Compensation for damages, including pain, suffering, and medical expenses, will be given from the hospital. Option A is incorrect. The focus is usually on compensation for damages rather than organ replacement which will be provided by the court. Option B is incorrect. The concept of medical insurance and medical negligence is not provided within the passage even if the role of the provider is mainly to cover medical expenses. Option D is incorrect in the same reasoning as Option B.

61. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Option B is correct. It recognizes that medical decisions may vary, and liability should be assessed based on whether the treatment adhered to due diligence and reasonability of a doctor. The mere use of Morphine does not automatically make the hospital liable. Option A is incorrect. As it is clearly mentioned in the passage "...he cannot be held liable for negligence merely because a better alternative course or method of treatment was also available." Option C is incorrect as even if Ramesh consented to the surgery the same will not vitiate Ramesh from getting any compensation if there is a proven negligence on behalf of the hospital. Option D is incorrect as both Options B and C are incorrect.

62. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Option B is correct as it implies that Shyam cannot seek compensation under tort law for the damages incurred due to the lack of a valid license. Tort law typically addresses civil wrongs and injuries, but the validity of the license might fall under administrative or criminal law as there is no damage, which is necessary for claiming damage. Option A is incorrect as even though Mike has no license, the same will not grant Shyam any compensation it will lead to the liability of Mike under criminal law as he violated the right of rem. Option C is incorrect as it goes beyond the purview of the passage to mislead the readers. Option D is incorrect as it doesn't necessarily address broader damages or legal consequences resulting from the lack of a valid license.

63. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option B is correct. Chef Rajma's cooking show is a typical representation of his work and the shock was an extreme reaction, it may be considered unreasonable to hold him liable for the resulting harm. Option A is incorrect. In this case, it may not be reasonably foreseeable that a cooking show would cause such severe distress. Option C is incorrect. It is essential to consider the extent of the harm and whether it was within the realm of reasonable foreseeability. The consent given to watch TV channels does not include watching extreme content. Option D is incorrect. legal liability is generally determined by legal standards rather than personal opinions or moral judgments. The act of cooking non-vegetarian dishes on TV, in itself, may not be a legal basis for compensation.

64. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option B is correct. As Martha's reaction was foreseeable and reasonable given the information provided by Jim, she would be entitled to compensation. Option A is incorrect. Legal principles often consider the foreseeability of harm and the reasonableness of actions, regardless of the relationship. In this case, the fact that Jim is Martha's son may not automatically absolve him of liability. Option C is incorrect on the same reasoning as Option A, i.e., the action is reasonable for a mother to have nervous shock. Option D is incorrect. the legality of pranks that cause severe emotional distress depends on various factors, including foreseeability, intent, and reasonableness which is more than enough to get a nervous shock.

65. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option B is correct. The importance of foreseeability and reasonability in determining liability. If the spillage of blood was accidental and not foreseeable by the bikers, they might not be held responsible for the nervous shock suffered by Mona. Option A is incorrect as liability in such cases is often determined by foreseeability and reasonability as it is not reasonably inferred by them. Option C is incorrect as it is essential to consider whether the spillage of blood was a foreseeable risk that Mona implicitly consented to by walking on the road. Option D is incorrect as it misleads the reader by giving the course of action that is not covered in the passage.

66. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Option A is correct because the liability in such cases is often determined by foreseeability and reasonability. If the spillage of blood was not intentional or foreseeable by the bikers, they might not be held responsible. The decision that over speeding might lead to an accident is foreseeable by the bikers but the fact that it will lead to a stillborn baby is not. Option B is incorrect on the same reasoning as Option A. Option C is incorrect as it is essential to consider whether the spillage of blood was a foreseeable risk that Mona implicitly consented to by walking on the road. Option D is incorrect as in civil liability the representatives will provide money unlike criminal liability, where the liability ends with the death of the person.

67. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Option A is correct as it implies that societal expectations during Halloween could influence the reasonability of the prank. The reasonability during Halloween in a suburb in New York is different from any other day in the same neighbourhood. Option B is incorrect on the same reasoning as Option A that the child's prank will not make her absolutely liable for the nervous shock. Option C is incorrect as age alone may not absolve someone from responsibility, and legal systems often consider factors like intent, foreseeability, and the impact of actions on others. Option D is incorrect as Option C is incorrect.

68. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Option A is the correct answer because as the total land is 1 acre and as the family is based in Rajasthan, they follow the Mitakshara school. In Mitakshara School, females are not eligible to get inheritance. So, it takes out both Sundari and Mitara from distribution. In Mitakshara School, a

male son becomes the coparcener on the same day of birth and gets an equal share of the property. This means that the property is now equally distributed between Harisimha, Radhe, and Shyam. Thus, Radhe gets $\frac{1}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ of the property which is 0.33 Acres. Options B, C, and D are incorrect on the same reasoning as given in Option A.

69. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Option B is the correct answer because as the total land is 1 acre and as the family is based in West Bengal, they follow the Dayabhaga school. In Dayabhaga School, the child irrespective of gender becomes the coparcener upon the death of the main coparcener. This means that the whole property is now with Harisimha as he is the father of Radhe and grandfather of Shyam and upon the death, only others will get the property. And the rest of the members do not have any property. Thus, Harisimha has all the property. Options A, C, and D are incorrect on the same reasoning as given in Option B.

70. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Option A is the correct answer because as the total land is 100 acres and as the family is based in Assam, they follow the Dayabhaga school. In Dayabhaga School, the child irrespective of gender becomes the coparcener upon the death of the main coparcener. As it is given in the passage in the illustration, both B and C being Ind and IIIrd generation respectively will get a share. Hence, Phoga will also get share. Moreover, giving property to the wife is not mentioned in the passage. Therefore, only the three children of Deepak will get the property. Options C, B, and D are incorrect on the same reasoning as given in Option A.

71. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer because the total land is 100 acres and as the family is based in Odisha, they follow the Mitakshara school. In Mitakshara School, females are not eligible to get inheritance. So, it takes out Aarti from distribution. In Mitakshara School, a male son becomes the coparcener on the same day of birth and gets an equal share of the property but up to the fourth generation. After the death of Deepak, the first generation is now Koga and Soga, 2nd generation is Phoga, the third generation is Ioga and the fourth generation is Toga. Philoga as the fifth generation will not get any property and will get the equal share upon the death of Koga and Soga. Options A, B, and D are incorrect on the same reasoning as given in Option C.

72. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Option C is correct. Although they followed Mitakshara School. In Mitakshara School, a male son becomes the coparcener on the same day of birth and gets an equal share of the property. However, the property here is not ancestral property. Rather it is a personal property of Raghav and cannot be given to succession. Option A is incorrect on the same reasoning as Option C. Option B is incorrect because females do not have the right to property under the Mitakshara School. Option D is also incorrect on the same reasoning as Option B.

73. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Article 23 prohibits forced labour. Forced labour includes any kind of labour that a person undertakes without adequate and minimum remuneration, this includes prisoners as well. Being in prison does not take away a person's fundamental rights. If a prisoner is subjected to manual labour as a part of rigorous imprisonment, he is entitled to remuneration in exchange for his labour. Thus, X is violating the right under Article 23 of its prisoners and hence, option A is correct. Option B is incorrect because prisoners also have the fundamental right under Article 23. Option C is incorrect because it is forced labour as explained above. Option D is incorrect because it is just a presumption and not a clear answer.

74. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Article 23 disallows any form of forced labour; it permits the state to engage in imposing compulsory services upon people for public purposes. However, while imposing services upon people for state services the state must take care to not discriminate on grounds of religion, race, caste or class. Thus, this form of punishment does not violate the fundamental right under Article 23 and Option B is correct. Option A is incorrect because it is not forced labour as the state is providing minimum wages in exchange for services. Option C is incorrect because the state can impose compulsory services. Option D is incorrect because it is irrelevant and absurd.

75. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Article 23 prohibits forced labour and forced labour can be any kind of work that a person is not being paid for. If a person is not given minimum wages for the work that he is subjected to, then it amounts to forced labour. In this case, Devpal is not paying any minimum wages to Sheralpal, even though the work is against recovery of the debt. Thus, it amounts to forced labour and Option C is correct. Option A is incorrect because even if Sheralpal owes money, Devpal is required to pay minimum wages in exchange for work. Option B is incorrect because it cannot be inferred from the question. Option D is incorrect because it is vague.

76. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Article 23 provides that every person is entitled to minimum wages for the work done by them. If the minimum wages are not provided, it raises a presumption that the person is being forced to do the work. Thus, this offer of Sachin is violative of Article 23 as Sarla is not being given minimum wages. Hence, option B is correct. Option A is incorrect because the basic necessities only do not qualify as minimum wages. Option C is incorrect because it is not inferred. Option D is incorrect because it is not relevant.

77. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Article 23, clause 2 of the Constitution states that this article does not prevent the state to impose compulsory services for public purposes. It also states that while doing this, the state must not make any discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, class or any of them. In the given situation, state is imposing compulsory, which it is empowered to do but the state is also discriminating on the basis of religion while fixing different tenures for Hindus and Muslims. Thus, it is violative of Article 23 and option D is correct. Option A is incorrect because state cannot discriminate while imposing the service, which is not true in this case. Option B is incorrect because it is out of the scope of the question, the question does not provide any certain information regarding remuneration, it is only a matter of presumption and thus, incorrect. Option C is incorrect because it is irrelevant.

78. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Option D is the answer because none of the given options are correct. Option A is incorrect because meaning of force under Article 23 not only means physical force, but also mean legal or economic force. Option B is incorrect because sale of a girl amounts to human trafficking and is prohibited under Article 23. Option C is incorrect because Article 23 prohibits bonded labour and subjecting a person to forced labour is a punishable offence in India.

79. **Answer: C**

Explanation: A law relating to professional or technical qualifications is necessary for practicing a profession. A law laying down professional qualification will be protected under Article 19(6). As a law degree is mandated to practice as a legal professional, one cannot violate this while exercising the right to profession, hence option C is correct. Option A is incorrect because Mike did not have the qualifications to pursue the profession. Option B is incorrect because right to profession is not absolute, mandated qualifications for a profession is one of the restrictions on this right. Option D is incorrect because it is irrelevant.

80. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Fundamental rights given to the citizens of India under Article 19 (1) (g) are available against any state or state body. Any claim for violation of any such rights against an individual cannot be claimed under this Article. Thus, Ajay being a private individual, cannot be held liable for violating this right. Hence, option D is correct. Options A and B are incorrect for the same reason that Article 19 cannot be invoked against Ajay. Option C is incorrect because it is out of the scope and irrelevant.

81. **Answer: B**

Explanation: The right to profession under Article 19 is not absolute. The state can impose reasonable restrictions on this right. The State is empowered under the Article to impose such restrictions which may affect the interest of the public. The profession of Gill was affecting public welfare negatively, so the state had the power to put restriction on his work. Thus, it does not violate right to profession and option B is correct. Option A is incorrect because he is being denied for a reasonable cause. Option C is incorrect because if the work is illegal, Article 19 does not prohibit the person's arrest. Option D is incorrect because it is a general knowledge that drugs harm the society and are illegal.

82. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Article 19 (1) (g) provides all the citizens of the country the right to practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business. This right can be denied by the state if there is some reasonable cause behind it. In the present case, the state had no cause to take away the profession of Mr. Rani and thus, violated her right under Article 19, option A is correct. Option B is incorrect because it is not concerning the given situation or the question, it is out of the scope of the question. Option C is incorrect because this situation does not fall under any reasonable restriction provided under Article 19 (6). Option D is incorrect because the given facts are enough to determine the violation of Article 19.

83. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Article 19 provides that a citizen whose occupation of a place is unlawful cannot claim the fundamental right to carry on business in such place since the fundamental rights cannot be availed in the justification of an unlawful act. Dhobi Ram occupied the land illegally and thus, is not free to carry out his business operations on that land. Hence, the state has not violated his right to carry on business and option C is correct. Option A is incorrect because he has done an unlawful act to carry on his business. Option B is incorrect because it is a reasonable restriction imposed on this fundamental right. Option D is incorrect because clothing business is not against the interests of the public.

84. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Option C can be correctly inferred from the given passage. Article 19 (6) (ii) enables the state to make laws for creating state monopolies either partially or completely in respect of any trade or business or industry or service by excluding the private citizen- wholly or in part. This is provided as a reasonable restriction imposed by the state on the right to carry on business or trade. Option A is incorrect because the right under Article 19 is only provided to citizens of India. Option B is incorrect because not only natural persons, but artificial person, i.e., a company can also claim the right to profession or carry on business.

Logical Reasoning

85. **Answer:** D

Reference Line: "Paying lip service to rhetoric that women are equal without effecting change on the ground with legislative backing and strong social frameworks defeats the purpose."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) The suggestion that women's autonomy and identity are central to achieving gender equality, with current legal systems adequately supporting this autonomy, overlooks the critical stance of the author towards the existing legal frameworks. The passage explicitly calls for transformative changes rather than asserting adequacy in current support, highlighting a gap between the assertion in this option and the author's argument. The passage criticizes current legal systems for failing to support women's autonomy fully, thus this option does not align with the author's assumptions. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Describing the process of changing one's surname post-divorce as trivial minimizes the significance the author attributes to this issue. The passage treats surname changes not as minor, but as symptomatic of broader gender biases within societal and legal norms. By failing to grasp the deeper implications such actions have on gender equality, this option misses the essence of the argument presented. The passage emphasizes the importance of addressing such seemingly minor issues as part of a larger struggle for gender equality, making this option misleading. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) This option underestimates the depth of societal and institutional biases highlighted by the author. Suggesting that these biases are minor and easily rectifiable misrepresents the challenges posed by deeply ingrained gender biases. The passage argues for the necessity of substantial societal changes to rectify these biases, indicating that overcoming them is not a simple task. By portraying the biases as minor, this option contradicts the author's perspective on the pervasive and complex nature of gender inequality. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Legislative changes and stronger social frameworks are indeed recognized as essential to combating deep-seated gender biases and achieving gender equality, directly aligning with the author's argument. This option acknowledges the complexity and ingrained nature of gender biases, echoing the call for comprehensive reforms to address these issues effectively. The passage underlines the importance of such reforms for effecting real change, making this option the most accurate reflection of the author's underlying assumptions. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

86. **Answer:** A

Reference Line: "The very idea of an NOC is objectionable, divorce proceedings or not, and is reflective of a deep-seated misogyny that wants to control an individual's preference."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) A global study highlighting the impact of gender-neutral surname laws on gender equality levels directly supports the author's argument. By showing a tangible link between specific legislative reforms and advancements in gender equality, this option provides concrete evidence that addressing legal constraints on individual choices like surname changes can have broader implications for gender equality. This directly reinforces the passage's advocacy for legislative reform as a pathway to gender equality. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

b) While preferences regarding surname retention post-marriage are relevant, focusing on convenience over ideology does not directly strengthen the author's critique of legal and societal constraints. This option fails to address the underlying issues of gender biases and the need for systemic reform highlighted in the passage. It diverges from the argument's core by implying that the decision is primarily motivated by practical concerns rather than the deeper issue of women's autonomy and identity. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Suggesting no significant correlation between surname change restrictions and broader societal gender disparities directly contradicts the author's stance. This option undermines the argument by implying that legal norms around surname changes are unrelated to wider issues of gender inequality,

opposing the passage's emphasis on the systemic nature of gender biases. By dismissing the relevance of legal norms to gender equality, it fails to strengthen the argument and instead negates its premises. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Proposing that gender biases can be eliminated without legal reforms related to surname changes challenges the argument's foundation. The passage argues for the importance of legal and social framework reforms in addressing gender biases, implying that such changes are part of the solution. This option, by suggesting an alternative path to gender equality that bypasses legal reforms on surname changes, overlooks the interconnectedness of legal norms and societal attitudes towards gender. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

87. **Answer: B**

Reference Line: "In the quest for equal rights for women in all spheres of life, every act that justifies hierarchy, othering, and a patriarchal mindset must be shunned totally."

Difficulty Level: Easy

Explanation: a) While the passage does touch upon laws and their impact on gender equality, suggesting a broad examination of global trends extends beyond its more focused critique. This option misrepresents the specific nature of the critique, which is centered on societal and legal norms within a particular context rather than a wide-ranging analysis of global surname laws. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option accurately captures the essence of the passage, which critiques societal and legal norms that hinder women's autonomy and identity, using the context of surname changes post-divorce in India as a lens. By focusing on this specific issue, the option correctly identifies the passage's main theme as a critique of barriers to women's autonomy within a specific societal and legal framework. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) Although legislative reforms are discussed, framing the passage as a global discussion on their effectiveness shifts the focus away from the more direct critique of societal and legal norms affecting women's autonomy. This option diverts from the passage's specific concern with the constraints imposed by these norms, making it a misrepresentation of the primary focus. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) By overstating the significance of surname changes post-divorce as the foremost challenge to gender equality, this option simplifies the passage's broader critique. The argument is not limited to this issue alone but uses it to highlight wider problems of gender bias and societal norms, making this summary too narrow and not reflective of the passage's comprehensive critique. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

88. **Answer: C**

Reference Line: " In her plea, Ms. Modi Tongya states that the notification is "gender biased" and creates unnecessary restrictions for women who seek to exercise their constitutional right to choose their name — in her case a change of surname — by violating Articles 14, 19, and 21."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) Justifying NOC requirements for surname changes on the basis of upholding societal norms presents a perspective that, while flawed in the broader context of gender equality, is framed as a defense of existing traditions. This statement might align with certain societal viewpoints but does not directly exhibit flawed reasoning based on the passage's critique of such norms as inherently biased. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer due to its contextual justification rather than direct contradiction with the passage's arguments.

b) Recognizing restrictions on identity choices as indicative of systemic gender biases aligns with the passage's argument, highlighting an understanding of the issues at hand. This statement logically follows from the passage's critique, suggesting a comprehension of the systemic nature of gender biases rather than flawed reasoning. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer as it accurately reflects the passage's concerns.

c) Dismissing the relevance of Ms. Modi Tongya's case as isolated fails to grasp the passage's portrayal of such issues as reflective of broader societal problems. This statement exhibits flawed reasoning by underestimating the systemic nature of the gender biases discussed, directly contradicting the passage's emphasis on widespread challenges to women's autonomy and identity. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer due to its misrepresentation of the issue's scope.

d) Arguing that surname change challenges highlight the need for legislative reform is in line with the passage's argument, recognizing the interconnectedness of personal autonomy issues and broader gender bias. This understanding supports the passage's call for comprehensive reforms, showing no flawed reasoning but rather a grasp of the argument's foundations. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer as it accurately aligns with the passage's conclusions.

89. **Answer: B**

Reference Line: "A society that is already battling caste-based hierarchies should not add to the discrimination."

Difficulty Level: Easy

Explanation: a) The advocacy for gender-neutral surname laws as a step towards gender equality aligns with the passage's emphasis on legal reforms to address gender biases. This perspective is consistent with the argument that tackling legal constraints on personal choices can contribute to broader gender equality goals, suggesting the author would agree with this statement. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) The notion that restrictions on surname choices are necessary to uphold cultural traditions directly opposes the author's critique of such restrictions as manifestations of gender bias. This statement contradicts the call for increased women's autonomy and the dismantling of discriminatory norms, making it the option the author is most likely to disagree with due to its endorsement of restrictive practices. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) Identifying gender biases in societal and legal norms as barriers to women's autonomy aligns with the passage's core argument. This acknowledgment of systemic issues suggests an understanding in line with the author's critique, indicating likely agreement rather than disagreement. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) The assertion that achieving gender equality necessitates both legislative changes and shifts in societal attitudes encapsulates the passage's overarching argument. This comprehensive approach to reform is advocated throughout the passage, suggesting the author would agree with this perspective rather than disagree. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

90. **Answer: C**

Reference Line: "Women do most of the unpaid work at home, and are often edged out of the labour force for various reasons."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) The contribution of legal and societal norms to maintaining gender biases by controlling women's choices is a central theme of the passage. This inference is supported by the critique of such norms as obstacles to gender equality, making it a valid conclusion except for its clear alignment with the passage's arguments. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) The potential role of changing surname laws to gender-neutral ones in advancing gender equality is implied in the passage's discussion on the impact of legal frameworks. This aligns with the argument that addressing legal constraints on personal autonomy can contribute to broader gender equality efforts, making it another logical inference. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) The passage does not delve into the reasons behind women's preferences for retaining maiden names, making it impossible to infer that most women's choices are primarily ideologically driven. This absence of discussion on the motivations behind surname preferences leaves Option (c) as unsupported by the passage, making it the correct answer as it cannot be logically inferred.

d) Mentioning the United Nations' recognition of gender equality as a global challenge reflects the passage's acknowledgment of the broader context of gender bias discussions. This connection to a

wider understanding of gender equality issues makes it a valid inference, supported by the passage's emphasis on the significance of addressing gender biases. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

91. **Answer:** B

Reference Line: "The handling and management of nuclear waste underscore the intricate balance between harnessing nuclear energy for power generation and ensuring environmental and public safety through effective waste management practices."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) The quest for energy independence in India through nuclear power is unhampered by concerns over nuclear waste management. This option inaccurately portrays the situation, suggesting that India's pursuit of nuclear power is not affected by nuclear waste management issues. However, the passage makes it clear that the management of nuclear waste is a significant concern that impacts the overall viability of nuclear energy as a sustainable power source. By ignoring the intricate balance between energy production and environmental safety highlighted in the passage, this option overlooks the critical challenges that come with nuclear waste. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) Effective strategies for nuclear waste management are indispensable for the sustained growth of nuclear energy. This statement directly aligns with the passage's emphasis on the importance of managing nuclear waste effectively to ensure the sustainability of nuclear energy. The passage underscores that without addressing the environmental and public safety concerns associated with nuclear waste, the growth of nuclear energy could be severely hampered. This option captures the essence of the argument that effective waste management is critical to leveraging nuclear energy's benefits while mitigating its risks. Hence, Option b) is the correct answer.

c) Reprocessing nuclear waste is universally acknowledged as the best solution for managing nuclear waste globally. This option presents an oversimplified and inaccurate view of nuclear waste management. The passage discusses reprocessing as one of several methods for dealing with nuclear waste, each with its own set of challenges and limitations. By claiming universal acknowledgment of reprocessing as the best solution, this option disregards the complexity and diversity of opinions and practices in nuclear waste management across different countries and contexts. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) Geological disposal of nuclear waste has been widely implemented and accepted without any environmental concerns. This option misrepresents the passage's content, which points out ongoing concerns and debates surrounding the long-term safety of geological disposal methods. The passage suggests that while geological disposal is one approach to managing nuclear waste, it is not without its challenges, including uncertainties about environmental impact over time. This option inaccurately implies a consensus and lack of concern that the passage does not support. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

92. **Answer:** A

Reference Line: "Another approach is geological disposal, burying the waste in special containers underground, though concerns about long-term safety persist."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) Demonstrations of geological disposal in countries with advanced nuclear programs show no leakage or contamination incidents over decades. This option directly addresses the primary concern about geological disposal mentioned in the passage: the long-term safety of burying waste underground. By providing evidence of successful implementation without incidents, it bolsters the argument that geological disposal can be a safe and effective strategy for managing nuclear waste over the long term. It validates the method's viability, directly countering concerns about potential risks. Hence, Option a) is the correct answer.

b) Surveys indicate public opposition to nuclear power stems more from nuclear accident fears than from waste management concerns. While understanding public perceptions is important, this option

does not directly strengthen the argument for the viability of geological disposal. Focusing on the reasons for public opposition shifts the discussion away from the technical and environmental safety of geological disposal methods. It fails to provide evidence that geological disposal itself is safe or effective, which is central to strengthening the argument for its viability. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) Nuclear reactor design advancements have substantially cut the amount of waste produced, easing the pressure on management systems. Although reducing the volume of nuclear waste is beneficial, this option does not directly support the argument that geological disposal is a viable long-term strategy. It speaks to waste minimization at the source rather than addressing the safety or effectiveness of disposal methods. Without specifically validating the long-term safety and effectiveness of geological disposal, this option falls short of strengthening the argument for its viability. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) The decreasing construction costs of geological disposal facilities make this strategy more accessible for developing nations. While cost considerations are important in the adoption of waste management strategies, reduced construction costs alone do not address the primary concerns about the safety and environmental impact of geological disposal. This option focuses on economic accessibility rather than directly substantiating the method's long-term safety and viability, which is crucial for strengthening the argument in favour of geological disposal. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

93. **Answer:** A

Reference Line: "Nuclear energy is promoted as a path towards energy independence and sustainability, yet it creates long-lasting waste that poses significant challenges for management and environmental safety."

Difficulty Level: Easy

Explanation: a) Nuclear power's potential for energy independence is countered by the unresolved challenges its waste presents. This option effectively captures the paradox described in the passage: nuclear energy offers significant benefits, such as energy independence, yet it simultaneously poses serious challenges through the waste it generates. This juxtaposition highlights the tension between exploiting nuclear energy's advantages and managing its environmental and safety implications. It succinctly represents the core dilemma of balancing nuclear power's benefits against the complexities of nuclear waste management. Hence, Option a) is the correct answer.

b) Despite hazards, nuclear waste concerns diminish with storage and disposal technological advancements. This option misrepresents the passage by suggesting a resolution to the paradox through technological advancements. While the passage discusses various methods for managing nuclear waste, it does not claim that these advancements have diminished the overall concerns related to nuclear waste. Instead, it highlights the ongoing challenges and complexities involved, maintaining that these issues are significant and unresolved. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) Reprocessing to produce weapons-usable plutonium is paradoxically viewed as a nuclear proliferation deterrent. This option introduces a different issue (nuclear proliferation) that was not discussed in the passage. The paradox in the passage revolves around the benefits of nuclear energy versus the challenges of managing its waste, not the relationship between reprocessing, weapons-grade plutonium, and proliferation. Thus, this option does not accurately capture the paradox described in the passage. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) The advent of advanced nuclear reactors significantly mitigates public safety concerns, contrary to expectations. This option, while highlighting advancements in nuclear reactor technology, does not directly address the paradox between nuclear energy benefits and waste management challenges. It focuses on safety concerns related to reactor technology rather than the broader issue of how nuclear power's potential conflicts with the environmental and safety challenges posed by its waste. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

94. **Answer:** C

Reference Line: "Nuclear waste originates from the fission process in reactors, where neutrons bombard atoms' nuclei, leading to their destabilization and breakdown, releasing energy and new nuclei."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) India's reliance on reprocessing plants highlights the importance of managing nuclear waste for its nuclear pursuits and plutonium production. This option focuses on a specific aspect of nuclear waste management in India, which may not represent the passage's broader argument about the challenges and necessities of nuclear waste management globally. While reprocessing is mentioned as a method, the passage's main argument hinges on the fundamental issues related to nuclear waste generation and management, not solely on India's practices. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) The transition from cooling spent fuel in pools to dry-cask storage illustrates the complexity and stages involved in nuclear waste management. While this option describes one aspect of nuclear waste management, it does not encapsulate the passage's primary evidence or argument. The passage's core focus is on the inherent challenges of managing the hazardous nature of nuclear waste generated from the nuclear fission process. This option, although related, does not directly address the foundational issue of waste generation that underpins the entire discussion. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) The generation of nuclear waste from the fission process underscores the necessity of secure storage to manage its hazardous nature effectively. This option directly aligns with the passage's central argument by identifying the origin and nature of nuclear waste as the primary challenge in its management. It captures the essence of the passage, which emphasizes the critical need for effective and secure waste management strategies to address the hazards posed by nuclear waste. This focus on the generation and hazardous nature of nuclear waste forms the foundation of the discussion on management practices. Hence, Option c) is the correct answer.

d) The U.S. Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 demonstrates governmental efforts and criticisms in managing nuclear waste, focusing on fund allocation. This option provides a specific legislative example that, while relevant to the discussion of nuclear waste management, does not represent the passage's primary piece of evidence. The main argument is based on the broader challenges and necessities of managing nuclear waste, particularly the issues stemming from its generation and hazardous nature, rather than specific policies or governmental actions. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

95. **Answer:** A

Reference Line: "That continued advancements in nuclear waste management technologies will be necessary to address long-term storage and disposal challenges."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) The passage assumes effectiveness of current waste management without considering future innovations or policy changes. This critique accurately identifies a potential oversight in the passage's reasoning. By focusing on the current state of nuclear waste management and not explicitly considering the potential for future technological innovations or policy shifts, the passage may give the impression that the current approaches are sufficient or final. This assumption overlooks the dynamic nature of technology and policy, which could significantly alter the landscape of nuclear waste management. Recognizing the importance of ongoing innovation and adaptation is crucial for a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and solutions in nuclear waste management. Hence, Option a) is the correct answer.

b) It implies technological capabilities are the sole challenge, overlooking socio-political and economic impacts on waste handling. This option mischaracterizes the passage, which does not necessarily imply that technological capabilities are the only challenge in nuclear waste management. While the technological aspects of waste management are indeed emphasized, the passage also acknowledges the complexity of the issue, suggesting that environmental, safety, and potentially socio-political and

economic considerations play a role in managing nuclear waste. Therefore, this critique may not accurately reflect the passage's content or reasoning. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) The passage suggests reprocessing as a universal solution, ignoring concerns like weapons-usable plutonium generation. This critique misrepresents the passage's discussion on reprocessing. The passage presents reprocessing as one of several methods for managing nuclear waste, acknowledging that each method has its own set of challenges and concerns. It does not advocate for reprocessing as a universal solution; instead, it highlights the need for a balanced and comprehensive approach to nuclear waste management. The discussion of reprocessing within the passage is nuanced, recognizing its benefits and limitations without oversimplifying the issue. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) It assumes safely stored or reprocessed waste poses no further public or environmental safety challenges, overlooking long-term risks. This critique incorrectly assumes that the passage dismisses the long-term risks associated with nuclear waste management. In fact, the passage underscores the ongoing concerns and challenges in ensuring the environmental and public safety of nuclear waste management practices, including those related to long-term storage and disposal. The passage's focus on the hazardous nature of nuclear waste and the necessity for secure management practices inherently acknowledges the importance of addressing long-term risks. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

96. **Answer:** C

Reference Line: "The necessity of managing nuclear waste due to its hazardous nature."

Difficulty Level: Easy

Explanation: a) India's Nuclear Energy Impact. This title is too narrow and specific, focusing solely on India, whereas the passage discusses the broader challenges and considerations of nuclear energy and waste management. The passage addresses the universal complexities of balancing nuclear power's benefits with the environmental and safety risks associated with its waste, rather than focusing exclusively on India's nuclear energy sector. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) Guide to Nuclear Waste Management. While the passage does discuss various aspects of nuclear waste management, labeling it as a "guide" might suggest a more procedural or instructional focus than what is provided. The passage is more analytical, examining the inherent challenges and complexities of managing nuclear waste in the context of nuclear energy's potential benefits and environmental safety concerns. Therefore, this title does not fully capture the essence of the passage. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) Nuclear Energy vs. Environmental Safety. This title aptly summarizes the central theme of the passage, which explores the dichotomy between harnessing nuclear energy for its benefits and addressing the environmental and safety challenges posed by nuclear waste. It reflects the critical balance that must be maintained between leveraging nuclear power as a sustainable energy source and ensuring the effective management of its hazardous waste to protect the environment and public health. This title encapsulates the passage's examination of this complex relationship. Hence, Option c) is the correct answer.

d) Nuclear Power's Future and Challenges. Although this title touches on relevant themes, it is somewhat broad and vague, potentially encompassing a wider range of topics than those specifically addressed in the passage. The passage primarily focuses on the interplay between the benefits of nuclear power and the challenges of waste management, rather than a general discussion on the future of nuclear power and its associated challenges. While relevant, this title does not precisely reflect the passage's focus on the environmental safety considerations critical to the discussion of nuclear energy's viability. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

97. **Answer:** C

Reference Line: "The study emphasizes the need for programs that promote healthy nutrition and support weight loss, highlighting the importance of making healthy food affordable and accessible to address this dual burden."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) This option acknowledges an important aspect of addressing India's nutritional challenges but frames it in a way that might be considered too narrow by suggesting a 'primary reliance' on socio-economic advancements. The passage points toward a more integrated approach, including but not limited to socio-economic improvements, to combat nutritional problems effectively. While socio-economic advancements are critical, they are part of a broader set of necessary interventions, including access to nutritious food, public awareness, and education. "Primary" is ranking it with regard to other factors. However, the author does not do that. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Minimizing the role of public awareness and nutrition education overlooks their significance as articulated in the passage. The text likely supports the notion that knowledge about nutrition and the importance of healthy eating plays a vital role in combating malnutrition, including both undernutrition and obesity. Awareness and education can empower individuals to make informed dietary choices, thus acting as a foundational pillar in the broader strategy to mitigate malnutrition's dual threat. However, this option dismisses such initiatives as minimal, contradicting the passage's implied support for comprehensive measures that include educational efforts. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) This option directly aligns with the passage's emphasis on the critical need for nutritious foods to be both accessible and affordable. By highlighting the importance of equal focus on accessibility and affordability, it encapsulates a central theme of the passage's argument against malnutrition. Ensuring that healthy foods are within reach and financially viable for all segments of the population is portrayed as a pivotal strategy in the fight against both obesity and undernutrition, reflecting a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted nature of nutritional health challenges. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) Suggesting that traditional diets high in fats and sugars are the exclusive cause of the surge in obesity rates simplifies a complex issue. The passage likely discusses various contributors to obesity, including but not limited to, the consumption of processed foods, changes in lifestyle, and socio-economic factors. While diets rich in fats and sugars play a role, the exclusive attribution to traditional diets overlooks the multifactorial nature of obesity, including the impact of modern processed foods, urbanization, and economic factors. This option's narrow focus fails to encompass the broader range of contributing factors likely addressed in the passage. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

98. **Answer:** D

Reference Line: "However, a rural-urban divide persists, with higher obesity prevalence in urban areas compared to rural ones."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) The analogy of schools aiming to raise literacy levels inadvertently favouring wealthier students over poorer ones touches on the issue of unequal access to benefits, similar to the nutritional divide. However, this scenario primarily addresses educational disparities rather than nutritional health concerns directly. It highlights the unintended consequences of well-meaning initiatives that end up reinforcing existing inequalities but doesn't capture the specific challenge of nutritional access between rural and urban populations. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option discusses an urban planning challenge related to traffic and public transit, which, while indicative of a failure to achieve intended goals due to personal choices, veers away from the core issue of nutritional health disparities. The scenario reflects a broader theme of interventions not reaching their intended targets effectively but does not parallel the nutritional divide's specific context between urban and rural areas in India. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) The failure of renewable energy tax breaks to incentivize companies away from fossil fuels due to cost considerations presents a case of policy measures not achieving desired environmental outcomes. While it touches on the broader theme of initiatives not producing intended effects, it diverges significantly from the nutritional health context. This scenario is more aligned with economic

and environmental policy rather than the public health and nutritional access concerns central to the rural-urban divide. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Community gardens designed to offer fresh produce but ultimately serving those who already have access to it closely mirrors the author's concern regarding the rural-urban nutritional divide. This situation aptly represents how initiatives intended to improve access to nutritious foods might fail to reach the most needy segments of the population, paralleling the disparity between urban and rural nutritional health access. It highlights a critical challenge in ensuring that public health interventions effectively reach and benefit underserved communities, making it a fitting analogy. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

99. **Answer: C**

Reference Line: "Obesity is no longer seen as a disease of the affluent in India; inexpensive and accessible junk food has contributed to rising obesity rates even among the poorer populations."

Difficulty Level: Easy

Explanation: a) This option incorrectly narrows the impact of obesity to only the affluent in India, which contradicts the passage's likely discussion on the widespread nature of obesity across different socioeconomic strata. The accessibility of diverse food options may contribute to dietary habits, but the passage indicates that obesity is no longer confined to affluent segments, highlighting the role of inexpensive junk food in broadening obesity's reach. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Suggesting that rural areas witness higher obesity rates due to lower physical activity levels misinterprets the passage's content, which likely points out a higher prevalence of obesity in urban areas. This misconception overlooks the complex interplay of factors contributing to obesity, including dietary habits, socioeconomic conditions, and access to processed foods, not merely physical activity. The passage suggests that obesity is a growing concern across different settings, driven by factors beyond physical activity alone. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) The inference that cheap junk food access has raised obesity rates across all socioeconomic levels accurately reflects the passage's depiction of the obesity challenge in India. By highlighting the role of affordable and accessible junk food, this option underscores a significant shift in the understanding of obesity's demographic reach, indicating that it affects individuals across the socioeconomic spectrum, not just the affluent. This acknowledgment of the pervasive influence of junk food aligns with the passage's emphasis on the need for broad-based nutritional interventions. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) Claiming that socioeconomic status impacts neither obesity nor undernutrition equally in India oversimplifies the passage's nuanced exploration of the relationship between socioeconomic factors and nutritional health outcomes. The passage likely details how socioeconomic status influences access to nutritious food, dietary choices, and thereby, the prevalence of obesity and undernutrition in different ways. Dismissing the role of socioeconomic status overlooks the complexity of nutritional health challenges and the multifaceted approaches required to address them. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

100. **Answer: B**

Reference Line: "The study points to a lack of access to affordable, nutritious food as a key factor driving both undernutrition and obesity."

Difficulty Level: Easy

Explanation: a) Highlighting the distinction between urban and rural nutritional health challenges as requiring distinct intervention strategies introduces an important consideration for addressing malnutrition effectively. However, this option, while acknowledging the need for tailored approaches, does not capture the core premise of the argument presented in the passage. The passage likely argues for a foundational approach that encompasses both urban and rural challenges, focusing on the broader issue of malnutrition that affects various demographics. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Asserting that access to affordable, nutritious food is crucial in fighting the dual burden of malnutrition directly encapsulates the passage's central argument. This statement acknowledges the complex nature of malnutrition, which includes both undernutrition and obesity, and identifies a fundamental solution applicable across various contexts. By focusing on the accessibility and affordability of nutritious food, this option speaks to a core strategy that underpins the broader efforts to improve nutritional health in India, making it a foundational basis of the author's argument. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) While increasing physical activity among women may contribute to reducing obesity rates, this option presents a specific intervention rather than a foundational basis for addressing the broader issue of malnutrition. The passage likely discusses a range of factors contributing to obesity and undernutrition, emphasizing the need for comprehensive strategies that include dietary interventions alongside physical activity. This option, focusing narrowly on one demographic and one aspect of the solution, fails to capture the passage's overarching argument. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Suggesting an inverse relationship between economic growth and nutritional health oversimplifies and possibly misrepresents the passage's discussion. While economic factors undoubtedly influence nutritional outcomes, the passage likely presents a more nuanced view that considers a variety of contributing factors, including access to food, education, and public health initiatives. This option does not reflect the foundational concern with improving access to nutritious foods as a central element in combating malnutrition. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

101. **Answer:** A

Reference Line: "Obesity is often fueled by the increased availability of processed foods high in fats, salts, and sugars."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) By attributing the obesity epidemic primarily to genetic predispositions, this option introduces a counter-argument that directly challenges the author's emphasis on dietary habits and environmental factors. The passage likely argues that increased availability of processed foods high in fats, salts, and sugars, alongside changes in lifestyle, significantly contribute to the rising obesity rates. Presenting a genetic basis as the primary cause disputes the passage's focus, suggesting an alternative explanation that diminishes the role of diet and public health interventions. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

b) While urbanization is acknowledged as a contributing factor to obesity, framing it as the single most significant factor oversimplifies the complex interplay of causes discussed in the passage. The passage likely explores various contributors, including dietary habits, socio-economic status, and lifestyle changes, rather than isolating urbanization as the primary cause. This option, therefore, offers a partial counter-argument but does not directly dispute the author's broader claims about dietary habits and accessibility to nutritious food. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Arguing that programs focusing on affordable nutritious food have little impact on obesity rates challenges the effectiveness of one of the proposed solutions rather than the underlying causes identified by the author. While this counter-argument questions the viability of specific interventions, it does not directly confront the author's claim about the significant role of diet and food accessibility in driving obesity and undernutrition. This option shifts the debate to the success of interventions without addressing the foundational causes discussed. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Claiming that the rural-urban nutritional divide is overstated and does not significantly affect malnutrition rates minimizes one aspect of the broader issue but fails to address the core of the author's argument. The passage likely highlights the rural-urban divide as part of the complex challenge of addressing malnutrition in India, including obesity and undernutrition. By downplaying this aspect, the option does not provide a direct counter to the passage's emphasis on the multifaceted nature of nutritional health challenges, including access to nutritious foods and the influence of dietary habits. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

102. **Answer:** C

Reference Line: "The health consequences of both obesity and undernutrition are profound."

Difficulty Level: Easy

Explanation: a) Projecting that obesity will soon be viewed as the leading concern over undernutrition suggests a future prioritization that may not be fully supported by the passage's content. The passage likely emphasizes the simultaneous challenge of both obesity and undernutrition, highlighting the need for integrated approaches to address these issues. This option speculates on a shift in focus that oversimplifies the passage's broader discussion of the dual burden of malnutrition. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Prioritizing urban-focused initiatives as the key to solving India's malnutrition issues neglects the passage's likely emphasis on the need for inclusive strategies that address both urban and rural contexts. While urban areas may face distinct challenges, the passage suggests that effective nutritional health interventions must consider the diverse needs of the entire population, including those in rural areas. This option, by focusing solely on urban areas, does not capture the passage's call for comprehensive and universally applicable solutions. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Emphasizing the necessity of comprehensive strategies for addressing the risks associated with both obesity and undernutrition aligns with the passage's conclusion. This option encapsulates the passage's argument that tackling these significant health risks requires a broad range of public health strategies, including access to nutritious foods, education, and lifestyle interventions. It acknowledges the complexity of the dual burden of malnutrition and the need for multifaceted approaches to improve nutritional health outcomes effectively. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) Suggesting that economic interventions are the most crucial aspect of resolving nutritional health crises oversimplifies the passage's discussion. While economic measures, such as making nutritious foods affordable, are important, the passage likely advocates for a more holistic approach that includes public awareness, dietary guidelines, and infrastructure improvements. This option reduces the solution to economic actions alone, failing to reflect the comprehensive nature of the strategies proposed in the passage. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

103. **Answer:** C

Reference Lines: "Unsustainable lifestyles, exposure to stress outside of our control, and financial insecurity are facets of our lives that we have managed to normalise."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) This option suggests a direct and universal benefit from prioritizing human needs, implying a linear relationship between cause and effect. However, the passage does not claim that such prioritization would automatically enhance well-being for both individuals and communities without considering other variables and complexities involved. The passage discusses unsustainable lifestyles and stress as normalized facets, but it does not guarantee that simply shifting priorities will yield inherent boosts in well-being across all levels of society. This oversimplification misses the nuances and potential challenges in implementing such a societal shift. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option optimistically assumes that adopting "blue zone" lifestyles, which focus on well-being and longevity, would face little resistance. However, the passage does not address the feasibility of broad adoption or the potential resistance from cultural or economic perspectives. Implementing lifestyle changes that are significant and divergent from current societal norms can be complex and challenging, often facing significant pushback due to cultural preferences, economic constraints, and individual circumstances. The assumption of minimal pushback is overly simplistic and ignores the practical challenges of widespread lifestyle changes. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) This option accurately reflects the passage's discussion of the multifaceted causes of the Great Exhaustion. By mentioning work stress, unsustainable living, and economic worries, it encompasses a range of issues that the passage identifies as normalized yet detrimental aspects of contemporary life. This statement aligns with the passage's critique of how these facets contribute to a pervasive sense

of exhaustion among people, highlighting the complex interplay of factors beyond simple physical tiredness. The passage suggests these elements are so ingrained in our lives that they've become accepted as normal, even though they significantly impact our well-being. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) This option incorrectly assumes uniformity in the capacity and resources available to individuals for prioritizing human needs over business demands. The passage implicitly recognizes the diversity in individual circumstances, suggesting that the challenge of shifting societal norms cannot be simplified due to varying capabilities and resources among the population. This diversity includes differences in financial stability, access to supportive environments, and the ability to make lifestyle changes. Assuming equal ability and resources overlooks these significant disparities, misrepresenting the complexity of societal transition towards prioritizing human needs. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

104. **Answer: D**

Reference Lines: "We have not built a human-needs-first society; we have built a business-needs-first society, and it is starting to show."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) This option introduces a genetic explanation for the observed benefits in "blue zones," which are areas known for their residents' longevity and well-being. If true, this would suggest that the lifestyle factors emulated in these zones might not be universally applicable or effective, challenging the premise that lifestyle changes alone can significantly impact well-being and exhaustion. However, while intriguing, this does not directly address the argument about societal shifts toward human needs reducing exhaustion. The passage's focus is on societal structures and priorities rather than individual genetic predispositions. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option highlights a preference among some individuals for high-stress environments, suggesting a complex relationship between work stress and personal fulfillment. While it acknowledges that stress can be sought after for its rewards, this does not directly weaken the argument about societal shifts. The passage argues for a broad restructuring towards human needs, implying that such a shift would accommodate various definitions of fulfillment and well-being, including finding balance for those who thrive in challenging environments. This option fails to address the core claim that societal prioritization of human needs could reduce overall exhaustion. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) By asserting that lifestyle choices have no impact on the Great Exhaustion, this option challenges the passage's premise that a mix of lifestyle, work stress, and economic worries contribute to overall exhaustion. However, the passage suggests a multifaceted approach to addressing exhaustion, including reevaluating societal priorities and lifestyle changes. Isolating financial insecurity and external stressors oversimplifies the argument and ignores the holistic view presented in the passage that considers lifestyle adjustments as part of the solution. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) This statement directly challenges the argument's foundation by providing evidence that the proposed solution—adopting a "blue zone" lifestyle—may not be effective in improving health or reducing exhaustion. If societies that have attempted to implement these lifestyle changes do not experience the anticipated benefits, it significantly undermines the claim that a shift towards prioritizing human needs over business demands would lead to a substantial reduction in exhaustion levels. This evidence would suggest that the proposed changes are either not implemented effectively or that the relationship between lifestyle changes and exhaustion is more complex than the passage assumes. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

105. **Answer: A**

Reference Line: "The three factors that are commonly overlooked but that I believe are contributing the most are unsustainable lifestyles, exposure to stress outside of our control, and financial insecurity."

Explanation: a) The passage discusses multiple factors contributing to "The Great Exhaustion," including unsustainable lifestyles, exposure to stressors beyond individual control, and financial insecurity. Option (a) provides broader perspective by addressing the broader range of stressors beyond individual control, such as economic instability and also takes into account long work hours. Moreover, it relies on "longitudinal studies", i.e. studies which have happened over a period of time, making it a stronger preference to option (d).

b) While unrealistic work expectations are indeed discussed in the passage as a contributing factor, this option focuses solely on work-related causes and doesn't address the broader range of stressors.

c) This option highlights the normalization of overwork culture, which is discussed in the passage. However, it doesn't specifically address stressors outside individual control.

d) It merely mentions there is a "relationship" between the factors and the exhaustion, but it does not specify whether the two are directly correlated or inversely correlated. Therefore, option (d) is incorrect.

106. **Answer:** B

Reference Lines: "People who live in blue zones have one thing in common: they live a human-needs-first lifestyle."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) This option contradicts the passage's critique of societal norms that prioritize productivity and business needs over personal well-being. By suggesting an inherent preference for productivity, this statement misses the passage's contention that current societal structures do not adequately consider human needs. The passage argues for a re-evaluation of these priorities, implying that the existing emphasis on productivity at the expense of well-being is not a natural preference but a constructed norm. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option encapsulates the passage's underlying assumption. By advocating for a shift towards prioritizing human needs, the passage implicitly assumes that such a reorientation would address the root causes of exhaustion and enhance overall well-being. This assumption is central to the argument that the societal valorization of business needs contributes to widespread exhaustion and that a recalibration towards human-centric values could mitigate these issues. This reflects an optimistic view of the potential for societal change to positively impact individual and community health. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) While financial stability is undoubtedly important for reducing stress and improving quality of life, the passage suggests a broader approach to tackling exhaustion that encompasses lifestyle changes, societal values, and the prioritization of human needs. By focusing solely on financial prosperity, this option overlooks the passage's emphasis on the multifaceted nature of exhaustion and the need for comprehensive societal shifts beyond economic measures. The passage does not present financial prosperity as the singular solution, making this a reductionist interpretation. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) This option misinterprets the passage's perspective on external stressors. While acknowledging the impact of such stressors on exhaustion, the passage advocates for societal changes that could mitigate their effects, suggesting a degree of control or influence over these factors. By arguing for a shift in societal priorities towards human needs, the passage implies that changes in policy, lifestyle, and societal structures can help manage and reduce the impact of external stressors. This option's fatalistic view contradicts the passage's call for proactive measures to address exhaustion. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

107. **Answer:** A

Reference Lines: "Unfortunately, prioritising elements found in blue zones requires spare time, energy, and money—things the average (tired) person does not have."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Explanation: a) This critique points to a significant oversight in the passage's argument. While advocating for lifestyle changes inspired by "blue zones," the passage may not fully account for the

challenges and barriers to implementing these changes across different societal contexts. Cultural preferences, economic limitations, and existing societal structures can all complicate the adoption of such lifestyles, suggesting an overly optimistic view of the feasibility of these changes. This lack of consideration for practical implementation issues represents a logical gap in the argument, making this critique relevant. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

b) This critique mischaracterizes the passage's focus, which is not exclusively on the Great Resignation or its causes but on the broader issue of societal exhaustion and the need for prioritizing human needs. While job dissatisfaction may be a symptom of the larger problems discussed, the passage's argument encompasses a wider range of factors contributing to exhaustion. This option inaccurately narrows the scope of the passage's discussion, failing to identify a genuine flaw in its reasoning. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) This critique misrepresents the passage's argument, which does not claim that lifestyle changes alone can address all facets of financial insecurity and exhaustion. Instead, the passage advocates for a holistic re-evaluation of societal priorities, including but not limited to lifestyle adjustments. It acknowledges the complexity of exhaustion and the interplay of various factors, including financial insecurity. Suggesting that the passage views lifestyle changes as a panacea oversimplifies its argument and misinterprets its call for broader societal shifts. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) This critique may not accurately reflect the passage's content, as the passage discusses the Great Exhaustion as a phenomenon exacerbated by but not solely caused by the pandemic. It implies that the issues of exhaustion and societal priorities predate the pandemic, which served to highlight and perhaps intensify these existing challenges. By suggesting an overemphasis on the pandemic, this option fails to identify a flaw that aligns with the passage's actual focus, which considers both the immediate and underlying causes of societal exhaustion. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

108. **Answer:** C

Reference Lines: "We're now in the era of "The Great Exhaustion," a time when people are looking to reestablish their relationship with work."

Difficulty Level: Easy

Explanation: a) This title focuses too narrowly on the post-pandemic context, suggesting that the discussion of exhaustion is limited to its aftermath. While the pandemic may play a role in the narrative, the passage explores the broader societal trends and structures that contribute to exhaustion, beyond any single event's immediate effects. This title does not capture the passage's comprehensive examination of societal priorities and the need for a shift towards human needs. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) While "blue zones" are mentioned as part of the discussion on lifestyle and well-being, this title implies a focus on productivity and a specific geographic or lifestyle model. The passage, however, addresses a broader critique of societal values and the systemic causes of exhaustion. It is not merely about redefining productivity or endorsing "blue zone" lifestyles but about questioning the prioritization of business needs over human well-being. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) This title aptly captures the essence of the passage, which discusses the pervasive issue of exhaustion within society and suggests that its causes extend beyond individual choices or events like the Great Resignation. It highlights the broader societal and structural factors contributing to exhaustion and the need for a fundamental shift in how society prioritizes human needs. This title reflects the passage's comprehensive scope and its focus on systemic rather than solely individual solutions. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) This title reduces the passage's discussion to economic factors alone, ignoring the broader analysis of lifestyle, societal values, and the multifaceted nature of exhaustion. While economic aspects are indeed part of the conversation, the passage encompasses a wider critique of societal priorities and the impact of lifestyle and structural norms on well-being. This title does not fully represent the passage's examination of the relationship between societal structures and individual exhaustion. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

Quantitative Techniques

109. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Total number of girls in class I from school T = 44

Total number of girls in class I from school P = 110

Total number of girls in class II from school V = 84

Total number of girls in class II from school P = 90

$$\text{Required Ratio} = \frac{44+110}{84+90} = \frac{154}{174} = \frac{77}{87} = 77 : 87$$

Common Explanation (Q109 to Q114):

School Class		S	T	V	P	R
		Total	450	360	420	300
Class I	Total	216	198	252	165	125
	Boys	144	154	140	55	75
	Girls	72	44	112	110	50
Class II	Total	234	162	168	135	125
	Boys	130	108	84	45	75
	Girls	104	54	84	90	50

110. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Total number of boys in class I from school V is = 140

Ratio between number of boys who got first second and third division is 1:2:4

Total number of boys who got first and third division together in class I from school V is

$$= \frac{140 \times 5}{7} = 100$$

111. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Average number of girls in class I from school P & R together is = $\frac{110+50}{2}$

$$= \frac{160}{2} = 80$$

Average number of girls in class II from school S & T together = $\frac{104+54}{2} = \frac{158}{2} = 79$

Required difference = 80 – 79 = 1

112. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Total number of boys in class II from school T & S together are = 108+130 = 238

Total number of boys in class I from school V and P together are = 140 + 55 = 195

So = 238 – 195 = 43

113. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Total number of boys in class 2 from all the school together

$$= 130 + 108 + 84 + 45 + 75 = 442$$

Total number of girls in class 2 from all the school together = 104 + 54 + 84 + 90 + 50 = 382

$$\text{Required ratio} = \frac{442}{382} = \frac{221}{191}$$

114. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Total number of girls in class II from all the school together

$$= 104 + 54 + 84 + 90 + 50 = 382$$

Total number of boys in class I from all the school together = 144 + 154 + 140 + 55 + 75 = 568

Required difference = 568 – 382 = 186

115. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Total number of people affected by Cancer and TV taken together are
= 24000 + 25600 = 49600

Total number of children affected by Typhoid are = 10000

$$\text{More Percent} = \left(\frac{49600 - 10000}{10000} \right) \times 100\%$$

$$= \frac{39600}{10000} \times 100\% = 396\%$$

Common Explanation (Q115 to Q120):

Disease	Total	Men	Women	Children
Typhoid	40000	14000	16000	10000
Dengue	51200	25000	15000	11200
Corona	19200	10000	6000	3200
Cancer	24000	8000	10000	6000
TV	25600	7200	9600	8800
Total	160000	64200	56600	39200

116. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Total number of people affected by Corona in 2020 is = 19200

Total number of people affected by Corona in 2019 is = $\frac{19200}{150} \times 100\% = 12800$

Total number of women affected by TV in 2020 is = 9600

$$\text{Required \%} = \frac{12800}{9600} \times 100\% = 133.33\%$$

117. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Total number of children affected by Typhoid and corona together are = 10000 + 3200 = 13200

Total number of children affected by TV are = 8800

$$\text{Required Ratio} = \frac{13200}{8800} = \frac{33}{22} = \frac{3}{2}$$

118. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Average number of men affected by corona and cancer together

$$= \frac{10000 + 8000}{2} = 9000$$

Average number of women affected by cancer and TV taken together = $\frac{10000 + 9600}{2} = 9800$

Required difference = 9800 – 9000 = 800

119. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Average number of children affected by Typhoid, Dengue, Corona and cancer together

$$= \frac{10000 + 11200 + 3200 + 6000}{4} = \frac{30400}{4} = 7600$$

120. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Total number of men affected from Typhoid = 14000

Total number of women affected from Corona = 6000

Total number of children affected from TV = 8800

Required sum = 14000 + 6000 + 8800 = 28800