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MOCK COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST 2024-25



MOCK CLAT 27

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATIONS

SECTION-A: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1. (c) **A. Hierarchical structures in Indian society predominantly facilitate the distribution of wealth and power among the elite, thus marginalizing lower socio-economic groups.**
- This option might seem plausible because the passage mentions hierarchy and power dynamics. However, it specifically claims that these structures "predominantly facilitate" wealth and power accumulation and not © distribution. Also, the passage focuses more on social order and interdependence than on the marginalization of lower groups due to hierarchical structures.
- B. The perception of individual identity within Indian society is significantly influenced by familial legacy and ancestral lineage, determining social mobility.**
- This option introduces the concepts of "familial legacy" and "ancestral lineage" affecting "social mobility," which the passage does not directly address. The passage does discuss the importance of familial and social groups but does not link these explicitly to social mobility or individual identity in terms of legacy or lineage.
- C. The intricate network of familial and social connections in Indian society both supports individuals during challenges and constrains personal independence.**
- This is the correct option. The passage describes how individuals are deeply embedded in their social and familial networks, which provide moral and practical support. It also suggests that these networks define behaviors and social interactions, implying a limitation on personal independence due to the expectations and norms within these groups.
- D. Social stratification in Indian society, while ostensibly supporting democratic ideals, actually undermines the principles of equality and liberty.**
- This option might be tempting because it discusses the contradiction between democratic ideals and actual practices in Indian society. However, it overstates the passage's content by claiming that social stratification "ostensibly supports democratic ideals" and "undermines equality and liberty." The passage does mention that complete equality is seldom evident, but it does not explicitly discuss the undermining of democratic principles.
2. (b) **A. The caste system, although officially abolished, continues to play a symbolic role in modern Indian interactions, devoid of any real impact on social behavior.**
- This option incorrectly suggests that the caste system's impact is merely symbolic and without real influence on social behavior. The passage explicitly describes the caste system and similar hierarchical structures as significantly influencing behavior and social interactions, not just symbolically but actively.
- B. Social hierarchy in India is a pervasive reality that influences interactions within communities, transcending religious and regional boundaries.**
- This is the correct answer. The passage discusses how social hierarchy is evident across various aspects of Indian life, affecting people of different

religions and regions. It clearly states that all social groups are ranked and that these rankings shape behavior, which supports the statement that the hierarchy transcends religious and regional boundaries.

C. Economic disparities in India are the primary factor in determining social status, overshadowing religious or caste-based distinctions.

- This option overemphasizes the role of economic disparities while underestimating the impact of caste and religious distinctions described in the passage. The passage indicates that caste and other social categories, not just economic status, play crucial roles in defining social hierarchy.

D. In India, the principle of democracy effectively neutralizes the traditional social hierarchies, creating a society where social mobility is determined solely by personal merit.

- This statement is directly contradicted by the passage, which notes that although India is a political democracy, the notions of complete equality are seldom evident in daily life, and traditional hierarchies still play a significant role.

3. **(d) A. The complexities of Indian society are primarily due to the political system of democracy which struggles to integrate various ethnic and religious communities.**

- This option misrepresents the passage's content. The passage does not primarily attribute the complexities of Indian society to the political system of democracy, nor does it focus on the integration struggles of various communities within that system. Instead, it discusses the social diversity and hierarchical nature as intrinsic characteristics.

B. Economic disparities have shaped the social and cultural landscapes of India more profoundly than its diverse ethnic and religious compositions.

- While economic disparities are mentioned in the passage, they are not presented as the primary shaping force of the social and cultural landscapes over ethnic and religious diversity. The passage instead emphasizes the interaction of various diversities including ethnic, economic, and religious, without prioritizing one over the others.

C. Indian culture is uniquely characterized by its adherence to ancient religious traditions, which are evident in every aspect of social life.

- This option narrows down the scope of the passage too much. While the passage does mention the role of caste and religious communities, it does not state that adherence to ancient religious traditions characterizes Indian culture in every aspect of social life. It highlights a broader range of diversities and social dynamics.

D. Indian society is characterized by a deep-seated diversity and structured social hierarchies that

influence everyday interactions and cultural themes.

- This is the correct answer because it accurately encapsulates the passage's discussion of India's social structure. It reflects the passage's emphasis on the extensive diversity and the significant role of social hierarchies in shaping cultural themes and daily interactions. This Option (c) captures the broad and complex nature of Indian society as described in the passage.

4. **(a) A. The use of specialized vocabulary and detailed analysis of societal structures without any personal anecdotes or colloquial language.**

- This option is correct because scholarly articles typically employ specialized vocabulary relevant to the field of study and focus on a detailed, analytical approach to the topic without relying on personal anecdotes or informal language. The passage's formal tone, its analytical depth in discussing societal structures, and absence of informal discourse are indicative of scholarly writing.

B. References to specific geographic locations and the cultural practices associated with them, which are typically more detailed in scholarly articles.

- While this option might seem plausible, it is not exclusive to scholarly articles as popular magazines also often provide detailed descriptions of locations and cultural practices to engage their audience. Moreover, the passage does not overly focus on specific locations but rather on broader societal themes.

C. The presence of critical arguments about the political systems and their effectiveness in Indian society, which are often debated in academic settings.

- Although critical arguments about political systems can be a feature of scholarly articles, this option is misleading because the passage does not explicitly engage in a critical debate about the effectiveness of political systems. Instead, it presents observations about societal structures.

D. The focus on a broad range of subjects such as economics, religion, and culture, which suggests a depth of exploration common in scholarly articles.

- While the passage does cover a range of subjects, this alone does not distinctly suggest a scholarly article over a popular magazine. Magazines often explore a variety of subjects in a single article to cater to diverse interests.

5. **(a) A. A young entrepreneur from a lower caste successfully runs for a significant political position in a major city, campaigning solely on issues unrelated to caste or economic status.**

- This Option (d) defies the author's depiction of Indian society, which emphasizes the deep-seated role of caste and economic status in determining social hierarchy and influencing behaviors. The

author describes a society where these factors are integral to one's social standing and interactions. A scenario where caste and economic status are disregarded in such a significant context as political leadership directly contradicts the societal norms outlined in the passage.

B. A respected elder in a rural community uses his status as a member of a high caste to mediate disputes, reflecting the community's adherence to traditional social structures.

- This Option (a) aligns with the author's description. The passage mentions that societal hierarchy, including caste, plays a significant role in daily life and interactions within communities. An elder using his caste status to mediate disputes is consistent with the societal norms described.

C. Both (A) and (B)

- This option is incorrect because while Option (b) aligns with the author's description, Option (a) defies it.

D. Neither (A) nor (B)

- This option is incorrect as Option (a) clearly defies the author's description, while Option (b) does not.

6. (b) **Option (a): "inseparability"**

- This word strongly suggests a close connection and inability to separate from something or someone. While it indicates a deep bond and could reflect interdependence, it primarily expresses the emotional or inherent connection to groups without directly implying the functional aspect of social support and cooperative living that is central to the concept of social interdependence.

Option (b): "kinship ties"

- This is the correct answer. The term "kinship ties" directly refers to the relationships and connections among family members and extended family, which are foundational to social structure and support in Indian society. The passage mentions that these ties link individuals across various locales, ensuring moral and practical support. This clearly exhibits the practical, everyday reliance on these social connections, which is a fundamental aspect of interdependence.

Option (c): "written"

- The word "written" relates to the idea that a person's fate is predetermined by divine forces. While this does suggest a form of dependence on theological beliefs, it does not directly convey the social interdependence among people, which is the focus of the question.

Option (d): "powerful"

- "Powerful" generally refers to strength or influence, possibly in the context of deities or societal leaders. It does not specifically relate to the interdependent nature of relationships in society but rather to the influence or impact that these entities may exert. This word is more about hierarchy and control rather than mutual dependency and support among individuals.

7. (b) **Option (a):** "The dismissal of artistic beauty by society generally results in cultural degradation."

- This option suggests a societal impact (cultural degradation) due to the dismissal of artistic beauty. While the passage does hint at the negative effects of ignoring art, it focuses more on the personal and existential necessity of beauty rather than the broader cultural implications. Thus, this option overstates the scope of the paragraph's conclusion.

Option (b): "Artistic beauty is indispensable to achieving the full potential of human life."

- This Option (c) captures the essence of the paragraph, which argues that beauty in art is not optional but essential for living life as it was meant to be lived, in full alignment with nature's design. The passage stresses that without this element of beauty, we risk being "less than men," underscoring the necessity of art for realizing human potential. This matches the passage's assertion that art is a "positive necessity of life."

Option (c): "The appreciation of beauty in art directly correlates with a society's level of civilization."

- This option introduces a correlation between the appreciation of art and the level of civilization, which is not directly stated or implied as a conclusion in the paragraph. The paragraph's focus is on the individual necessity of beauty for a fulfilling life, not on measuring civilization's progress or status through art appreciation.

Option (d): "Neglecting the role of art in everyday life leads to a diminished human experience."

- While this option seems close to the passage's message, it is slightly off-target in terms of being the paragraph's fundamental conclusion. It correctly implies a negative outcome (diminished human experience) from neglecting art but does not capture the strong assertion from the passage that beauty is fundamentally necessary for life, not just a factor that enhances or diminishes it.

8. (c) **Option (a):** "Technological innovations such as the steam-engine and telephone should primarily serve as symbols of human progress and civilization."

- This option implies that technological advancements are mainly symbolic, which misses the practical and utilitarian emphasis the author places on the use of technology. The passage suggests that it is not the existence of these technologies that matters, but how they are applied. This Option (d) does not capture the utilitarian aspect discussed by the author.

Option (b): "The true measure of a society's advancement lies in its ability to create technologies like the steam-engine and telephone."

- This option focuses on the creation of technologies as an indicator of societal progress. However, the passage stresses the application and the spirit in which technology is used, rather than just its creation. Therefore, this Option (d) does not

reflect the passage's emphasis on the ethical use of technology.

Option (c): "The value of technological advancements depends on the purposeful and ethical manner in which they are utilized."

- This Option (d) directly captures the essence of the author's message in the last line. The passage indicates that the significance of technologies like the steam-engine and telephone lies not in their mere existence but in how they are employed for noble purposes. This Option (a) aligns with the author's argument that technology's value is contingent upon its ethical and purposeful use.

Option (d): "The importance of technological devices lies in their ability to replace manual labor and increase efficiency."

- While this option reflects a common view of technology's role, it does not align with the specific point made in the passage. The author argues for a focus on the noble uses of technology, beyond just efficiency and labor replacement. This option, therefore, narrows the broader, more philosophical view presented by the author regarding the role of technology in civilization.

9. **(b) Option (a):** "A technical manual on the operation and maintenance of early industrial machinery like steam engines."

- While the passage does mention steam engines, it does not focus on the technical aspects of operating or maintaining them. Instead, it discusses the broader implications of how technology is used and its role in civilization. This Option (d) does not align with the philosophical and aesthetic themes addressed in the passage.

Option (b): "A philosophical treatise on the aesthetics of existence and the integral role of art and technology in human life."

- This Option (a) accurately reflects the nature of the passage. The passage discusses the significance of art and beauty, and how technology should be utilized within the context of human values and aesthetics. It argues for the integration of beauty and utility, and the ethical use of technology, fitting well within a philosophical discourse on how technology and art enhance human life.

Option (c): "A historical overview of the technological advancements during the Industrial Revolution."

- Although the passage mentions technologies characteristic of the Industrial Revolution, like the steam engine and telephone, it does not focus on historical advancements or their chronological development. Instead, it philosophically reflects on the uses and impact of these technologies, making this option too narrow and historically focused compared to the content of the passage.

Option (d): "A marketing brochure promoting the latest innovations in telecommunications and mechanical engineering."

- This option is misleading because the passage does not serve a promotional purpose nor does it

discuss the latest innovations. It critically evaluates the use and ethical implications of existing technologies, which is not typical of marketing materials that generally emphasize benefits and positive aspects of products.

10. **(d) Option (a):** "Advocating for a balanced view of technology where its benefits are maximized."

- This option might seem plausible because the author discusses using technology wisely. However, it is inaccurate to say it would be wrong to describe the author this way because his arguments indeed suggest that he advocates for maximizing the benefits of technology through ethical and purposeful use. This Option (a) aligns with the passage's overall message.

Option (b): "Critical of a purely utilitarian perspective that ignores the aesthetic and ethical dimensions of technology."

- The author criticizes the narrow focus on utility at the expense of aesthetic and ethical considerations, as evidenced by his emphasis on the necessity of art and beauty in technology's application. It would be incorrect to claim that this description is wrong since the passage explicitly supports this view.

Option (c): "Supportive of integrating modern technology with traditional artistic values."

- The passage clearly supports the integration of modern technology with the values and principles of traditional art. The author argues for technology that enhances human capabilities and experiences without losing sight of artistic beauty. Thus, saying the author is supportive of this integration is accurate and not wrong.

Option (d): "Dismissive of the role of technology in enhancing the efficiency of modern life."

- This is the correct answer because the passage does not dismiss the role of technology in enhancing efficiency. Instead, the author acknowledges the wonders of technology like the steam engine and telephone but stresses that their real value lies in their noble and ethical application, not merely in efficiency. Claiming the author is dismissive of technology's role in efficiency would misrepresent his nuanced view that while technology is valuable, its true worth comes from how it is used to enrich human life.

11. **(a) Option (a):** "A philosophical discourse on the symbiosis between art, technology, and human values."

- This is the correct answer because the passage explores the philosophical implications of integrating art and technology in a way that enhances human life. The author argues for a thoughtful and ethical approach to using technology, emphasizing that its value lies in its application within the context of humanistic and artistic principles. This Option (a) accurately captures the essence of the passage as a reflective and argumentative discourse on how art and

technology intersect with and support human values.

Option (b): "A factual report detailing the historical development and impact of industrial technologies."

- While the passage mentions technologies like the steam engine and telephone, it does not focus on detailing their historical development or providing a factual account of their impacts. Instead, it uses these technologies as examples to support a broader philosophical argument. This option mischaracterizes the purpose and content of the passage.

Option (c): "An instructional guide for incorporating artistic principles into modern technological applications."

- This option suggests a more practical, how-to approach, which is not reflected in the passage. The author does not provide step-by-step instructions or practical advice on incorporating art into technology. Rather, he philosophically advocates for the importance of doing so, making this option incorrect.

Option (d): "A critical analysis comparing different philosophical theories about aesthetics and technology."

- The passage does engage with philosophical ideas about art and technology but does not present a comparative analysis of different theories. It is more focused on advocating a single perspective that emphasizes the integration of aesthetics into technological use. This option implies a broader scope of discussion than what is actually presented.

12. **(d) Option (a):** Synecdoche

- This option is incorrect because the phrase does not use a part of something to represent the whole. Synecdoche would be, for example, referring to a car simply as "wheels." In the given line, "Pisa" is not used as a part representing a whole; instead, it's used to evoke the idea of significant architectural endeavor.

Option (b): Personification

- This option is incorrect because the line does not attribute human characteristics to non-human elements. Personification might describe a city as "sleeping" or a tower as "leaning tiredly," but the reference to Pisa here does not animate or humanize the city or its elements.

Option (c): Hyperbole

- This option is incorrect because the line does not involve exaggeration. Hyperbole would involve an overstated claim, such as saying, "I need a million years to complete this task." The phrase "to build a new Pisa" is metaphorical but not an exaggeration; it's a specific kind of reference to grandeur and not an overstatement.

Option (d): Allusion

- This is the correct answer. The use of "Pisa" in the phrase refers not just to the physical city but

alludes to its historical and cultural significance, particularly the architectural marvel of the Leaning Tower of Pisa. This allusion brings with it connotations of great architectural achievement and artistic endeavor, enhancing the meaning of the statement beyond just constructing another city.

13. **(d)** Option (d) is the correct answer because the passage states that the most likely explanation of the background is that many pairs of supermassive black holes are orbiting each other in distant galaxies. It is the restatement of the same explanation or reason given by the passage. Option (a) is incorrect because the pairs are not single or solitary but there are many pairs mentioned in the passage. Option (b) is incorrect because the black holes are not trifling or small but supermassive in size and they are also not "nigh" or in near galaxies but in distant galaxies. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage does not mention it to be in the Milky Way galaxy which is where Earth is situated but in distant galaxies.

14. **(c)** Option (c) is the correct answer because the word swarming is supposed to mean where there are many particles or participants present which is depicted by the word "crowded". In the event of a merger there will be crowding of particles which has been depicted by the word "swarming". Option (a) is incorrect because the word is not used in the context of water or to indicate an activity of navigating through a space but in context of being extremely packed. Option (b) is incorrect because the word is used in the context of black holes and activity in space which cannot be stated to involve use of weapons. Option (d) is incorrect because murmuring indicates slow or almost inaudible speech which is not fitting the context of the passage.

15. **(d)** Option (d) is the correct answer because the passage states that most black holes will be confined to a distance of 1 parsec after orbiting each other; but there has to be a distance less than 1 parsec to be able to detect gravitational waves between them. Therefore, this Option cannot be inferred from the passage because the distance has to be less than 1 parsec, not more than it. Option (a) is incorrect because the passage mentions two named observatories: LIGO in America and Virgo in Europe. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage mentions that momentum of the black holes can be transferred to stars during mergers. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage mentions that for a PTA signal (or detection of gravitational waves) there has to be distance of less than 1 parsec.

16. **(c)** Option (c) is the correct answer because a simile is a direct comparison of two like or unlike things. A simile helps your reader or listener visualise, understand and have a better conception of the quality of the nouns being compared. It uses the words "like" etc. to compare things. Here, the statement is comparing the waves with sloshing of pond surface water from rain. Option (a) is incorrect because a metaphor is a figure of speech that is used to make a comparison, but in a way different from a simile. It is an implied

comparison without use of words “like” etc. Option (b) is incorrect because hyperbole is a rhetorical device that is mainly used to make something look and sound a lot better than it actually is or exaggerates certain claims; here, there is no such exaggeration of claims. Option (d) is incorrect because it is a figure of speech in which a concept is referred to by the name of something closely associated with that thing or concept e.g. crown for king etc.

17. (c) Option (c) is the correct answer because the passage mentions in the beginning that there have been gravitational waves detected from black holes which had been orbiting each other and then finally merged into each other. This phenomenon has been observed by observatories like LIGO and Virgo. Option (a) is incorrect because the waves have been described to be jostling in random direction as observed by the observatories, not black holes themselves. Option (b) is incorrect because the passage does not mention merger of stars but a merger of black holes themselves after orbiting or encircling each other. Option (d) is incorrect because the merger is not of waves surrounding black holes, but of the black holes themselves.

18. (b) B-A-C-D

1. Initial discovery by LIGO: The passage begins with LIGO's detection of gravitational waves (B).
2. Use of millisecond pulsars: Researchers then used millisecond pulsars for further studies (A).
3. Detection of 'stochastic background': PTAs found a random gravitational wave background (C).
4. Theory of supermassive black holes: The background is theorized to be caused by supermassive black hole pairs (D).

Thus, the correct order is (b). B-A-C-D.

19. (a) Option (a) is the correct answer because as per the passage: “The poem Meghadūta is a prototype of its genre (dūtakāvya or messenger poetry) and has inspired many works and writers including some from the West. The whole genre could be said to have begun with this Indian work.” This work was the genre creating work in every sense. Option (b) is incorrect because there was no adaptation in many languages as per the passage. Option (c) is incorrect because this work was the beginning of the messenger poetry genre in the literary world. Option (d) is incorrect because the play was the first to have created the genre in the literary world.

20. (a) Option (a) is the correct answer because “tantamount” indicates something which is synonymous or identical. Option (b) is incorrect because unlike indicates being different while tantamount indicates likeness. Option (c) is incorrect because “altered” indicates a changed state while “tantamount” indicates similarity. Option (d) is incorrect because “tantamount” indicates similarity (being synonymous) while diverse indicates having different varieties and forms.

21. (b) Option (b) is the correct answer because Purvamegha describes about the geographical description of the terrain of Bharatvarsha as told by the Yaksha to the

cloud which must be traversed by the cloud as a messenger and the second, Uttaramegha is about the emotions of hope etc. in the message which were conveyed to the Yaksha's wife. Option (a) is incorrect because the geographical description of the terrain is done by the Yaksha to the cloud as the latter would go and deliver the message. Option (c) is incorrect because the second aspect is about the emotional aspects of the love that the message carries for the wife; the first aspect is correct as it is about the terrain of India or Bharatvarsha. Option (d) is incorrect because the description is given by the Yaksha to the cloud as to the terrain he would see as he travels to Alaka, the place where the Yaksha's companion is residing.

22. (a) Option (a) is the correct answer because the messenger in the play by Kalidasa is a rain cloud which is an inanimate object; it is not a bird. Option (b) is incorrect because the Yaksha lives numerous miles away from his companion: he lives in the Vindhya which is in central India while his companion lives in the Himalayas. This makes it a distance of numerous miles. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage mentions four types of beauty to be described by the play and the poet, Kalidasa: Bhāśasaundarya or the beauty of language; Nisargasaundarya or description of natural beauty; Strīsaundarya or beauty of the feminine form; and Vicārasaundarya or the beauty of thought and concept. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage states: “The ‘word picture’ drawn is so strong and intimate that it is the belief of most scholars that Kālidāsa may have personally visited these places.”

23. (d) Option (d) is the correct answer because the passage states: “The whole poem is nothing but the message that a husband (Yaksha) separated from his wife (due to punishment meted out by a deity, Kubera) sends to his wife through a messenger.” Option (a) is incorrect because they were not separated for some chores which were deemed necessary; it was a punishment. Option (b) is incorrect because there were no demonic forces; it was a punishment by a deity. Option (c) is incorrect because the deity was not an enemy of the protagonist: it was a deity Kuber who caused their separation due to a punishment.

24. (b) Option (b) is the correct answer because the passage mentions: “The importance of the work within the class of Sanskrit classical literature as a khaṇḍakāvya (short lyrical poetry as against a Mahākāvya which is an epic poem) can be gauged by the number of commentaries that have been written on the work.” The two types of poems are 1) short lyrical poetry and 2) an epic poetry. Option (a) is incorrect because they are part of the messenger poetry; they are not types of poetry. Option (c) is incorrect because bhāśa and nisarga are two types of beauties (language and natural) described in the play by Kalidasa. Option (d) is incorrect because these types of poetries are not described in the passage. Two main types are lyrical and epic.

**SECTION - B : CURRENT AFFAIRS, INCLUDING
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE**

25. (a) Now the sixth Annual Report is being brought out by NSSO on the basis of Periodic Labour Force Survey conducted during July 2022-June 2023. The field work for collection of information in respect of the samples, allotted for the period July 2022 – June 2023, was completed timely for the first visit as well as revisit samples, except for 51 first visit and 68 revisit FSUs for the State of Manipur, allotted in the last quarter i.e., April-June 2023, which were treated as casualties, due to disturbed field situation and unavailability of internet services. The activity status determined on the basis of a reference period of last 7 days preceding the date of survey is known as the current weekly status (CWS) of the person.
26. (a) Labour force participation rate is defined as the section of working population in the age group of 16-64 in the economy currently employed or seeking employment.
27. (a) The worker population ratio is defined as the number of employed people per thousand people. $WPR = \text{number of employed people} \times 1000 / \text{total population}$ The Worker Population Ratio is an indicator used to assess the country's employment situation.
28. (b) Current Weekly Status (CWS): The activity status determined on the basis of a reference period of last 7 days preceding the date of survey is known as the current weekly status (CWS) of the person.
29. (c) Rao Inderjit Singh is an Indian politician and a Minister of State in the Government of India. He is also a member of the Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Indian Parliament. He represents the Gurgaon constituency in Haryana and is a member of Bharatiya Janata Party. Singh became the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Statistics and Programme Implementation and Planning in May 2019
30. (d) The latest survey also showed a significant increase in the labour force participation rate (LFPR), which represents the share of people either working or seeking work in the population, to 57.9 percent in the 2022-23 period from 55.2 percent in the 2021-22 period at the national level. The rural LFPR stood at 60.8 percent, up significantly from 57.5 percent in 2021-22, while its urban equivalent increased to 50.4 percent from 49.7 percent over the same period.
31. (c) Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met the Prime Minister of Bhutan H.E Dasho Tshering Tobgay in New Delhi on 14 March 2024. Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay is in India on an official visit, which is his first overseas visit after assuming office in February 2024.
32. (d) The Manas and all its main branches, including all its tributaries, constitutes the largest river system in Bhutan, with a total length of 3200 km. The main Manas, or Gong River drains about 18 300 km² in eastern Bhutan, rising beyond the Great Himalayan range.
33. (a) Bhutan's PM will meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi for delegation-level talks focused on India's promise of enhanced support for Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan.
34. (b) The Manas River, known as the Drangme Chhu in Bhutan, is the largest river system in Bhutan. Originating from the West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh in India, the Drangme Chhu enters Bhutan through Trashigang.
35. (c) Bhutan shares its borders with only two countries i.e. India and China. Bhutan, being a landlocked country does not maintain any maritime boundaries.
36. (d) Television did not come to Bhutan until 1999. For years, the country cut itself off, fearing that outside influences would undermine its monarchy and culture. Radio broadcasting began in 1973 and the internet arrived in 1999.
37. (c) India has remained proactive in the area of renewable energy financing by formulating a storage requirement roadmap up to 2047, issuing technology-agnostic storage tenders, and facilitating supportive government interventions for battery manufacturing and pumped storage hydropower projects. The Central Electricity Authority of India projects a storage requirement of nearly 400 gigawatt-hours (GWh) by 2030-32, with an estimated investment exceeding Rs 3.5 lakh crore.
38. (d) IREDA received formal approval from the Reserve Bank of India in February this year to set up its wholly-owned subsidiary at the country's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at Gift City. "Energy storage will play a critical role in achieving the National Green Hydrogen Mission's ambitious target of over 5 million metric tonnes per annum (MTPA) of Hydrogen production by 2030.
39. (d) The main objectives of IREDA are :
1. To give financial support to specific projects and schemes for generating electricity and / or energy through new and renewable sources and conserving energy through energy efficiency.
 2. To maintain its position as a leading organization to provide efficient and effective financing in renewable energy and energy efficiency / conservation projects.
 3. To increase IREDA's share in the renewable energy sector by way of innovative financing.
 4. Improvement in the efficiency of services provided to customers through continual improvement of systems, processes and resources.
 5. To strive to be competitive institution through customer satisfaction.
40. (d) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) was established on 11th March, 1987 as a Public limited Government Company under the Companies Act, 1956 and it promotes, develops and extends financial assistance for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency/Conservation Projects.

41. (c) The 38th Foundation Day celebration was graced by Chairman & Managing Director Shri Pradip Kumar Das; Director (Finance) Dr. Bijay Kumar Mohanty; and Chief Vigilance Officer Shri Ajay Kumar Sahani, who addressed the employees highlighting the company's achievements, challenges, and future endeavours.
42. (a) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited is an Indian public sector enterprise which provides financial assistance and other services to projects related to renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency/conservation.
Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) was established on 11th March, 1987 as a Public limited Government Company under the Companies Act, 1956 and it promotes, develops and extends financial assistance for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency/Conservation Projects.
43. (d) The IMF has approved an immediate disbursal of the final tranche of \$1.1 billion to Pakistan as part of a bailout package, emphasising that the cash-strapped country needs to take tough measures to bring its economy back on track.
The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board's decision on Monday came after the global lender completed the second and final review of Pakistan's economic reform programme supported by the IMF's Stand-By Arrangement (SBA).
44. (d) The IMF was founded by 44 member countries that sought to build a framework for economic cooperation.
45. (d) The development came a day after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
In his first meeting with the IMF chief since his re-election as premier, Sharif also discussed Pakistan's demand for another IMF programme as the country still needs the global lender's crutches to wobble on to get its economy back on track.
46. (b) The IMF was established in 1944 in the aftermath of the Great Depression of the 1930s.
47. (c) The IMF is a global organization that works to achieve sustainable growth and prosperity for all of its 190 member countries. It does so by supporting economic policies that promote financial stability and monetary cooperation, which are essential to increase productivity, job creation, and economic well-being. The IMF is governed by and accountable to its member countries.
48. (d) Pakistan Peoples Party's co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari won a second term as Pakistan's president in March 2024.
The widower of Pakistan's assassinated first female leader, Benazir Bhutto, Zardari was voted into the largely ceremonial post by the PPP, which formed an alliance with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) party after Pakistan's disputed February 2024 elections.
49. (c) As per the recent index, India has been ranked in the 159th position, which is two ranks higher than last year, however, India still lags behind countries like Turkey, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, which are ranked at 158, 152, and 150, respectively.
50. (a) Bangladesh has ranked 165th out of 180 countries globally this year, slipping two notches in the World Press Freedom Index 2024.
On the other hand, Norway has ranked top again in the index with a score of 91.89, followed by Denmark. The index was prepared by the Reporters Without Borders on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day on Friday.
Bangladesh got a score of 27.64 out of 100, which was 35.31 last year.
51. (d) Reporters Without Borders (RWB), also known as Reporters sans frontières (RSF) in French, is an international non-profit organisation that strives to protect the right to freedom of information. The organisation has consultative status at the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, and the International Organisation of the Francophonie.
Recently, RSF released the 2024 World Press Freedom Index, which ranks 180 countries based on the freedom of journalism, reporting, and media functioning. It is a crucial tool to assess the state of press freedom in different countries.
52. (b) The 10 countries that ranked worst on the index out of the 180 countries are led by Eritrea which is the worst-ranked country on the 2024 World Press Freedom Index.
Press Freedom: Reporters Without Borders (RWB), in French Reporters sans frontières (RSF) has produced the 2024 World Press Freedom Index of 180 countries which ranks countries based on the freedom of journalism, reporting, and media functioning.
The 10 countries that ranked worst on the index out of the 180 countries are led by Eritrea which is the worst-ranked country on the 2024 World Press Freedom Index.
In ascending order above Eritrea are Syria (179), Afghanistan (178), North Korea (177), Iran (176), Turkmenistan (175), Vietnam (174), Bahrain (173), China (172), and Myanmar (171).

SECTION – C: LEGAL REASONING

53. (a) The right answer is A since both Neeta and Mohan were Hindus and it will be applied to them. Saptadpadi is a mandatory ritual that the couple must undergo in order to be considered married. As a result, Neeta and Mohan were not married, and Neeta is legally permitted to marry Mukund in the current instance. As a result, option B is erroneous; because there was no solemnization, opting out of a marriage is irrelevant. Option (c) is incorrect. Because there was no solemnization, she cannot be deemed to have legally married Mohan. Option (d) is incorrect since there was no solemnization of marriage between them because the appropriate ceremony to recognize their marriage was not performed.
54. (d) Option (d) is correct and not option C. Passage is silent in providing information related to a situation when two people coming from different religion marries.

Option (a) is invalid as a marriage is said to be valid under Indian law, by conducting the religious ceremonies required to finalize a marriage under the religion of the persons being married, such as the /saptadi/ for Hindus and /offer-acceptance/ for Muslims. Option (b) is incorrect as marriage between two minor is a punishable crime.

55. (a) The correct answer is option A. The passage states that 'Solemnization' here would mean conducting the religious ceremonies required to finalize a marriage under the religion of the persons being married, such as the /saptadi/ for Hindus and /offer-acceptance/ for Muslims. Under Indian law, if a marriage has been solemnized, then the persons involved are 'married'. Here since both of them were Hindu and solemnized their marriage as per Hindu religion. Thus, married. Option (b) is not correct as even though the statement states correct knowledge but the factual question only asks whether their solemnisation is valid. Option (c) is also negated by similar reasoning, as nowhere in facts it is mentioned that the said marriage came across any court orders. Option (d) is not correct as it provides contradictory information. As it states No and adds that they are legally married. Hence, not correct.
56. (a) Option (a) is correct because the question stem expressly asks for offences committed under the statute, option A will be considered. According to the provision, the legislation specifies punishments for performing, conducting, or assisting in the performance of child marriages. Manish doesn't really participate in any of the three acts. As a result, Option (a) is marked as correct. Option (b) and C are incorrect since the facts do not indicate that Manish committed any of the aforementioned three offences. As a result, not considered. Option (d) is incorrect because there are no provisions in the passage stating that one is legally required to notify appropriate authorities of Mohan's attempt to influence a minor for marriage.
57. (d) Option (a) is not correct as only a court order can make the solemnized marriage void. Option (b) is not correct as she has solemnized her marriage with Mohan and that she can take a defence under section 3(3) of the Act that she has opted out of the marriage as soon she attained majority. Thus, option D is correct. Option (c) is correct but that will not invalidate her marriage with Mahesh.
58. (a) A is the correct answer with respect to the question asked because while it is true as per the passage that in the law of torts, there is a duty on every person to act with reasonable care in order to avoid any harm which may occur due to their failure of taking such care; it can certainly not be concluded that this statement is one of the contentions of the author about volenti non fit injuria; it is a generic introduction to tort law to further build his base of arguments about volenti non fit injuria. All the other options revolve around the asked questions and to a great extent directly relate to it, hence they can be eliminated.
59. (b) Option (b) is correct because both the essentials under volenti-non-fit-injuria are satisfied as M consented to

travel through a taxi that was in an inappropriate condition by sitting in it after having the required knowledge. The consent was also free as there was no force used by the taxi driver or the taxi service app to force M, to sit in their taxi, and hence the taxi services app will succeed. Option (a) and C are incorrect because according to the question, the taxi service app will succeed as already mentioned in Option (b). Option (d) is incorrect because the explanation given here is just an assumption, and the reasoning is also not related to the information provided in the passage.

60. (c) Option (c) is correct because, because both the parties committed wrongful acts and therefore, the defense of contributory negligence could be used rather than volenti-non-fit-injuria, because in that scenario, one party commits a wrongful act and the other consents to it, so X will fail. Option (b) and D are incorrect because they state that X will succeed, but option C already states that both the parties are at fault. Option (a) is incorrect because the reasoning of the option mentions the fulfillment of an essential of volenti-non-fit-injuria, but as explained in Option (c), this defense cannot be taken.
61. (d) Option (d) is correct because the release of wasteful substances by the factory as well as F's excessive plantation on his land led to its infertility; hence, both parties are at fault and the defense of contributory negligence can be taken. Option (b) and C are incorrect as they overlooks the issue of contributory negligence, which is T's defense against the lawsuit. Option (a) seems logically sound; however, it's not directly related to the defense of contributory negligence.
62. (c) Volenti non fit injuria only applies to those who willingly accept the risk. **K (and possibly H)** can be argued to have consented to racing risks. The same can be inferred for the guards as the facts suggests that they were aware of the risks. Therefore, Option (c) is correct because under Volenti-non-fit-injuria, implied consent as well as expressed consent are covered. Though the defendant harmed the plaintiff intentionally; in the given case, the guards made implied consent by agreeing to stand over there, and K consented expressly by giving free consent after having the required knowledge. If someone is willfully harmed, the defence of volenti non fit injuria may be utilised if the victim gave his or her consent for the act to be done which resulted in any harm. Option (a) and B are incorrect because, as already explained in option C, consent was present in both the cases. Option (d) is incorrect because no such information can be inferred from the passage.
63. (b) The correct answer option is answer option B. The passage defines taking cognizance as applying the judicial mind to initiate legal proceedings. In this case, Ghanshyam identified a lapse in the charge sheet and sent it back for further investigation. This suggests he didn't apply his mind to initiate the proceedings based on the current information. Suppose a magistrate involves his mind not for reason of proceeding as

mentioned above, but for taking action of some other kind, for example ordering investigation or issuing a search warrant for investigation. In that case, he cannot be said to have taken cognizance of the offence.

Option (a) is not the right option because he did not apply his mind to the charge sheet for it to be taken up for a trial or not; instead, he sent it back to the police for further investigation.

Option (c) is incorrect because 193 covers the Session court; Ghanshyam is a judicial magistrate not a Session court judge.

Option (d) is incorrect; Ghanshyam identified a problem with the evidence, not a need for more evidence to try the case himself.

64. (b) Option (c) is not correct as a Magistrate takes cognizance of an offence within their jurisdiction (applying their mind to initiate proceedings) which was not done in the instant matter. The judicial Magistrate, i.e., Magistrate of the first class and the second class can take cognizance and not Executive Magistrate, i.e., District Magistrate, Sub- Divisional Magistrate, etc. Thus, the correct answer is option B. Option (a) is incorrect as not sending it back for investigation might be a step, but not the only factor for cognizance. Option (d) is not correct as not sending it back isn't enough for cognizance. He needs to apply his mind to initiate proceedings himself.

65. (d) The correct answer option is answer option D. It says that the court of Sessions cannot take cognizance because it is barred under section 193, which is the case as the passage lays down.

Option (a) is wrong because of two reasons. One, it talks about something from outside the passage's knowledge. Second, this is not a legal reason for session court not being able to take cognizance. As mentioned by the passage, section 193 bars the action of Sessions.

Option (b) is wrong because the reasoning is right, but the word "yes" is wrong. Sessions court is not allowed under 193 but rather stopped under section 193 from taking cognizance unless it comes from magistrate.

Option (c) is wrong because it again talks about something from outside the passage, as to the trivial nature of crimes. Secondly, it is not a legal reason; this is argumentative at best.

66. (c) The correct answer option is answer option C. Any magistrate has the power under 190 to take cognizance when he receives any information from a person other than the police regarding the commission of an offence. Option (a) is incorrect because he can take cognizance of the offence under section 190. Second class magistrates are allowed to take cognizance. This option becomes factually wrong based on the passage data.

Option (b) is incorrect because section 190 allows the magistrate of the second or first class to take action regardless of police action i.e., on their own. The magistrate need not wait for the police to hand him over the charge sheet.

Option (d) is incorrect because it applies the wrong reasoning and the wrong section as well. Section 193

is related to the inability of the Session court to take cognizance of any issue, it says nothing about the powers of second class magistrate. This eliminates option D.

67. (a) Option (a) is the correct option because Section 199(4) states that only a public prosecutor must file after taking consent of the state government regarding the cases of defamation against the governor, minister or public servant. This is the correct reasoning for the Session Court not being able to take cognizance in the present case. Ram is no public prosecutor and has no consent from the state government to file the case.

Option (b) is incorrect. It does not take into account that this is no ordinary offence. This commission falls in section 199(4) of the criminal procedure code. It should be therefore dealt with under the process mentioned in section 199(4). Further Section 190 gives power to Magistrate and not Session Court.

Option (c) is incorrect. A police investigation is not the contention or reason for the Session Court not being able to take cognizance. Ram has no have standing to file the case in front of the Session Court in the first place.

Option (d) is incorrect because Section 193 states that Session Court can take cognizance directly when allowed by the law. In the instant case Section 199(4) allows the court to take cognizance directly, therefore, is an exception to Section 193.

68. (b) Option (b) is the correct option. Ramu is the senior most male member of the family. He is eligible to be the Karta of the family in absence of his father, who died. So commissioner of tax was right in filing case against him in name of Hindu joint family.

Option (a) is incorrect. The option is extremely factual. Being a small or big part of family is value judgement and also falls outside the ambit of the passage.

Option (c) is incorrect. It establishes wrong conclusion. If someone is Karta, they would have the power to represent the family. This is one of the most essential parts of the Karta's responsibility.

Option (d) is incorrect. It is again based on value judgement and subjective. Because he is earning for the family is no legal principle to make him liable to represent family in legal suit.

69. (b) Option (b) is the correct option. A senior most male member is Karta for the Hindu joint family. It was mentioned in the passage. A female cannot be a Karta. Option (a) is factual and value judgment based. She is earning for family, does not make her the Karta of the family. It was not among the essentials for the KARTA of the Hindu Joint Family.

Option (c) is wrong because it talks about Sita being the senior most member. Her presence as senior most member is not only essential condition for her to be a Karta. Option (d) is incorrect because this option is subjective. Women's ability to work is outside the scope when deciding whether Sita should be the Karta or not.

70. (b) Option (b) is the correct option. The justification for the alienation of property without consent of the family

members is allowed in cases where Karta alienated the joint family property for the benefit of the estate.

Option (a) is incorrect. Being the senior member doesn't automatically mean Lakshya knows what's best. He needs to prove the sale benefitted the estate.

Option (c) is incorrect as the reasoning is nowhere related to the question asked.

Option (d) is incorrect. While some debts by the Karta might bind the family, selling property requires justification like benefit to the estate.

71. (d) is the correct option. The passage mentions that in the absence of the Karta (due to unknown whereabouts or exceptional circumstances), a younger male member can take the position. In this scenario, Santosh's father (the Karta) is presumed dead, and there are bills pending (a dire need for the family). Option (a) is incorrect as only in certain exceptional circumstances the younger member can act as Karta and not always. Option (b) is incorrect because it talks about intention of his father, which is not known. Option (c) is incorrect because it assumes that he is the senior most member after his father. Further it provides information which is not provided in the passage.
72. (a) *As per the passage*, It is implied authority of Karta to contract debts and pledge the credit of the family. Such debts are binding on the entire family. *Option (a) is the correct option*. The loan was taken by the Karta by pledging joint property, potentially impacting the entire family's finances. This makes option B incorrect. Option (c) is incorrect as the facts are silent on the information that X wanted to take the loan for the family. Option (d) is incorrect as the question specifically asks for the liability of X with its joint family members.
73. (b) Promissory estoppel is generally applied in contractual situations, and personal obligations may not always meet the necessary criteria. Option (a) is incorrect because while a clear and unambiguous promise is a requirement, other conditions must also be met for the doctrine to be invoked successfully. Option (c) is incorrect because the premise of promissory estoppel is contract so without a contract the doctrine cannot be invoked. Option (d) gives an information which is beyond the information provided in the passage and does not involve application of the principles mentioned in the passage directly i.e., contract law elements so option (b) is a better answer.
74. (d) *as per the passage*, requirements given in the case of Chhaganlal Keshavalal Mehta v. Patel Narandas Haribhai by the SC must be met. Third requirement is that the plaintiff must have suffered a loss. In the present facts, it cannot be inferred that Ria suffered a loss. Option (b) is incorrect as it presents wrong factual information. Ria acted reasonably relying on the promise of Amit to sell her the car. Option (c) is not correct as it provides a suggestive answer i.e., she will succeed in a situation where she can prove that she acted on the promise made by Amit. Option (a) is not correct as Ria cannot use the doctrine of promissory estoppel against Amit only on the

ground that Amit made a clear and unambiguous promise to Ria to sell her his car. The other two conditions must also be satisfied.

75. (a) Option (c) is incorrect because the question itself mentions the loss suffered by Meera i.e., the collateral submitted to the bank. Hence, all conditions of promissory estoppel are met. Option (b) is incorrect because the fact that Meera secured funding from a bank doesn't negate Raj's promise and doesn't automatically prevent the invocation of promissory estoppel. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not stipulate a written requirement for such contracts.
76. (b) Promissory estoppel requires suffering of loss but here Arjun has not suffered any loss so option (c) is incorrect. So, option (a) is incorrect because only one condition is not sufficient to fulfill promissory estoppel and all must be fulfilled. Option (d) is incorrect because it is provided in the passage that A claim of doctrine of promissory estoppel essentially prevents a "promisor" from backing out of an agreement on the grounds that there is no "consideration." This implies that promissory estoppel involves gift
77. (a) The assertion accurately reflects the emphasis on establishing a measurable loss and the reasoning provides a valid explanation by connecting this requirement to the court's checklist for applying promissory estoppel in a leading case law. Thus, option (b) is incorrect. Options (c) and (d) are incorrect because both the assertion and reason are independently true and explain the link to each other as the reasoning effectively explains the assertion, making it a valid explanation for the emphasis on establishing a measurable loss in the case.
78. (c) Option (a) is incorrect because while a clear and unambiguous promise is a requirement, other conditions must also be met for the doctrine to be invoked successfully. This option is included in option (c). Option (b) is incorrect because Riya declining another job offer is not an automatic bar to invoking promissory estoppel; her reliance on Rahul's promise is a crucial factor. Option (d) is incorrect because Promissory estoppel can apply to promises related to employment, and job promises are not automatically excluded as per the passage.
79. (a) Option (b) is incorrect because the doctrine can apply to written promises, and it is not strictly limited to verbal agreements. Option (c) is true but it's incorrect because there is no question of proving the loss as the fact that Maya has made the cheque is the loss. Option (d) is incorrect because the nature of the item being a rare book does not automatically prevent the application of promissory estoppel.
80. (c) is the correct answer because the passage mentions: "Section 4. (1) The Post Office shall have the exclusive privilege of issuing postage stamps. (2) The Director General may make regulations relating to the supply and sale of postage stamps and postal stationery." Also, "(b) "postal stationery" means stationery, issued by the Post Office such as envelopes, letter cards, postcards,

etc.” Therefore, in this factual situation, the regulation of postal stationery was done by central government while it should have been done by the Director General. This makes it invalid according to the law of 2023. Option (a) is incorrect because there can be regulation of sale of postal stamps and stationery by the director General. There is no need for the approval of Parliament. Option (b) is incorrect because such interference has been stated to be done on named grounds only with goods and not postal stationery. There is no such ground for interference as mentioned in section 9. Option (d) is incorrect because such regulation under section 4 has to be done by the director general, not directly through the central government.

81. (d) is the correct answer because the passage mentions: “Section 2 (a) "Director General" means the Director General of Postal Services appointed by the Central Government and includes any officer authorised by the Central Government to perform the duties of the Director General;” This indicates that the authorization for Mr. Karmesh’s role as director general must have flown from the central government, not the state government. Option (a) is incorrect because the authorization was from the state government while it must have flowed from the central government. Option (b) is incorrect because section 2 (a) mentions that central government may authorise any officer to perform the duties of the director general. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage does not mention about digital signatures under any section.
82. (d) is the correct answer because the passage states: “Section 3. (1) The Post Office shall provide such services as the Central Government may prescribe.” In this factual situation, the service was debated in the Parliament but it was not prescribed by the central government in any notification. Therefore, there will not be any refund of a non-prescribed service. Option (a) is incorrect because the banking service was debated but it was not authorized or prescribed by the central government. Option (b) is incorrect because the definition of post office under section 2 (d) includes any room used for providing service by the post office. Option C is incorrect because the concept of legitimate expectation and restoration is not mentioned in the passage in relation to section 8.
83. (d) is the correct answer because the passage states: “Section 9. (1) The Central Government may, by notification, empower any officer to cause any item in course of transmission by the Post Office to be intercepted, opened or detained in the interest of the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, emergency, or public safety or upon the occurrence of any contravention of any of the provisions of this Act”. This implies that the destruction of the postal item was not mentioned in section 9; it only mentions interception, opening or detaining the postal item on certain grounds; here, Mr. Kumar destroyed the postal item making it invalid in light of section 9 in the 2023 law. Option (a) is

incorrect because there is no mention of destruction of such items in section 9. Option (b) is incorrect because there is no approval of the director general required; there is only the empowerment of the central government by notification under section 9 which was done. Option (c) is incorrect because the passage does not mention about the Indian constitution.

84. (a) is the correct answer because the passage mentions: “Section 8. The Central Government may prescribe the conditions for denoting the official marks on items to be used as prima facie evidence of the facts so denoted. Such marks includes postal stamps.” Therefore, in this factual situation, Ms. Ruchika can use the official marks on the postal item or letter as prima facie evidence of the Date mentioned on it (facts mentioned on it). Option (b) is incorrect because section 8 makes such postal items to be used a prima facie evidence. Option (c) is incorrect because such postal items and official marks on them like postal stamps are prima facie evidence, not conclusive evidence, under section 8. Option (d) is incorrect because the passage does not mention about the Indian Evidence Act. It confines itself to the 2023 proposed postal office law.

SECTION D: LOGICAL REASONING

85. (c) (c) is the correct answer. It captures the essence of the passage by emphasizing India's cautious approach toward engaging with the Taliban despite acknowledging their governance style as unacceptable. This aligns with the passage's discussion of India's evolving relationship with the Taliban, highlighting the need for India to set boundaries and exercise caution while exploring potential opportunities for cooperation. A is incorrect. This option captures the idea of acknowledging the Taliban's rule and exploring cooperation opportunities. However, it does not address the caution and specific concerns mentioned in the passage about India's engagement with the Taliban. B is incorrect. While this option accurately describes a significant event in the passage, it focuses solely on the diplomatic meeting and does not capture the broader context of India's evolving relationship with the Taliban. D is incorrect because it overemphasizes the extent of India's engagement with the Taliban, suggesting a "no holds barred" approach, which might not fully capture the nuance of the passage.
86. (b) The correct answer is B because the passage mentions discussions on "continuing humanitarian aid" and "prospects of enhanced economic ties," indicating a cautious, yet strategic engagement focusing on economics rather than outright political support or acceptance. Option (a) is a trap because while humanitarian aid is mentioned, it's not highlighted as a priority over economic or political considerations. Option (c) is misleading as the passage does not suggest India's complete acceptance of the Taliban's governance but rather a tactical engagement. Option (d), while attractive, assumes the Chabahar port's use is primarily for influence in Central Asia, which

oversimplifies the broader context of economic ties and ignores the cautious nature of the engagement.

87. (c) The correct answer is C because officially reopening an embassy implies a formal engagement and a significant shift in diplomatic stance, especially in comparison to the previous non-engagement policy of the 1990s. Option (a) is misleading because providing humanitarian aid does not necessarily indicate a shift in foreign policy approach, as such aid can be apolitical. Option (b), while suggestive of a strategic maneuver, does not directly indicate a change in foreign policy towards the Taliban specifically. Option (d) is a trap; covert contacts in the past do not provide a basis for arguing a significant shift, as official actions like reopening an embassy do.
88. (d) The correct answer is D because if India uses economic leverage it has with Taliban as the means to restore the rights of politically repressed, it would weaken the assertion that India is exploring stronger ties with the Taliban. Option (a) is misleading; not officially recognizing the Taliban at the UN might reflect international diplomacy complexities rather than bilateral engagement attitudes. Option (b) is incorrect because putting trade agreements on hold may show that there was some inherent problems in these agreements, but that the desire to have stronger ties may still be there. C is incorrect because this may not necessarily show that India doesn't wish to have strong ties with the Taliban. Decreasing humanitarian aid may be because condition in Taliban ruled Afghanistan are improving. Hence, D
89. (c) The correct answer is C because the passage outlines India's avoidance of engagement with the Taliban, linked to the group's close relationship with the Pakistani military, which was a security concern for India. This directly implies that India's stance was influenced by security considerations rather than economic interests or diplomatic opportunities, making C the most defensible conclusion. A is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that India's non-engagement was based purely on economic interests. B is misleading because it contradicts the passage's indication that India shunned the Taliban due to its connections with Pakistan. D is a trap; it suggests a reason (lack of opportunities) not supported by the passage, which clearly states the reason was the Taliban's relationship with Pakistan.
90. (a) The correct answer is A because the development of the Chabahar port is a strategic investment that facilitates trade with Afghanistan, demonstrating a cautious but clear optimism for enhancing economic ties. This choice directly supports the claim of seeking to improve economic connections. Option (b), while significant, is more about diplomatic presence than a direct investment in economic ties. Option (c), providing humanitarian aid, suggests goodwill but doesn't necessarily indicate economic optimism. Option (d) could be seen as supporting economic engagement, but it does not imply the same level of commitment and strategic planning as the development

of a trade port, making A the best supported and most defensible option.

91. (c) The correct answer is c. C is the correct answer because it directly supports the argument by providing tangible evidence of systemic exclusion based on caste, thus indicating a feudal mindset. A historical pattern of caste-based representation in art institutions is a strong indicator of deep-rooted casteism, classism, and racism. Option (a) is a trap because self-identification as progressive does not necessarily reflect actual societal structures or behaviors. Option (b) uses a common logical fallacy where the absence of evidence (or denial) is not evidence of absence; just because artists deny discrimination does not mean it does not exist. Option (d) might seem like a positive change but actually distracts from the core issue of historical and systemic discrimination; increasing scholarships does not address the root causes of the feudal mindset or prove its absence.
92. (c) The correct answer is c. C is the correct answer because it subtly suggests that the traditional exclusion of lower castes, followed by only a recent inclusion, indicates a historical pattern of perpetuating caste-based divisions. This change hints at a past where such divisions were maintained by the institutions themselves. Option (a) is misleading because advocating for inclusion does not directly address past practices of exclusion or how these advocacies are implemented. Option (b), while seemingly progressive, does not specifically imply action against caste-based divisions in practice; knowing the history does not necessarily change institutional behavior. Option (d) is a distractor because celebrating themes of equality in performances does not directly reflect the institution's admissions policies or educational practices, which are more indicative of perpetuating or challenging caste-based divisions.
93. (b) The correct answer is b. (b) is the correct answer because it directly addresses the impact of the comments and backlash on the conversation about inclusivity, suggesting a broader societal engagement and dialogue prompted by the incident. Option (a) is a subtle trap, implying a direct and immediate institutional response, which is not specifically indicated in the passage. It assumes a cause-and-effect that is too direct without evidence of such policy changes. Option (c), while positive, distracts from the specific discussion of inclusivity in existing art forms by suggesting the creation of entirely new forms, which the passage does not imply. Option (d) might seem plausible but focuses too narrowly on funding changes without directly addressing the broader conversation and awareness of inclusivity issues, which is a more immediate and widespread effect of such incidents.
94. (b) The correct answer is B. if there were evidence or arguments suggesting that instances of discrimination within artistic communities were isolated incidents rather than systemic issues, it would weaken the author's idea. B does that effectively. Option (a) is a trap because advocacy for diversity does not

necessarily contradict the possibility of racially prejudiced remarks; the two can unfortunately coexist. Option (c), while potentially diluting the argument of racial prejudice, suggests a focus on socioeconomic issues but does not directly counter the claim of racial prejudice without the inclusion of caste and class implications tied to those socioeconomic disparities. D is incorrect because even though these comments were directed towards multiple dances, it would still mean these were racial comments directed towards multiple dancers. This would strengthen the argument rather than weakening it.

95. (c) The correct answer is c. C is the correct answer because it directly addresses the central theme of the passage, highlighting the prevalence of casteism, classism, and racism within the arts community as a reflection of broader societal issues in Kerala, as evidenced by the incident with Sathyabhama. Option (a) is a trap, suggesting the incident is an anomaly, which contradicts the passage's depiction of systemic issues. Option (b) similarly misleads by minimizing the significance of Sathyabhama's attitudes as isolated, ignoring the passage's emphasis on systemic problems. Option (d) inaccurately suggests a positive outcome (eradication of biases) from the backlash, which the passage does not support; the focus is on the ongoing struggle rather than resolution.
96. (c) The correct answer is c. C is the correct answer because it directly ties the specific events mentioned (Gopalakrishnan's resignation and caste-based exclusions in Kalamandalam) to the broader theme of systemic discrimination and the challenges faced in addressing these issues within Kerala's cultural institutions. This option underscores the argument that these are not isolated incidents but rather indicative of deeper, systemic problems. Option (a) misleads by implying that these actions led to reforms, which the passage does not support. Option (b) inaccurately suggests that these events reflect efforts by institutions to address biases, whereas the passage implies they are examples of the biases themselves. Option (d), while somewhat true, fails to capture the direct connection to systemic discrimination highlighted in the passage, instead suggesting a more passive acknowledgment rather than active resistance and entrenched issues.
97. (c) The correct answer is c. C is the best choice because it directly links critical thinking skills (a component of scientific temper) with the ability to resist false information, thereby strengthening the argument that a lack of scientific temper increases susceptibility to questionable beliefs. Option (a) introduces a trap by suggesting that scientific education alone can foster questioning, which, while plausible, doesn't directly address the broader concept of scientific temper that encompasses more than formal education. Option (b) is misleading because adopting beliefs from one's community doesn't necessarily illustrate a lack of scientific temper; it could simply indicate cultural or social influences. Option (d) is a distraction; lacking formal education in the sciences does not equate to a

lack of scientific temper, which can also include informal reasoning and critical thinking skills.

98. (c) C is the right answer. It is given in the passage that democracy thrives on scientific temper among its citizens. To weaken this, if we have to show that this is not true. This option does the same thing. Option (a) seems like a strong contender because it implies a negative consequence of high scientific literacy; however, it doesn't directly refute the importance of scientific temper for democracy's thriving, as political unrest can stem from various unrelated factors. Option (b) is misleading; high voter turnout is a positive democratic indicator but does not address the core argument about the quality or effectiveness of democratic decisions. Because even in the argument it is said that democracies can exist even if there is no scientific temper. So, this option doesn't weaken. D is incorrect because it says that some of the most stable democracies have not implemented educational reforms to foster scientific temper. This doesn't mean that those democracies don't have scientific temper. It can be possible that the citizenry still had scientific temper despite no effort by the state or anyone to inculcate it in citizenry.
99. (c) The correct answer is c. C is the correct answer because it aligns with the passage's concern over the increase in people falling for rumors disguised as facts on social media, which suggests a negative impact on scientific temper due to misinformation. Option (a) is misleading; while social media can spread factual information, the passage emphasizes the issue of rumors and hate, suggesting that the net effect might be negative. Option (b) underestimates the influence of social media mentioned in the passage, ignoring the specific concern raised about its role in spreading misinformation. Option (d) contains a subtle trap by downplaying the significant role social media can play in shaping opinions and behaviors, including the development or hindrance of scientific temper, which contradicts the passage's implications about the negative consequences of social media on public discourse and scientific temper.
100. (d) The correct answer is d. D is correct because it directly reflects the author's concern that the Indian populace lacks a widespread scientific temper, which contributes to susceptibility to rumors, myths, and divisiveness. Options A and B present overly positive views that contradict the passage's message about the need for improvement in the widespread adoption of scientific temper. While Option (c) is true in that the Indian constitution includes a provision for developing scientific temper, it doesn't address the author's primary argument that, despite this, scientific temper is not as prevalent as needed. The passage indicates a discrepancy between the constitutional ideal and the current reality, making D the most accurate reflection of the author's main argument.
101. (b) The correct answer is b. B is the correct answer because it directly applies the concept of scientific temper in a non-professional, everyday context, demonstrating

critical thinking and skepticism by evaluating the credibility of news sources before sharing information. This reflects the passage's broader view of scientific temper as a way of thinking that extends beyond professional or academic settings into daily life. Options A, C, and D, while involving the application of scientific knowledge and critical thinking, are all professional examples tied to specific job roles. These options, therefore, do not as clearly illustrate the passage's emphasis on the importance of scientific temper beyond professional boundaries as Option (b) does. The passage highlights the relevance of scientific temper in everyday decisions and critical thinking, making Option (b) the best embodiment of its practical application.

102. (c) The correct answer is c. C is correct because it directly states the factual information provided in the passage that the 42nd Amendment, which included Article 51 A(h) advocating for the development of scientific temper among Indian citizens, was passed in 1976. Options A, B, and D are incorrect and serve as traps by suggesting plausible but inaccurate years. Option (a) leverages the significant year when India became a republic, Option (b) misdirects with a year that could be associated with post-Emergency period reforms, and Option (d) suggests a year that could align with other reforms or amendments. However, none of these options correctly reflect the passage's specific detail regarding the year 1976, making Option (c) the only accurate choice.
103. (d) The correct answer is D. If it were true that EFTA countries would invest in India, it would justify India's stance in reducing tariffs for non-gold imports. It would be beneficial for India. A, is incorrect because negates the information provided in the passage. the passage states that India's trade deficit with Switzerland is primarily due gold imports. B, while attractive, doesn't directly justify the strategy regarding the trade deficit issue; high demand for non-gold goods does suggest potential for increased imports, but it doesn't address the deficit caused by gold. C proposes a beneficial outcome of increased trade in non-gold sectors, yet it doesn't specifically justify the focus on reducing tariffs as a strategy to balance the trade deficit driven by gold imports.
104. (c) The correct answer, C, is the most comprehensive approach for enhancing FDI because a strong intellectual property rights regime attracts a wide range of industries, fostering innovation and providing assurance to investors about the protection of their investments. Option (a), while attractive, addresses only one aspect of the investment environment and doesn't directly influence the decision-making process of investors regarding the safety of their intellectual and innovative contributions. Option (b) seems appealing by offering immediate financial benefits, yet it's a narrower incentive that may not address broader concerns about investment protection and could lead to a fiscal burden on India without guaranteeing long-term investment. Option (d), focusing on profit

repatriation, is important but is just one factor investors consider; without intellectual property assurances, even the ease of repatriating profits might not sufficiently attract FDI in high-value sectors.

105. (d) The correct answer, D, directly addresses the core mechanism through which direct jobs could be created: the establishment of manufacturing or service units by EFTA countries in India. The more the localization of activities happen, the better for India because then the foreign companies would need to use local talent to achieve their objectives. While A, the scale of infrastructure development, is important for facilitating trade and investment, it is a prerequisite rather than a direct job creation factor. B, current employment rates in targeted sectors, might influence the ease with which new jobs can be filled but doesn't directly lead to the creation of new jobs. C, the compatibility of Indian workforce skills, is trap. While compatibility does matter, it can be changed overtime by proper training. While it seems true, it is factually incorrect. Hence, D is the most directly relevant factor to assess when predicting the job creation potential of the trade agreement.
106. (b) The correct answer, B, reflects a critical aspect of trade dynamics where reducing tariffs on imports from developed economies, such as those in the EFTA, could pose challenges to local industries in developing countries like India by introducing competition that may be difficult to match in terms of price and quality, particularly in specialized sectors like pharmaceuticals and machinery. While A, the increase in availability of high-quality goods, is a positive outcome, it does not directly address the impact on local manufacturers. C, fostering innovation and efficiency among Indian companies, is an optimistic view but assumes a level of adaptability and resource availability that may not be present. D, suggesting immediate price reductions for consumers, is a potential short-term effect but overlooks the broader implications for domestic industries and long-term economic sustainability. Therefore, B is the most directly inferable impact with significant economic implications for the domestic market.
107. (b) The correct answer, B, directly impacts the global purchasing power and investment capacity, which are critical for achieving export targets. A significant downturn would reduce demand for exports across all sectors, thereby undermining India's export strategy regardless of the improved trade relations with EFTA and other regions. increase in global demand for services and goods produced by India strengthens the India's strategy, not weakens it. C, technological advancement in a competing nation, could indeed pose challenges but is more specific and does not universally affect all of India's export capabilities. D, enhanced trade barriers from non-EFTA countries, could pose a challenge but would not universally affect India's ability to reach its broad export target, which is diversified across many sectors and regions. Therefore,

B presents a scenario with the most universally negative impact on India's export strategy.

108. (a) The correct answer, A, addresses a direct consequence of the agreement's structure: by focusing on reducing tariffs for non-agricultural products from EFTA countries, India might increase its imports of these goods without necessarily having the means to balance this with increased exports, especially in agriculture, where India has significant potential but which is not covered by the agreement. B seems plausible, but it's incorrect because the agreement does specifically address the services sector, indicating a significant role for services in the trade strategy. C is misleading because the reliance on non-agricultural exports does not inherently conflict with trading with countries that have strong agricultural sectors, as trade can be complementary. D is incorrect because the agreement does not necessarily overlook tech and service sectors; in fact, these areas are likely included within the non-agricultural focus of the agreement. Therefore, A presents the most significant discrepancy that could impact the trade balance by increasing imports without providing a similar boost to exports.

SECTION - E : QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

Hint [109-114]: According to given information;

Interest received by Chetan = Rs. 8000

Principal amount invested by Chetan = Rs. 40000

$$SI = \frac{PRT}{100} = \frac{40000 \times R \times 2}{100} = 8000$$

$$\text{Rate of Interest, } R = \frac{100}{10} = 10\% = \frac{S}{2}\%$$

$$\therefore S = 20$$

$$\text{Cost price of each cycle} = \frac{8000}{2} = \text{Rs. } 4000$$

$$\text{Total profit earned by Chetan after selling two cycles} = \frac{15 \times 20}{8} \% = 37.5\%$$

$$R\% \text{ of } 4000 + \frac{3}{2}R\% \text{ of } 4000 = 37.5\% \text{ of } 8000$$

$$\frac{5}{2}R\% = 75\%$$

$$\therefore R = 30$$

$$\text{Amount invested by Bhavya} = \frac{15}{4} \times 8000 = \text{Rs. } 30000 = Q$$

$$\text{Interest received by Bhavya} = 30000 \times 1.05 \times 1.05 - 30000 = \text{Rs. } 3075$$

$$\text{Amount invested by Ajay} = 400 + 12 \times (4000 \times 1.45) = \text{Rs. } 70000 = P$$

$$\text{Interest amount earned by Ajay} = 70000 \times 1.1 \times 1.1 - 70000 = \text{Rs. } 14700$$

Now tabulating the final information in the table below:

Person	Amount Invested	Interest Rate	Time (Years)	Interest Received
Ajay	Rs. P = Rs. 70000	10% (compound)	2	Rs. 14700
Bhavya	Rs. Q = Rs. 30000	5% (compound)	2	Rs. 3075
Chetan	Rs. 40000	S/2 % (simple) = 10% (Simple)	2	Rs. 8000

109. (c) is the correct answer.
 110. (d) Selling price = $4000 \times 1.45 = \text{Rs. } 5800$
 111. (c) Is the correct answer.
 112. (c) Required amount = $7350 \times 1.7 + 7350 \times 0.6 = \text{Rs. } 16905$
 113. (b) Required amount = $70000 + 30000 + 40000 = \text{Rs. } 140000$
 114. (c) Is the correct answer.
Hint [115-120]: People who enjoy only oranges = 40% of 400 = 160
 Number of men who enjoy only oranges = $\frac{3}{8} \times 160 = 60$
 Number of women who enjoy only oranges = $\frac{5}{8} \times 160 = 100$
 The sum of the number of people who enjoy only bananas and those who enjoy both oranges and bananas = $400 - 160 = 240$
 People who enjoy only bananas = $\frac{5}{8} \times 240 = 150$
 Number of men who enjoy only bananas = $\frac{7}{10} \times 150 = 105$
 Number of women who enjoy only bananas = $\frac{3}{10} \times 150 = 45$
 People who enjoy both oranges and bananas = $\frac{3}{8} \times 240 = 90$
 Number of women who enjoy both oranges and bananas = $\frac{1}{3} \times 105 = 35$
 Number of men who enjoy both oranges and bananas = $90 - 35 = 55$
 Now tabulating the final information in the table below:

Only Bananas (150)		Only Oranges (160)		Both oranges and bananas (90)	
M	W	M	W	M	W
105	45	60	100	55	35

115. (c) Required sum = $150 + 90 = 240$
 116. (b) Is the correct answer.
 117. (c) Is the correct answer.
 118. (d) Required number = $150 + 160 = 310$
 119. (d) Required difference = $100 - 60 = 40$
 120. (b) Required percent = $\frac{60}{400} \times 100 = 15\%$