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Duration of Test : 2 Hours (120 Minutes) **Maximum Marks : 120**

1. This Question Booklet (QB) contains 120 (One hundred and twenty) Multiple Choice Questions.
2. You shall enter your Enrollment No. on the first page of the QB at the start of the test.
3. You have to answer ALL questions in the separate Optical Mark Reader (OMR) Response Sheet supplied along with this QB. You must READ the detailed instructions provided with the OMR Response Sheet on the reverse side of this packet BEFORE you start the test.
4. No clarification can be sought on the QB from anyone. In case of any discrepancy such as printing error or missing pages, in the QB, request the Invigilator to replace the QB and OMR Response Sheet.
5. The QB for the Undergraduate Programme is for 120 marks. Every Right Answer secures 1 mark. Every Wrong Answer results in the deduction of 0.25 mark. There shall be no deductions for Unanswered Questions.
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English Language

Each set of questions in this section is based on a single passage. Please answer each question on the basis of what is stated or implied in the corresponding passage. In some instances, more than one option may be the answer to the question; in such a case, please choose the option that most accurately and comprehensively answers the question.

I. Polity

Back in 1977, as a doctoral student aged twenty-one, I found myself prowling the corridors of the Ministry of External Affairs at South Block in New Delhi for the first time, researching the thesis that was to become my first book, Reasons of State. I was callow, curious and opinionated a useful combination of attributes in one who hopes to break new ground in scholarship and my analysis was, with hindsight, overly critical of the received wisdom about Indian foreign policy making. Thirty-two years later, I found myself, after an election victory, sealed in South Block as a minister of state, with an insider's view of the issues I had written so boldly about. It was instructive to realize how much had changed, and how little. In Reasons of State, a study of how foreign policy was made during Indira Gandhi's first stint as prime minister (1966-77), I was struck by the fact that while formal institutionalization existed in the Indian political system, official processes and decision-making channels were significantly modified in their operation to accentuate Mrs Gandhi's personal, and her advisers informal, dominance over institutions. It did not help that in her stints in office, the logic of the parliamentary system was inverted in a way that has not been seen since: the concept of a prime minister as primus inter pares in a Cabinet, accountable to a political party and responsive to the demands of a parliamentary system, was not realized in actual practice, which instead concentrated powers in the executive along presidential lines. This is simply no longer true in Indian politics, but it prefigured a continuing tradition of wide leeway for the prime minister's office (PMO) in foreign policy making, which persists to this day. Studying the domestic underpinnings of Indian foreign policy making, I found that public opinion hardly factored in it in those days: there was inadequate articulation of mass views on foreign policy, both urban and rural, underscored by the restricted nature of political communication, and such elite articulation as did take place was largely ineffective. The result was that public pressure on foreign policy-whether through the opinions of the general public, their votes in elections, the activities of interest groups, the arguments of the press, or the positions of intellectuals through or outside the media-failed to influence the creation of foreign policy, even though public opinion always had a major impact when it came to domestic policy formulation. Equally, the organized political Opposition in Parliament, even when it was in power in some of the states, had very little demonstrable impact on foreign policy making, despite paying voluble, if in several ways limited, attention to it. Policy-makers made policy with very little regard to the

constraints of elite or mass public opinion. This is noticeably less true today, though again policy-makers have more freedom to disregard, or go beyond, public opinion on foreign policy issues than they do in the domestic arena.

Source: *Pax Indica by Shashi Tharoor*

1. What is the author's assessment of the Indian political system during Indira Gandhi's first stint as Prime Minister?
   (a) It prioritized parliamentary accountability.
   (b) It emphasized formal institutionalization.
   (c) It centralized power in the executive branch.
   (d) It encouraged public participation in foreign policy making.

2. Based on the passage, what role did public opinion play in Indian foreign policy making during the period discussed?
   (a) It had a significant influence.
   (b) It was largely ineffective.
   (c) It was carefully considered by policymakers.
   (d) It was only relevant in domestic policy formulation.

3. Which rhetorical device does the author use when describing the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in foreign policy making?
   (a) Metaphor
   (b) Hyperbole
   (c) Alliteration
   (d) Personification

4. What can be inferred about the author's perspective on the evolution of public opinion's role in foreign policy making?
   (a) It has remained constant over time.
   (b) It has diminished in significance.
   (c) It has become more influential.
   (d) It was never a consideration.

5. What can be inferred from the author's equating of PMO and President's office?
   (a) Both President and Prime Minister take decisions about foreign policy together
   (b) Prime Minister works parallel to the President
   (c) Prime Minster has assumed the sole authority on foreign policy
   (d) All of the above

II. Literature

The 26 January horror of Kutch in Gujarat is well known. Without any warning, Mother Earth opened her mouth and engulfed the people and their belongings. Overnight, rich people were reduced to the streets. But the spirit of the Kutchi people is admirable. They faced this disaster bravely and are still fighting to restore normalcy. The media has to be congratulated for its role in the relief efforts. Within hours of the tragedy, all newspapers and television channels had zoomed in to cover the disaster and broadcast it all over the world. Along with India, the rest of the world participated in helping these unfortunate people. After all the rush of the TV crews and media people, hordes of NGOs and government officials landed up in Kutch. People started picking up their life from where they had left it. Life started to return to normal at a slow pace.I went to visit these areas after some time, when the dust of propaganda had settled down, in order to see actual life. After all, the emotions had drained off and reality had become the priority.Several small villages deep inside Kutch, away from the main road connecting Ahmedabad and Bhuj, had been badly affected by the earthquake. I was visiting these remote places in the deep interior when one of the tyres of my jeep went flat. Getting it fixed would take some time. My driver went to get this done. I was alone and bored. I saw a few tents nearby. They were temporary sheds covered with blue plastic sheets. They were temporary houses, schools and health centres for the people residing in that area. Later, I heard that there were tent hotels as well.

Life was busy and people were getting on with their chores. As it was monsoon season, men and women were busy in the fields. It was very strange. For many years there had not been much rain in Kutch, but that year it had rained abundantly. Farmers were having a bumper crop. I suppose nature has its own method of justice. On the one hand she takes away something and on the other she gives something in return. Small children were playing in the dust happily. I peeped into one of the nearby tents. A young girl, about fourteen years old, was cleaning grains and preparing to cook a meal. When she saw me, she rose with a smile and said, 'Please come in and sit down.' As I wanted to see how they lived, I entered the shed. She gave me a charpoy to sit on. Inside the tent it was clean and neat. There was a thin partition made of an old sari. I understood from her conversation that her family was not from Kutch. The girl offered me a glass of water. Though it was the monsoon season, the sun was hot, but I was a little hesitant to drink the water. Many thoughts flashed across my mind. If the water was not sterile, then I was at risk of contracting diseases like dysentery and jaundice. If I refused to accept the water, however, I knew I would hurt the girl's feelings. So I took the glass but did not drink the water. The girl had a younger sister who might have been around twelve years old. There was a little boy sleeping in a home-made cradle. Outside, there was a temporary open kitchen where sabzi was being cooked. The elder one was making dough from wheat flour.

Source: *Here, there and everywhere by Sudha Murthy*

6. According to the passage, what was the response of the media to the disaster in Kutch?
   (a) The media ignored the disaster completely.
   (b) The media covered the disaster extensively and played a crucial role in relief efforts.
   (c) The media sensationalized the disaster for ratings.
   (d) The media criticized the government's handling of the disaster.

7. What does the author imply by stating, "Life started to return to normal at a slow pace"?
   (a) Life returned to normal quickly after the disaster.
   (b) The recovery process was swift and efficient.
   (c) Despite the challenges, people gradually resumed their daily routines.
   (d) The disaster had no lasting impact on the affected communities.

8. What can be inferred about the author's impression of the Kutchi people?
   (a) They were unprepared and panicked during the disaster.
   (b) They displayed resilience and courage in facing the disaster.
   (c) They blamed the government for their misfortune.
   (d) They relied solely on external aid for recovery efforts.

9. Why did the author hesitate to drink the water offered by the young girl?
   (a) Due to the risk of contracting diseases like dysentery and jaundice.
   (b) Because she was not thirsty at the time.
   (c) Because she did not trust the girl's intentions.
   (d) Because she wanted to hurt the girl's feelings.

10. What does the word "charpoy" refer to in the passage?
   (a) A type of grain used for cooking.
   (b) A makeshift bed made of woven rope or string.
   (c) A traditional Indian garment worn by women.
   (d) A cooking utensil used for making dough.

III. Economics

More than 80% of women in England and Wales will become mothers at some point during their working lives, according to OECD figures. Most of these women will have two children around two or three years apart, spending at least 20 years of their adult lives with a child under 18 and creating significant childcare needs for some of this time. The current price of childcare is high, averaging £149 per week in Great Britain for 25 hours of care for a child under two years old. This represents about 60% of the minimum wage earnings of someone working part-time (around 25 hours per week), and 25% of the median full-time earnings for a woman in Great Britain. Availability is also a problem. Only 57% of local authorities report having enough childcare places for children under the age of two. Career breaks during motherhood are a major driver of the increase in the gender pay gap over the child-bearing years. Mothers' earnings ten and even 20 years after the birth of a first child are about 20% lower than a similar childless woman. Fathers' earnings over the same life stages do not show any evidence of these "child penalties". Having children creates a double hurdle when a mother is deciding whether and how much to work. First, childcare fees substantially reduce take-home pay. But also, time is valued differently. When not at work, it changes from leisure time to time spent with your child (and a little leisure too, of course). Both hurdles reduce the attractiveness of work. But while the latter reflects a combination of individual preferences and social norms, the former – childcare costs – can be overcome with the right policies. If these policies do not alleviate childcare costs and give parents (affordable) ways to work, mothers will lose out in the long term – but so will the wider economy. On an individual level, wage growth is affected by the decision to work part time or not at all because only full-time employment typically leads to wage progression. The relative penalties of choosing a part-time job or no work are particularly marked for graduates. Lower wages will also have a negative impact on both women's independence and on their productivity, feeding into the economy. Low wages and hours worked by mothers, combined with parents' separation are an important source of child poverty. In less educated families, women's employment is the most effective measure against the incidence of child poverty. Research shows that childcare subsidies are the most effective policy for raising mothers' labour supply, particularly among low-skill households. Unsurprisingly, subsidies conditional on work are a more effective incentive to get people to seek or remain in employment than unconditional child credits, which can reduce the attractiveness of work. Research also shows that childcare subsidies can be partly self-financing over the long term. If mothers work more now and then enjoy more wage growth over time, they are more likely to continue to work and earn more in the future. This means they will pay more income tax, which could offset some of the initial government spending on childcare subsidies.

Source: *https://theconversation.com/how-childcare-subsidies-can-reduce-the-gap-between-mothers-and-fathers-career-paths-for-this-generation-and-the-next-207705*

11. According to the passage, what is identified as a major contributor to the gender pay gap over the child-bearing years?
(a) Lack of career opportunities for women.
(b) Fathers' unwillingness to take parental leave.
(c) Career breaks during motherhood.
(d) Discriminatory hiring practices.

12. What does the passage suggest as the primary obstacle to mothers' participation in the workforce?
(a) Lack of educational qualifications.
(b) Social norms and preferences.
(c) Limited job opportunities.
(d) Unaffordable childcare costs.

13. Based on the passage, why are childcare subsidies considered effective in raising mothers' labor supply?
(a) They directly increase mothers' wages.
(b) They reduce the need for parents' separation.
(c) They provide financial incentives for employment.
(d) They prioritize low-skill households.

14. What does the passage imply about the impact of mothers' employment on child poverty?
(a) Mothers' employment has no effect on child poverty. www.lawpreptutorial.com
(b) Mothers' employment is the primary cause of child poverty.
(c) Mothers' employment helps reduce the incidence of child poverty.
(d) Mothers' employment exacerbates child poverty.

15. What does the term "self-financing" mean in the context of childcare subsidies, as mentioned in the passage?
(a) The subsidies are funded entirely by the government.
(b) The subsidies are funded by the increased income tax revenue from working mothers.
(c) The subsidies are funded by reducing other government expenditures.
(d) The subsidies are funded by private donations.

IV. Philosophy

Charles Baudoin was a professor at the Rousseau Institute in France. He was a brilliant psychotherapist and a research director of the New Nancy School of Healing. He discovered that the best way to impress the subconscious mind is to enter into a drowsy, sleepy state, or a state akin to sleep, in which all effort was reduced to a minimum. Then the idea can be conveyed to the subconscious in a quiet, passive, receptive way, by reflection. As Baudoin explained: A very simple way of securing this (impregnation of the subconscious mind) is to condense the idea which is to be the object of suggestion, to sum it up in a brief phrase which can be readily graven on the memory, and to repeat it over and over again as a lullaby. A few years ago, a young widow in Los Angeles found herself caught up in a prolonged and bitter family dispute. Her late husband had left his entire estate to her, but his sons and daughters from a previous marriage had filed suit to break the will. Her offers of a settlement were spurned. When she asked me for my help, I explained the Baudoin technique to her. I urged her to condense the idea of her need into a phrase of a few words that could be easily impressed on her memory. The phrase she found was "It is finished in divine order." To her, these words meant that infinite intelligence, operating through the laws of her subconscious mind, would bring about a harmonious conclusion through the principle of harmony. Every night for ten nights she sat in an armchair, systematically relaxed her body, and entered into the sleepy state. Once in a sleepy state, she affirmed slowly, quietly, and feelingly the statement, "It is finished in divine order," over and over again. She found herself achieving a sense of inner peace and an all-pervading tranquility; then she went off into her deep, normal sleep. On the morning of the eleventh day, she woke up with a sense of well-being and a conviction that it was indeed finished. Her attorney called her that same day. The opposing attorney and his clients were willing to settle. A harmonious agreement was reached, and the lawsuit was dropped.

Source: Power of Your Subconscious Mind by Dr. Joseph Murphy

16. What is the central theme of the passage?
    (a) The importance of legal battles in inheritance disputes.
    (b) The effectiveness of the Baudoin technique in resolving conflicts.
    (c) The role of attorneys in settling family disputes.
    (d) The challenges faced by widows in managing inherited estates.

17. Which rhetorical device is used in the phrase "It is finished in divine order"?
    (a) Simile
    (b) Metaphor
    (c) Alliteration
    (d) Hyperbole

18. What inference can be made about the widow's emotional state during the ten nights of practicing the Baudoin technique?
(a) She experienced frustration and anxiety.
(b) She felt overwhelmed and stressed.
(c) She achieved a sense of inner peace and tranquility.
(d) She remained indifferent and unaffected.

19. What is the antonym of the word "tranquility" as used in the passage?
(a) Chaos (b) Serenity
(c) Harmony (d) Peacefulness

20. Based on the author's tone, how does he likely view the effectiveness of the Baudoin technique?
(a) Skeptical (b) Neutral
(c) Critical (d) Supportive

V. History

In 1771, an almost penniless man arrived in Bengal from England, lured to these shores by the promise of fortune. His name was John Prinsep and lady luck indeed shone bright on him. He went into indigo cultivation and by the time he was ready to sail back home in 1787, his personal fortune stood at £40,000! Back in England, Prinsep established himself as an East India merchant and in time, also became a member of parliament. In 1799, when John Prinsep was way past 50, his seventh son and 10th offspring was born. The boy was christened James. From a very young age, James showed a remarkable ability in making detailed drawings and mechanical inventions. This led to him to study architecture under the tutelage of the eccentric but gifted Augustus Pugin. Sadly, an eye infection led to partial loss of eyesight, and James had to quit architecture studies. Thanks to his business, John Prinsep had considerable influence in the Company's affairs in India and he secured a position for James in 1818, in Calcutta. On September 15, 1819, James Prinsep, accompanied by one of his brothers, arrived in Calcutta and took up his assigned position in the assay department of the Calcutta mint. After a year, Prinsep was transferred to Benares to take up duties at the Company mint there. It was in Benares that James Prinsep's life underwent a major transformation. Aside from his official duties, Benares reignited the love of architecture in young James's mind. By a fortuitous outcome, his eyesight improved considerably and he devoted himself to studying temple architecture and made several illustrations on it. During his 10 years in Benares, Prinsep designed the building for the new mint and also a Company church. One of Prinsep's memorable contributions to the city was designing an arched tunnel to drain out water from stagnant lakes and thereby improve the sanitation of the densely populated religious town. He also designed a stone bridge over the Karamansa River and produced a map of Benares and its surroundings – accurate at the scale of 8 inches to the

mile. Another facet of Prinsep's multi-talented personage came to the fore in form of a series of watercolours of Benares' monuments and festivals. Prinsep's watercolours were sent to London in 1829 and published between 1830 and 1834 as Benares Illustrated, in a Series of Drawings. He also restored Aurangzeb's famous minarets, which had been reduced to near ruins. In 1830, after the Benares mint closed down, Prinsep moved back to Calcutta as deputy assay master and two years later, became the chief assay master. In 1833, he called for reforms to Indian weights and measures and advocated a uniform coinage based on the new silver rupee of the East India Company. He also devised a balance so sensitive as to measure three-thousandth of a grain.In 1832, Prinsep became the Secretary of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, and also the founding editor of the Journal of the Asiatic Society. He regularly contributed articles on chemistry, mineralogy, numismatics, and on the study of Indian antiquities. He also was very interested in weather phenomena, and collected weather data from across the country for research. He designed a modified barometer that automatically compensated for temperature. He also conducted experiments on practical methods to prevent rusting of iron surfaces. Many of his experiment results were published in the journal.

Source: *https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/people/the-remarkable-works-and-immutable-legacy-of-james-prinsep-in-india/cid/2001374*

21. What is the author's tone towards James Prinsep's achievements?
    (a) Admiring and reverential
    (b) Critical and disapproving
    (c) Indifferent and neutral
    (d) Skeptical and doubtful

22. Which statement is least likely to be inferred from the passage regarding James Prinsep's tenure in Benares?
    (a) Prinsep made significant contributions to improving the sanitation of Benares.
    (b) Prinsep's eyesight improved considerably during his time in Benares.
    (c) Prinsep focused solely on his official duties at the mint during his tenure in Benares.
    (d) Prinsep was actively involved in studying temple architecture and producing illustrations.

23. What can one conclude about James Prinsep's interests and talents based on the passage?
    (a) He was primarily interested in business and commerce.
    (b) He had a keen interest in architecture, drawing, and mechanical inventions.
    (c) He was only focused on his official duties and showed no interest in other activities.
    (d) He had no significant contributions to the development of Benares.

24. Which sentence implies James Prinsep's dedication to his work and his multifaceted talents?
    (a) "James Prinsep's life underwent a major transformation during his tenure in Benares."
    (b) "He devoted himself to studying temple architecture and made several illustrations on it."
    (c) "Prinsep moved back to Calcutta as deputy assay master and two years later, became the chief assay master."
    (d) "He regularly contributed articles on chemistry, mineralogy, numismatics, and on the study of Indian antiquities."

Current Affairs and General Knowledge

Each set of questions in this section is based on topics that arise out of the excerpted passage. Answers may be implied by facts mentioned in the passage but need not be so. Please answer each question on its own merit on the basis of your knowledge of current affairs and general knowledge.

VI. a)_____ is reported to have replaced its Ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) after India formally registered a protest over her comments on India's PSH (Public Stockholding) programme, PTI reported on Friday (March 1).

Thai Ambassador Pimchanok Vonkorpon Pitfield had targeted India's rice procurement programme recently. She said that its Public Distribution System (PDS), under which the government procures essential food items from producers and sells them to the public at low rates, is not for the people but for "capturing" the export market.

After India, a)_____ is the second largest rice exporter in the world. However, India has put temporary restrictions on rice exports to arrest domestic prices. Tensions between India and a)_____ rose to such an extent that Indian negotiators at the 13th Ministerial Conference of WTO, held from 26 to 29 February 2024 in Abu Dhabi, UAE, are learnt to have refused to participate in some deliberations in groups where the representative was present. PTI cited a senior government official as stating that the language and behavior of the ambassador were "not in good taste". The Indian government's subsidy to farmers comes in at $300 per farmer, compared to $40,000 per farmer in the US. However, the 13th Ministerial Conference of WTO ended without any decision on a permanent solution for public stockholding of food.

Since WTO norms restrict the government's ability to provide higher farm support, farmers during the ongoing protests around New Delhi have demanded the agriculture sector be taken out of the WTO agreement.

Source: *Indian Express, March 4, 2024*

25. What is the WTO de-minimis limit for rice subsidies?
(a) 15% (b) 20%
(c) 25% (d) 10%

26. The country in question is also a part of Cairn Group. Which of the following country is not a part of Cairn Group?
(a) Brazil (b) Canada
(c) USA (d) Indonesia

27. Which of the following is NOT the reason as to why the farmers are protesting in Delhi and Haryana?
(a) No law for MSP being enacted
(b) The price for rice, wheat is not enough and state governments must enact a minimum ceiling and purchase from the commodities from farmers apart from the central government.
(c) Debt of farmers must be waved as it puts a heavy burden on them as due to weather conditions the crops might not actually turn out to be perfect
(d) the implementation of Swaminathan Commission recommendations on issues related to agriculture, and pensions for farmers must be done

28. Which of the following group is formed for special treatment for developing countries in agricultural trade negotiations?
(a) G-54 (b) G-33
(c) G-45 (d) G-46

29. Which of the following will come in place of a)_____in the passage?
(a) China (b) Singapore
(c) South Korea (d) Thailand

VII. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launched Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies, during DefConnect 2024 in New Delhi on March 04, 2024. Under the scheme, start-ups are eligible to receive grant-in-aid of up to Rs a)_____ crore for their research, development, and innovation endeavours in defence technology. "The scheme will nurture the innovation of youth, and help the country leap forward in the field of technology," the Raksha Mantri said as he addressed a gathering of industry leaders, entrepreneurs, innovators, and policymakers. Shri Rajnath Singh voiced Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi-led Government's unwavering commitment to encourage the youth to bring forth innovative ideas. He asserted that to motivate young innovators, iDEX was expanded to iDEX Prime, with the assistance increasing from Rs 1.5 crore to Rs 10 crore. Following the encouraging participation in providing solutions to the challenges given by the Services and DPSUs, ADITI scheme has now been launched, he said.

The Raksha Mantri stated that the idea behind the schemes/initiatives such as ADITI, iDEX, iDEX Prime is to also transform India into a knowledge society. "As times are changing, new technologies are coming into existence. To become a developed country, it is necessary for us to achieve a technological edge. We have to transform our country into a knowledge society," he said. Shri Rajnath Singh described 'getting a hold on state-of-the-art defence technology' as the most crucial aspect to achieve self-reliance due to the increasing role of cutting-edge technology in warfare in today's time. He stated that technology can be mastered either by

adopting the latest innovation from other countries or by developing our own. The Government is working on both methods, he stressed.

"Under offset, we are acquiring technology from various countries through Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). But, like this, we cannot obtain best technologies as countries never share their latest innovations. This is why there is a need to develop the required technologies on our own. For this, we need research and development (R&D). There are a number of conditions that need to be fulfilled to establish a productive R&D ecosystem. India has a large workforce of energetic and skilled youth who are committed to taking India forward in the field of technology. When we have such a skilled workforce, we should not shy away from setting ambitious goals. Our youth are fully empowered to make India self-reliant in the defence sector, and the government is providing them with the environment to touch greater heights," the Raksha Mantri said.

Source: *https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2011171*

30. What is the total corpus available for ADITI scheme?
(a) 650 crores (b) 750 crores
(c) 850 crores (d) 950 crores

31. According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute what is India's rank in terms of military spending?
(a) Second (b) Fourth
(c) Fifth (d) Sixth

32. Which country became the first to secure 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in the defence sector in India?
(a) Japan (b) Germany
(c) Norway (d) Sweden

33. Which of the following is NOT of the edition of the IDEX?
(a) iDEX Prime (X) (b) iDEX Prime (SPRINT)
(c) iDEX Prime (ONE) (d) None of the Above

34. Which of the following will come in place of a)_____in the passage?
(a) 15 (b) 20
(c) 25 (d) 45

VIII. A patient has become the first to be cured using India's CAR-T cell therapy, an indigenous cancer treatment, which was recently approved for commercial use by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

The therapy in India is known to genetically reprogram a patient's immune system to fight cancer. The patient, Dr (Col) VK Gupta, a Delhi-based gastroenterologist, took this therapy by paying just Rs 42 lakh which would've otherwise cost him Rs 4 crore abroad. Cancer has been a major public health concern and is a growing burden in India. The latest estimates suggest that new cancer diagnoses in the country reached nearly 1.6 million in 2023.

Despite cancer cases spanning the length and breadth of the country, new cancer treatments have emerged. However, these treatments are still inaccessible. CAR-T cell therapy is one treatment which has severe side effects and remains a highly expensive and inaccessible treatment for cancer.

In 2015, Dr a)_____ and her colleagues tried modifying CAR-T cells to carry a more human-like antibody. They developed India's indigenous CAR-T cell therapy called b)_____, which showed promising results for blood cancers like leukaemia and lymphoma.

b)_____is also available at a reasonable cost and meets the needs of patients in India's healthcare system. The therapy is now available in over 30 hospitals in more than 10 cities in India. Patients who are suffering from B-cell cancers are eligible for treatment.

Source: *https://www.indiatoday.in/health/story/patient-declared-cancer-free-using-indian-made-car-t-cell-therapy-2499650-2024-02-09*

35. The CAR-T Cell therapy has been developed by indigenously in India by ImmunoACT, which is a company incubated at?
    (a) IIT Madras (b) IIT Delhi
    (c) IIT Bombay (d) IIT Roorki

36. What is the age criteria for people to be administered this therapy?
    (a) Above 20 years (b) Above 15 years
    (c) Above 25 years (d) Above 30 years

37. What is another name of CAR-T Cell Therapy?
    (a) Transfusion Cell Transfer (b) Adoptive Cell Transfer
    (c) Degenerative Cell Transfer (d) Open Cell Transfer

38. Which of the following will come in place of a)____in the passage?
    (a) Dr. Swati Sharma (b) Dr. Alka Mehra
    (c) Dr. Shanti Kaur (d) Dr Alka Dwivedi

39. Which of the following will come in place of b)____in the passage?
    (a) NexCAR19 (b) NexCAR18
    (c) NexCAR20 (d) NexCAR21

IX. A seven-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud will start to hear the case pertaining to the sub-categorisation among Scheduled Castes (SCs) from next week.

States have argued that there are some castes that are grossly underrepresented despite reservation in comparison to the so-called dominant scheduled castes. They want to create a separate quota for some castes within the SC quota of 15% to ensure that the benefits are equitably distributed among all castes. The top court will decide if states have the power to create these sub-classifications when providing reservations or if such power is vested only with the President. In 2014, the Supreme Court in 'a)_____', referred the appeal to a five-judge constitution bench to determine if the 2004 E V Chinnaiah decision required reconsideration since it needed an inquiry into the interplay of several constitutional provisions. Interpretation of the Constitution requires a bench of at least five-judges of the Supreme Court. Crucially, since the E V Chinnaiah decision, the concept of a "creamy layer" has also trickled down to SC reservations. In the landmark 2018 ruling in 'Jarnail Singh v Lachhmi Narain Gupta', the Supreme Court upheld the concept of "creamy layer" within SCs too. The 'Creamy layer' concept puts an income ceiling on those eligible for reservations. While this concept applies to Other Backward Castes (OBC), it was applied to promotions of SCs for the first time in b)____.

States have argued that the sub-classification is essentially an application of the creamy layer formula, where instead of excluding the better-off castes from the Scheduled Caste list, the state is merely giving preferential treatment to the most disadvantageous castes.Apart from Balmikis and Mazhabi Sikhs in Punjab and Madiga in Andhra Pradesh, Paswans in Bihar, the Jatavs in UP, and Arundhatiyars in Tamil Nadu will also be impacted by the sub-classification strategy.

Since the a)_____bench was also of five-judges (same as E V Chinnaiah), a larger seven-judge bench is now hearing the issue — only a larger bench's judgement can prevail over the decision of a smaller bench. www.lawpreptutorial.com

Source: *https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-law/legal-debate-sub-categorisation-among-scheduled-castes-9117612/*

40. Which state was the first state and one of the first instances of existing reservations being 'sub-classified' by a state to provide benefits to certain communities beyond what was already being offered to scheduled caste communities as a whole?

(a) Rajasthan (b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Punjab (d) Haryana

41. Which Article of the Constitution empowers that the State can make any provision for reservation in matters of promotion in favor of the SCs and STs if they are not adequately represented in the services under the State?

(a) Article 15(4) of the Constitution (b) Article 16(4) of the Constitution
(c) Article 17 of the Constitution (d) Article 16(3) of the Constitution

42. Which state has announced that it will conduct caste census after Bihar has done the same?
(a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Andhra Pradesh
(c) Chattisgarh (d) Karnataka

43. Which of the following will come in place of a)_____in the passage?
(a) E.V.Chinnaiah vs State Of Andhra Pradesh
(b) State of Madras v. Champakam Dorairajan
(c) M.R. Balaji v. State of Mysore
(d) T. Devadasan v. Union of India

44. Which of the following will come in place of b)_____in the passage?
(a) 2016 (b) 2017
(c) 2018 (d) 2019

X. Alabama inmate a)_____ was executed on January 25 by b)_____, marking the United States' first execution using the method, and the first time in over four decades that a new method of execution was introduced, since lethal injection was first used in 1982.
State Attorney General Steve Marshall told The Associated Press Thursday that nitrogen gas "was intended to be — and has now proved to be — an effective and humane method of execution." He said that he expects other states to soon follow suit.
Others, however, were stinging in their criticism, saying that the method is cruel and inhumane — quite opposite to what the method's champions claimed. Here is a deeper dive. The death penalty is a highly charged political issue in the United States, drawing polarised responses from people. Proponents argue that it is a just retribution for certain heinous crimes, and provides closure for victims' families. They say that it also acts as a deterrent for potential criminals from committing certain heinous offences.
There is no evidence, however, of capital punishment acting as a deterrent at all. According to the United States' National Academy of Sciences, "Research on the deterrent effect of capital punishment is uninformative about whether capital punishment increases, decreases, or has no effect on homicide rates." In fact, recent research, funded by the US Department of Justice, has found that increasing severity of punishment has no deterrence value.
With regards to the 'just retribution' argument, critics counter by saying that there is always a risk of a wrongful prosecution, and in general, studies have shown significant racial and economic bias when it comes to capital punishment.
Source: *https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-global/death-by-nitrogen-why-this-alabama-execution-is-polarising-9130539/*

45. Which Supreme Court judgment said that death penalty is to be given only in "rarest of rare cases"?
(a) Santa Singh v. State of Punjab (b) Dagdu v. State of Maharashtra
(c) Mukesh v. State of NCT of Delhi (d) Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab

46. What is the name of the first woman who has been awarded a death sentence since independence of India?
(a) Harnam Kaur (b) Shailja Kumar
(c) Shabnam Ali (d) Kashish Kesarwani

47. Which of the following will come in place of a)____in the passage?
(a) James Hudson (b) Davis Coleman
(c) Adler Easton (d) Kenneth Smith

48. Which of the following will come in place of b)____in the passage?
(a) Nitrogen Oxide (b) Nitrogen hypoxia
(c) Ammonium Nitrogen (d) Nitrate

XI. Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav released the report on the Status of Snow leopards in India during the National Board for Wildlife meeting held in New Delhi today. The Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI) Program is the first-ever scientific exercise that reports Snow leopard population of a)_____ individuals in India.

The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is the National Coordinator for this exercise that was carried out with support the support of all snow leopard range states and two conservation partners, the Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru and WWF-India.

The SPAI systematically covered over 70% of the potential snow leopard range in the country, involving forest & wildlife staff, researchers, volunteers, and contributions from knowledge partners. Covering approximately 120,000 km^2 of crucial Snow leopard habitat across the trans-Himalayan region, including UTs of Ladakh and J & K, and states such as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh, the SPAI exercise was conducted from 2019 to 2023 using a meticulous two-step framework. The first step involved evaluating Snow leopard spatial distribution, incorporating habitat covariates into the analysis, aligning with the guidelines of the National population assessment of snow leopards in India by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in 2019. This systematic approach included assessing the spatial distribution through an occupancy-based sampling approach in the potential distribution range. In the second step, Snow leopard abundance was estimated using camera traps in each identified stratified region.

During the SPAI exercise, total efforts included: 13,450 km of trails surveyed for recording Snow leopard signs, while camera traps were deployed at 1,971 locations for 180,000 trap nights. The Snow leopard occupancy was recorded in 93,392 km2, with an estimated presence in 100,841 km2. A total of 241 unique Snow leopards were photographed. Based on data analysis, the estimated population in different states are as follows: Ladakh (477), Uttarakhand (124), Himachal Pradesh (51), Arunachal Pradesh (36), Sikkim (21), and Jammu and Kashmir (9).

Source: *https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2000545*

49. Which state has the highest population of leopards in India?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Ladakh (d) Karnataka

50. Indian government plans to import cheetahs from which country?
(a) Australia (b) South Africa
(c) Zimbabwe (d) Botswana

51. The report mentions a periodic population estimation approach in how many years?
(a) 2 (b) 3
(c) 4 (d) 5

52. Which of the following will come in place of a)_____in the passage?
(a) 756 (b) 718
(c) 693 (d) 654

Legal Reasoning

Each set of questions in this section is based on the reasoning and arguments, or facts and principles set out in the preceding passage. Some of these principles may not be true in the real or legal sense, yet you must conclusively assume that they are true for the purposes of this Section. Please answer each question on the basis of what is stated or implied in the corresponding passage. Do not rely on any principle of law other than the ones supplied to you, and do not assume any facts other than those supplied to you when answering the questions. In some instances, more than one option may be the answer to the question; in such a case, please choose the option that most accurately and comprehensively answers the question.

XII. Defamation in Tort

Elements of defamation encompass several critical aspects that must be present for a statement to be considered defamatory. Firstly, a statement can be made through spoken words, written text, signs, or visible representations. For instance, if someone points to a person implying they committed a theft, this act could be deemed as defamation. The statement must specifically refer to the plaintiff, which can be a direct or indirect reference to an individual, a class of persons, or the trustees of a company. It is not necessary for the plaintiff to be named explicitly as long as they can be identified from the statement. This applies to both living and deceased persons, although a defamation suit on behalf of a deceased person can only be filed if the claimant has a vested interest.

The content of the statement itself must be defamatory, meaning it should lower the individual's reputation in the eyes of others, inciting feelings of hatred, ridicule, fear, or dislike. For example, accusing someone of being a hypocrite or a habitual drunkard can be considered defamatory. However, not all negative statements are defamatory; criticism of goods or services, for instance, does not constitute defamation unless it falsely accuses someone of incompetence or dishonesty.

The intention behind making the statement is not a crucial element. If the person making the statement knows that it is likely to be believed and could harm the reputation of the individual, then it fulfills another criterion for defamation even if made without intension. Additionally, the statement must be false, as truthfulness is a defense against defamation charges. The law does not consider it defamation if the statement, no matter how damaging, is true.

Furthermore, the statement must not be privileged, meaning there are circumstances under which the law protects individuals from defamation claims even if the statements they made are defamatory. This includes certain legal proceedings and legislative debates where participants are granted immunity from defamation suits.

Publication of the statement is another essential element, requiring that the statement be communicated to at least one person other than the subject of the defamation. This means that a statement kept private, such as in a personal diary, does not constitute defamation

unless it is intended to be read by others, as was the case in Mahendra Ram v. Harnandan Prasad, where a defamatory letter was sent knowing it would likely be read by someone other than the recipient.

Lastly, the statement must cause some form of injury to the plaintiff, such as financial loss, damage to reputation, or emotional distress. This could include losing a job due to the defamation or suffering other negative consequences as a result of the statement being believed by the public. Each of these elements plays a vital role in determining whether a particular statement constitutes defamation under the law.

Source: *Extracted with edits and revisions from, Law of Defamation in India, https://blog.ipleaders.in/law-of-defamation-in-india/*

53. A local newspaper published an article about a school teacher, alleging that they were involved in selling exam papers to students. The article did not mention the teacher's name directly but referred to "a senior mathematics teacher at the local high school" – a description that could only fit one individual at that school. The teacher claims that this publication has damaged their reputation among colleagues and parents. Does the article qualify as defamation?
    (a) The newspaper's article does not qualify as defamation because the teacher's name was not explicitly mentioned.
    (b) The article constitutes defamation as it indirectly identifies the teacher and tarnishes their reputation.
    (c) Since the statement concerns professional misconduct, it is protected under freedom of speech.
    (d) The statement cannot be considered defamatory as it relates to the teacher's professional life, not personal.

54. During a televised debate, a politician accuses their rival of being a "known fraudster" without presenting any evidence to support the claim. The statement quickly spreads on social media, leading to widespread public backlash against the accused politician, who has never been formally charged with or convicted of fraud. Is the statement defamatory?
    (a) The accusation is defamatory as it labels the individual with a criminal activity without proof, likely harming their reputation.
    (b) Since the statement was made during a political debate, it is protected under political speech and cannot be considered defamatory.
    (c) The statement cannot be defamatory since it was made on a public platform, allowing for freedom of expression.
    (d) The accused politician's reputation is not harmed if they can publicly defend themselves against the accusation.

55. A popular blogger writes a post suggesting that a local business owner is evading taxes, based on the blogger's analysis of publicly available financial data from different unverified platforms. The blogger states they believe the information to be true and encourages readers to share the post to expose the alleged evasion. The business owner claims this has led to a loss of customers and a tarnished reputation. Are the claims of the business owner correct?
(a) The blogger's post is not defamatory since it is based on an analysis of public data and the belief in its truthfulness.
(b) Since the post accuses the business owner of illegal activity without conclusive evidence, it is defamatory.
(c) The intention behind the post was to inform the public, which negates any defamatory impact.
(d) The post cannot be considered defamatory as it contributes to a matter of public interest.

56. A politician during a televised interview accuses a journalist of fabricating stories to damage his reputation. The journalist has always cited credible sources in their reports, and no evidence of fabrication has been found in any of their stories about the politician. Is the politician's statement defamatory?
(a) The accusation does not amount to defamation since it was made on a public platform.
(b) Since the journalist's reports are based on credible sources, the politician's statement is not defamatory.
(c) The politician's statement is defamatory because it is false and harms the journalist's professional reputation.
(d) The public nature of the journalist's profession makes them immune to defamation.

57. An email mistakenly sent to the entire office claims that an employee, Alex, is being investigated for embezzlement. In reality, the investigation is about a security breach unrelated to Alex, and Alex's name was included due to a clerical error. Does the email contain defamatory statements?
(a) The email is defamatory because it was mistakenly sent to more people than intended.
(b) Since the email was a result of a clerical error, it cannot be considered defamatory.
(c) The publication requirement for defamation is not met because the email was sent by mistake.
(d) The email constitutes defamation as it falsely accuses Alex of embezzlement and was communicated to others.

XIII. Essentials of a Valid Contract

A contract, in its essence, is an agreement between two parties that is put into writing, containing specific obligations or promises that both parties are expected to perform. Such an agreement, when enforceable by law, attains the status of a contract, implying that it has the force of law for the parties involved and any violation of its terms could lead to legal repercussions, including the possibility of the contract being repudiated.

The Contract Act succinctly defines a contract as an agreement enforceable by law, highlighting that an agreement is essentially a settlement between two or more parties involving mutual obligations. These obligations, termed as reciprocal promises, necessitate actions or forbearances from each party involved. Notably, the concept of a contract is underpinned by the principle of enforceability, as encapsulated in the formula: Contract = Agreement + Enforceability.

The formation of a valid contract, as outlined in Section 10 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, hinges on several critical elements. Initially, there must be a clear offer from one party, which then needs to be accepted by the intended recipient, ensuring a consensus ad-idem or a meeting of minds, signifying that both parties understand and agree to the contract in the same sense. This mutual understanding is crucial for the contract's validity, as it ensures that all parties have the same interpretation of the agreement's terms. Additionally, the parties involved must be competent to contract, meaning they must have the legal capacity to enter into a contract, that is, the parties should not be a minor, should not be insolvent or disqualifiled by law and should not be of unsound mind. The contract must also be founded on lawful consideration, which refers to something of value that is exchanged between the parties. The importance of free consent cannot be overstated, as it ensures that the agreement is made voluntarily and without any form of coercion or deception. Moreover, the contract must have a lawful objective, be certain in its terms, and not be expressly declared void by law.

These elements collectively ensure that a contract is not only legally binding but also adheres to the principles of fairness and equity, thereby facilitating a legal framework within which parties can conduct transactions securely and predictably.

Source: *Extracted with edits and revisions from, Essentials of a valid contract, https://blog.ipleaders.in/essentials-of-a-valid-contract/*

58. A 17-year-old high school student, Alex, inherits a substantial amount of money from a distant relative. Eager to invest, Alex approaches a financial advisor, Jordan, who suggests investing in a new tech startup. Believing in the startup's potential, Alex signs a contract with the startup to invest a significant portion of the inheritance. A few months later, Alex decides to withdraw the investment, citing a lack of legal capacity to enter into the contract due to age. The startup argues that the contract is valid since Alex was aware of the investment's risks and rewards. Which of the following best describes the legal status of the contract between Alex and the startup?
(a) The contract is valid because Alex had the mental capacity to understand the investment.
(b) The contract is void due to the lack of legal capacity to contract.
(c) The contract is valid because it was entered into with a financial advisor's guidance.
(d) The contract is void ab initio because it is an investment contract. www.lawpreptutorial.com

59. Sophie and Emma decide to start a business together. They discuss their plans over dinner and shake hands on an agreement to equally invest in and share profits from their new venture, a boutique. However, during the dinner, Emma secretly records the conversation and edits the audio to make it seem like Sophie agreed to a 70-30 profit share in Emma's favour. Relying on this manipulated recording, Emma later tries to enforce the altered agreement when the boutique becomes profitable. Does the agreement to share profits based on the manipulated recording have legal standing?
(a) Yes, because there was an initial agreement to start the business together.
(b) No, because the consent to the profit-sharing ratio was obtained through deception.
(c) Yes, because the recording provides concrete evidence of an agreement.
(d) No, because verbal agreements are not legally binding.

60. Raj and Maya enter into an agreement where Raj promises to sell his vintage car to Maya for a sum of ₹500,000. After agreeing verbally and exchanging emails confirming their agreement, Maya discovers that Raj has sold the car to another buyer, Ankit, for a higher price. Maya decides to take legal action against Raj for breach of agreement. Which of the following statements best describes the legal status of the agreement between Raj and Maya?
(a) The agreement is not enforceable because it was not registered.
(b) The agreement is enforceable by law, making it a contract, and Raj can be sued for breach.
(c) The agreement is void because it involves the sale of a vintage car.
(d) The agreement is only enforceable if it was verbally agreed upon in the presence of a witness.

61. Liam agrees to buy a piece of artwork from Noah's gallery for a specified amount. Before the transaction is completed, a new law is passed prohibiting the sale of that particular type of artwork. Noah decides to cancel the sale, and Liam sues for breach of contract. Which of the following best describes the legal standing of the contract between Liam and Noah?
(a) The contract is enforceable despite the new law, as it was agreed upon before the law was passed.
(b) The contract becomes void due to the impossibility of performance arising from the change in law.
(c) The contract remains valid, and Noah can be forced to complete the sale illegally.
(d) The contract is only voidable at Noah's discretion.

62. A restaurant owner, Elina, offers to sell her restaurant to a long-time employee, Tom, for a specific price. Tom, thinking Elina meant she would give him the restaurant as a gift, does not respond immediately. A week later, Tom comes to Elina, ready to accept the "gift." Elina clarifies it was a sale offer, not a gift, and Tom refuses, claiming there was an agreement. Which of the following best describes the situation?
(a) A contract exists because Elina made an offer that Tom accepted.
(b) No contract exists due to a lack of consensus ad-idem between Elina and Tom.
(c) A contract for a gift exists, enforceable by Tom against Elina.
(d) The contract is voidable due to Tom's misunderstanding of the offer.

XIV. President (The Constitution of India)

The first and foremost part of the Executive is the President. Article 52 states that there shall be a President of India. The President is considered the Executive head of the country. All the Executive business of the country is carried out in the name of the President.

So the question arises that if President is the executive head and all actions are in his name, and the President has to carry out many functions, then can there be the performance of an act not mentioned in any specific legislation by the Executive?

The same was answered in the case of Ram Jawaya Kapoor v. the State of Punjab, the Government invited textbooks from authors for approval. When textbooks were approved, the authors were made to enter an agreement. According to this agreement, the copyright of these books vested solely in the Government. The authors only got 5% royalty on the sale of the textbooks. The Government took all the publishing, printing and selling rights of the books in their own hands.

The Court held that these provisions were ultra-vires to the constitutional power. The government being an executory body did not possess the power to enter into any activity or trade without specific legislations.

No restriction on the executive powers is defined in the Indian Constitution. The Court held that the executive cannot be restricted to mere implementations of legislations. There is a strict

separation of powers but no strict separation of functions. The executive can perform such functions which are necessary for governance of the nation in difficult times.

Article 58 of the Indian Constitution outlines the qualifications necessary for an individual to be eligible for election as the President of India. To aspire to this esteemed position, one must be a citizen of India, have reached the age of thirty-five years, and be qualified to be elected as a member of the House of the People. However, there are certain disqualifications as well; a candidate cannot hold any office of profit under the Union of India, any state government, or any local or other authority within the Indian territory that is under the control of any of these governments. Transitioning to the conditions associated with the President's office, as detailed in Article 59, the role comes with its unique set of stipulations. The President is prohibited from being a member of either House of Parliament or any state legislature. Should the President-elect be a member of such, they must vacate their seat upon assuming the presidency. Additionally, the President is barred from holding any other office of profit, ensuring their undivided commitment to the role. The office also grants certain privileges, including the use of official residences without rent and entitlement to emoluments, allowances, and privileges as determined by Parliament.

Source: *Extracted with edits and revisions from, The Union Executive: Articles 52 to 78 and 123 Under Indian Constitution, https://blog.ipleaders.in/union-executive/*

63. A new government policy directed towards the development of renewable energy infrastructure across the country was announced in a high-profile press conference. The policy, while popular among environmental groups, was not formally legislated but was being implemented in several pilot regions. Concerns were raised by a group of legal scholars about the legality of this implementation without formal legislation.

Which of the following statements best describes the legal standing of the government's action?

(a) The government's action is legally binding because it was announced in a press conference.
(b) The government's action is legally binding because it is in the name of environmental development.
(c) The government requires specific legislation to carry out such activities legally.
(d) The government's action is a standard executive function and does not require legislation.

64. In an effort to boost local manufacturing, the President of the country issued an executive order imposing heavy tariffs on imported electronic goods. The order was challenged in court on the grounds that it was not within the executive's power to impose such tariffs without legislative approval as there was no law available.
Which of the following best addresses the legality of the President's executive order?
(a) The executive order is legal because it aims to protect local industries.
(b) The executive order is illegal because it constitutes involvement in trade activities without legislative backing.
(c) The executive order is legal because all executive actions are carried out in the name of the President.
(d) The executive order is legal as it is a direct implementation of existing trade legislations.

65. Following a series of environmental disasters, the executive branch initiated a comprehensive environmental rehabilitation program, which included measures not explicitly covered by existing legislation but broadly aligned with national environmental goals. Critics argue that the executive overstepped its boundaries by initiating this program without explicit legislative approval.
Which of the following best reflects the situation?
(a) The executive's actions are entirely within its powers as they are in line with national goals.
(b) The executive's actions are illegal since they were not explicitly approved by legislation.
(c) The executive has the authority to initiate such programs as long as they do not contradict existing laws.
(d) The executive requires a public referendum to carry out such activities legally.

66. Anita, a prominent entrepreneur and philanthropist, who has been a citizen of India since birth, expressed her desire to run for the presidency. Anita is 34 years old and has a considerable following due to her contributions to society and business acumen. Despite her popularity and qualifications, concerns have been raised regarding her eligibility to run for president based on her age.
Which of the following statements is true regarding Anita's eligibility for the presidency?
(a) Anita is eligible to run for president because her philanthropic contributions qualify her as a member of the House of the People.
(b) Anita is not eligible to run for president because she has not yet reached the age of thirty-five years.
(c) Anita's eligibility is determined by her citizenship status, making her qualified to run for president.
(d) Anita can run for president if she receives special permission due to her contributions to society.

67. Vikram, a current member of the State Legislative Assembly, recently won the presidential election. He has been a vocal advocate for education reform and plans to continue this advocacy as president. Upon his election, questions arose regarding the necessary steps he must take concerning his membership in the State Legislative Assembly.
What must Vikram do upon assuming the presidency?
(a) Vikram must retain his seat in the State Legislative Assembly to ensure continuity in his advocacy for education reform.
(b) Vikram is not required to vacate his seat in the State Legislative Assembly as it does not conflict with his role as president.
(c) Vikram must vacate his seat in the State Legislative Assembly upon assuming the presidency.
(d) Vikram can choose to either retain or vacate his seat based on his personal preference.

XV. Force in Criminal Law

When a person intentionally uses force on another person without that person's consent, in order to commit an offence and with the prior intention of causing harm to that person in the form of injury, fear, or annoyance to whom the force is used, is said to use criminal force on the other person. It comes under Section 350 of the Indian Penal Code.
A person is said to be using "force" on another person when he causes a change in motion, cessation of motion, or a substantial change in motion of another person, or brings a substance in contact with another person's body or it affects another person's sense of feeling. The term force in Section 349 is force used in connection with the human body.
In criminal force, a person may use undue force on another person without the consent of that person so as to cause harm to him. If there is consent, it won't be counted as criminal force.
When a gesture is made to any person, knowing that the person is going to apprehend it as the person is going to use criminal force on that person is known as assault. Mere words do not consist of an assault. But a person may use certain gestures and expressions or preparation, such gestures, expressions, and preparations may amount to assault. For example, X shakes his fist at Y, intending or knowing that may cause to believe Y that X is about to strike Y. X has committed assault. X loosens the muzzle of a ferocious dog knowing that the dog will cause harm to Y. So, X has committed an assault upon Y. A takes up a stick, says to Z, "I am going to beat you up". Here, although the words employed by A may in no case amount to a direct assault, and although the mere gesture, unaccompanied by the other circumstances, may not amount to an assault, the gesture explained by the words might amount to an assault.
When someone assaults or uses Criminal force another person based on sudden and grave provocation by another person, he may be sentenced to prison time of a term which may be extended for a term of three months or a fine of up to INR 500, or both. It is defined under Section 352 of the Indian Penal Code.

granddaughters, and parents who are self-sufficient cannot claim maintenance from their children.

In contrast, Muslim law stipulates that both sons and daughters are responsible for their parents' maintenance if they cannot sustain themselves with their own income and property. If one child is financially incapable, the responsibility falls on the other child. The law prioritizes the mother over the father if a child can only maintain one parent. However, there is no provision for the maintenance of a stepmother under Muslim law.

The Maintenance and Welfare Of Parents And Senior Citizen Act, 2007, was introduced as societal values began to decline, with children increasingly unwilling to take responsibility for their parents. This Act provides a less expensive and faster procedure for claiming maintenance from children and includes provisions for establishing old age homes for abandoned parents, improving medical facilities for the elderly, and protecting their life and property. It also introduces penalties for abandoning elderly parents.

The Maintenance And Welfare Of Parents And Senior Citizen (Amendment) Bill 2018 introduced significant changes to the Act, including an expanded definition of "children" to encompass biological, adoptive, step-children, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, and minors through their legal guardians.

Source: *Extracted with edits and revisions from, Legal provisions embracing maintenance of parents & senior citizens : legal obligation & moral duty, https://blog.ipleaders.in/legal-provisions-embracing-maintenance-parents-senior-citizens-legal-obligation-moral-duty/*

73. Aniket, a software engineer, has been financially supporting his elderly parents, who live in their ancestral home in a rural area. Recently, his parents requested additional support for medical expenses due to chronic health issues they are facing. Aniket argues that his financial assistance should be enough and that they should manage their health expenses within that budget.

Which of the following statements best aligns with Aniket's obligations under the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act of 1956?

(a) Aniket is not obligated to provide additional support for medical expenses if he deems his financial assistance sufficient.
(b) Aniket's financial support should be complemented with specific attention to his parents' medical needs as part of his obligation.
(c) Aniket only needs to ensure shelter and cannot be compelled to cover medical expenses.
(d) Aniket should increase financial assistance, but only for non-medical expenses.

74. Mr. and Mrs. Joshi, both senior citizens, have been living independently without financial assistance from their son, who resides abroad. Recently, Mr. Joshi fell ill, requiring extensive medical treatment. Upon requesting financial help from their son for the medical expenses, he insists that they use their savings, arguing that their independence absolves him of any obligation.
Which of the following statements is true regarding the son's obligations under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Act, 2007?
(a) The son is obligated to provide financial assistance for medical expenses regardless of the parents' independent living situation.
(b) The son's obligation to assist financially is waived if the parents have savings.
(c) The son must only provide financial assistance if the parents were previously dependent on him.
(d) The son has no legal obligation to provide assistance if the parents chose to live independently.

75. Vikram, a well-established businessman, has been neglecting the needs of his elderly parents, arguing that his busy schedule and personal commitments limit his ability to provide care. His parents, unable to cope with their daily expenses and medical needs, seek legal recourse to claim maintenance.
Which of the following best describes Vikram's legal obligations to his parents under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Act, 2007? www.lawpreptutorial.com
(a) Vikram's personal and professional commitments exempt him from providing maintenance.
(b) Vikram must ensure his parents' well-being, including daily expenses and medical needs.
(c) Vikram is only required to provide maintenance if his parents are living with him.
(d) Vikram has no obligation to provide maintenance since his parents can seek government aid.

76. Priya, a software developer, and her brother, Arjun, a doctor, were approached by their elderly parents for financial support to cover their living and medical expenses. Their parents, who live in a different city, have retired and do not have a sufficient pension to meet their needs. Priya believes that it is primarily Arjun's responsibility to provide for their parents, given his higher income.
Which of the following statements best aligns with the obligations under the Hindu Adoption And Maintenance Act, 1956?
(a) Only sons are obligated to maintain their parents, exempting Priya from any financial responsibility.
(b) Priya and Arjun are both equally responsible for maintaining their parents, regardless of their income levels.
(c) Priya's obligation to maintain her parents is lesser than Arjun's due to the traditional roles within a family.
(d) The responsibility to maintain parents falls solely on the child with the higher income, placing the burden on Arjun.

77. Aisha and her brother, Omar, both successful professionals, are approached by their aging parents for financial support. Their parents own a small house but lack the income to sustain themselves. Aisha believes that their parents' property should suffice, and they should not need additional support from her or Omar.
Which of the following statements best aligns with their obligations under Muslim law?
(a) Aisha and Omar are not required to support their parents if the parents own property.
(b) Only Omar is required to provide financial support because of traditional gender roles in Muslim law.
(c) Aisha and Omar must provide support if their parents cannot sustain themselves with their income and property.
(d) The responsibility to support parents in Muslim law only extends to sons, exempting Aisha from any obligation.

78. After the amendment to the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Act, 2007, Ravi's elderly in-laws, who are facing financial difficulties, approach him for support. Ravi, however, contends that his primary obligation is towards his own parents and that his in-laws' children should bear the responsibility.
Which of the following statements is true regarding Ravi's obligations after the amendment?
(a) Ravi is not obligated to support his in-laws as the Act's amendments do not extend to sons-in-law.
(b) Ravi's primary obligation is towards his own parents, and he has no legal duty to support his in-laws.
(c) Ravi, as a son-in-law, is included in the definition of 'children' and has an obligation to support his in-laws.
(d) The amendment exempts Ravi from supporting his in-laws if he is already providing for his parents.

XVII. Current Affairs/Criminal Law

The Supreme Court held that the non-performance of marriage by the accused at the booked marriage hall doesn't amount to committing an offence of cheating punishable under Section 417 IPC.
“We do not see how an offence even under Section 417 of IPC is made out against the present appellant. There can be multiple reasons for initiating a marriage proposal and then the proposal not reaching the desired end. There is no such evidence before the prosecution and therefore no offence under Section 417 is also made out.”, the Supreme Court said.
Reversing the High Court's findings which refused to quash the charge under Section 417 IPC, the Bench Comprising Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and P.B. Varale observed that to constitute an offence of cheating punishable under Section 417 IPC, it must be proved by the prosecution that the intention to deceive on the part of the accused should be right from the beginning.

"Time and again, this Court has reiterated that in order to make out an offence under cheating the intention to cheat or deceive should be right from the beginning. By no stretch of imagination, this is even reflected from the complaint made by the informant."

The gist of the dispute was that the complainant and the accused were about to marry and her father had also given Rs. 75,000/- in advance for the marriage hall, but this marriage never took place as she learnt from a newspaper report that the accused has in fact married someone else.

Aggrieved by such an act of the accused, the complainant lodged an FIR against the accused and his family members under Sections 406/420/417 read with Section 34 of IPC.

The accused preferred an application under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to quash the pending criminal case against him, however, the High Court while quashing proceedings under Section 406 and 420 IPC refused to quash the case under Section 417 IPC.

Ultimately, the accused approached the Supreme Court against the decision of the High Court.

The Supreme Court found that there was no intention of the accused to fraudulently or dishonestly deceive the complainant and her father from the beginning.

"There can be multiple reasons for initiating a marriage proposal and then the proposal not reaching the desired end.", the Court said.

"in order to prove an offence of cheating in such cases prosecution must have reliable and trustworthy evidence", the Court added.

However, after finding no such evidence is produced by the prosecution to prove the offence under Section 417, the court observed that the offence under Section 417 is not made out.

Consequently, the criminal proceedings under Section 417 IPC are hereby quashed.

Source: *Extracted with edits and revisions from, https://www.livelaw.in/supreme-court/withdrawal-from-marriage-wont-amount-to-offence-of-cheating-under-section-417-ipc-supreme-court-250325?infinitescroll=1*

79. Rohan, a car salesman, promises Seema that the used car she is interested in buying has never been in an accident and is in excellent condition. Based on Rohan's assurances, Seema purchases the car. Later, she discovers the car was involved in a severe accident and had undergone major repairs. Rohan was aware of the car's history but chose to deceive Seema to make the sale.

Which of the following statements best describes the situation under Section 417 IPC for cheating?

(a) Rohan cannot be held for cheating as the car was indeed sold to Seema.
(b) Rohan is guilty of cheating as he had the intention to deceive Seema from the beginning.
(c) Since Seema purchased the used car, it is her responsibility to check its history.
(d) Rohan's actions are justified since making sales is part of his job.

80. Anita proposes to Varun with the intention of getting married. However, after a few months, Anita breaks off the engagement upon realizing they have incompatible life goals. Varun then accuses Anita of cheating, claiming she never intended to marry him and only wanted to exploit his connections in the film industry.
Which of the following best describes the situation under the principles related to cheating?
(a) Anita is guilty of cheating if it can be proven that her sole intention was to exploit Varun's connections.
(b) Anita cannot be held for cheating as changing one's mind about marriage does not constitute deceit.
(c) Breaking off an engagement for personal reasons is considered cheating under all circumstances.
(d) Varun's accusations are valid regardless of Anita's reasons for ending the engagement.

81. Arjun booked a marriage hall for his wedding ceremony scheduled six months from the date of booking. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, he and his fiancée decided to cancel the wedding two months prior to the event. The owner of the marriage hall filed a complaint against Arjun, alleging that the cancellation of the booking amounts to cheating under Section 417 IPC since the hall could have been rented out to someone else during that period.
Is the cancellation of the marriage hall booking by Arjun considered an offence of cheating under Section 417 IPC, according to the Supreme Court's holding?
(a) Yes, because the hall owner suffered a financial loss.
(b) No, since Arjun did not intend to cheat from the beginning.
(c) Yes, but only if Arjun had no genuine reason for the cancellation.
(d) No, unless it can be proved that Arjun intended to cheat from the beginning.

82. During a luxury car purchase, Karan was assured by the dealer, AutoLux, that the car he was interested in was equipped with an advanced safety package, including multiple airbags and state-of-the-art collision avoidance systems, which was a deciding factor in his purchase. After buying the car, Karan discovered that the vehicle did not include these safety features, and AutoLux admitted to mistakenly providing incorrect information which was actually true in this cash. Karan decides to press charges for cheating under Section 417 IPC against AutoLux.
Which of the following statements best describes the outcome based on the principles provided?
(a) AutoLux cannot be held accountable for cheating without clear evidence of intent to deceive Karan.
(b) The mistake by AutoLux in providing information fulfill the criteria for cheating under Section 417 IPC.
(c) AutoLux is guilty of cheating due to the discrepancy in the car's advertised and actual features.
(d) Providing incorrect information, even mistakenly, constitutes cheating under Section 417 IPC.

83. Rahul invested in a startup, TechInnovate, after the founders promised high returns within the first year based on their "revolutionary" product. A year later, the product failed to attract interest, and the startup folded, resulting in a total loss of Rahul's investment. The prosecution was unable to produce evidence that the founders knew their claims were false at the time of investment.
Which of the following best describes the situation under the principles related to cheating?
(a) The failure of the startup to deliver on its promises constitutes cheating under Section 417 IPC.
(b) Even without evidence of intentional deceit, the founders can be charged with cheating under Section 417 IPC.
(c) Investors assume the risk of investment, relieving the founders of legal responsibility for the startup's failure.
(d) The founders' optimistic projections for their product do not amount to cheating without proof of deceitful intent.

84. After receiving a job offer from a company promising a significant salary and a senior position, Sia relocated to a new city. Upon joining, she found that the position offered was junior to what was promised, and the salary was significantly lower. The company argued that the discrepancy was due to an administrative error. The prosecution could not prove that the company had intentionally deceived Sia at the time of the offer.
Which of the following best describes the situation under the principles related to cheating?
(a) An administrative error does not exempt the company from charges of cheating under Section 417 IPC.
(b) Even without evidence of intentional deceit, the company's representation of the job position and salary can be considered as cheating under Section 417 IPC.
(c) The company's failure to fulfill its promises to Sia is sufficient to prove cheating under Section 417 IPC.
(d) Without concrete evidence of the company's intent to deceive Sia, no offense under Section 417 IPC is made out.

Logical Reasoning

Each set of questions in this section is based on the reasoning and arguments set out in the preceding passage. Please answer each question on the basis of what is stated or implied in the corresponding passage. Do not rely on any information or facts other than the ones supplied to you. In some instances, more than one option may be the answer to the question; in such a case, please choose the option that most accurately and comprehensively answers the question.

XVIII. Governance

The Sixteenth Finance Commission faces several challenges, one of which is the issue raised by many states, particularly in southern India, about a decline in their share of resources transferred from the Centre. This decline has occurred over successive Finance Commissions, sparking concerns about the equitable distribution of resources.

To address this issue, it's important to examine which states have been losing their share over time and the criteria of horizontal distribution that have contributed to this trend. Notably, southern states have experienced a steady reduction in their share, contrasting with gains seen in hilly, central, and western states, including Maharashtra.

The distribution of shares among states depends on various criteria and their respective weights as determined by different Finance Commissions. The distance criterion, which measures how far a state's income is from the highest income state, has historically been given significant weight. Although its weight was slightly reduced by subsequent commissions, it remains a major factor in resource distribution. This criterion is based on the principle of equalization, aiming to ensure economic and social justice by supporting states farther from the highest income benchmark.

However, the use of the income distance criterion has led to the diminished share of southern states, primarily because it benefits states that are further from the highest income state. On the other hand, states with lower incomes like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have gained from this criterion but lost shares due to other criteria.

Population is another contentious criterion. Until the Fourteenth Finance Commission, data from the 1971 census was used. The Fifteenth Finance Commission switched to the 2011 census data, introducing a demographic change criterion to avoid penalizing states that had successfully reduced fertility rates. The impact of these changes has been marginal for all state groups.

To ensure fairness in distribution, it's crucial to maintain the income distance criterion but consider adjusting its weight, alongside modifying other criteria. Additionally, the issue of cesses and surcharges, which have reduced the size of the divisible pool despite an increase in states' share to 42%, needs addressing. Limiting cesses and surcharges to a percentage of the Centre's gross tax revenues could be a solution.

The Sixteenth Finance Commission has an opportunity to refine these mechanisms, ensuring a more equitable distribution of resources among states while maintaining the principles of fairness and economic justice that underpin the system.

Source: *https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/central-transfers-arresting-the-decline-in-shares-of-some-states/article67939930.ece*

85. What is the central theme that the author is trying to convey?
(a) The Sixteenth Finance Commission should explore new criteria to overhaul the existing resource distribution framework entirely.
(b) Reevaluation of resource distribution methods by Finance Commissions is needed to correct imbalances affecting southern states.
(c) Southern states should autonomously manage resources, bypassing the Centre's distribution mechanisms for better control.
(d) Abandoning the principle of equalization in favour of a straightforward, population-centric resource distribution approach is advised.

86. What assumptions does the author make when presenting the argument?
(a) Adjusting the weights of the criteria used for distribution will lead to a more equitable outcome for states.
(b) The income distance criterion is inherently unfair and should be entirely removed from the calculation process.
(c) States with higher incomes and lower fertility rates are being unjustly penalized under the current resource distribution system.
(d) Cesses and surcharges have no significant impact on the central government's ability to distribute resources equitably.

87. If a counter-argument were to be made, which of the following could be used against the author's claim?
(a) Adopting 2011 census data for population criteria significantly advanced equitable resource distribution across states.
(b) Southern states' reduced resource share mirrors their higher incomes, showing no system bias but economic rationale.
(c) Capping cesses and surcharges would sharply cut central revenue, adversely affecting all states' financial health.
(d) Economic and social justice principles dictate resource allocation based on wants, aptly served by the income distance criterion.

88. Which of the following is the author most likely to agree with?
(a) The principle of equalization should prioritize states with the highest population growth since the last census.
(b) Adjusting the weight of the income distance criterion could lead to a fairer resource distribution among states.
(c) Resource distribution should be solely based on states' current economic performance, disregarding historical data.
(d) The impact of changing census data on resource distribution has been overstated and requires no further adjustments.

89. Which of the following can be inferred EXCEPT?
(a) States with successful fertility rate reduction have been marginally impacted by the change to 2011 census data.
(b) The increase in the share of central cesses and surcharges has diminished the overall pool of divisible resources.
(c) All states have uniformly benefited from the adjustments made by the Finance Commissions over the years.
(d) The use of the 1971 census data has favored states with lower fertility rates.

90. The conclusion the author draws in this argument follows logically if which of the following is assumed?
(a) Southern states are inherently more capable of generating revenue independently of central transfers.
(b) The current resource distribution system adequately reflects the economic and social justice intended by its criteria.
(c) The weight given to different criteria in resource distribution has not kept pace with changing economic realities.
(d) The size of the divisible pool of resources is not significantly affected by the implementation of cesses and surcharges.

XIX. Politics

India is in the midst of its most significant electoral exercise and it might be worthwhile to scrutinise people's changing perceptions about their political ecosystems in both the largest democracy and other smaller democratic spaces elsewhere. Such an exercise may help us understand the prevailing global situation and work on the future course of action.

A Pew Research Center's global survey reveals the evolving state of democracies across 24 countries. Conducted between February 20 and May 22, 2023, this survey of 30,861 respondents delves into the complex fabric of democratic ideals, revealing both global trends and nuanced regional variations.

The results highlight a global shift underway, signalling a discernible erosion of trust in democratic systems. Here, 77% of the respondents expressed optimism about representative democracy. But, their receptivity to alternative governance models is worrisome, of an unambiguous disenchantment with democracy. The diminishing support for representative democracy since 2017 becomes even more pronounced when contrasted with the robust 70% endorsement of direct democracy, wherein officials directly influence major decisions, circumventing elected leaders.

Clearly, a perilous transformation has unfolded across these countries from 2017 to 2023, marked by an increased inclination towards rule by experts (58%) and a growing acceptance of authoritarian government models (26%). The rationale behind this shift lies in the perception that democracies, with their need for discussions and consensus-building, lead to delays, while concentrated power facilitates prompt decision-making and quicker economic development.

As expected, respondents from countries with lower incomes and less education tend to endorse such 'strong' leaders. A noteworthy segment (15%) also supports military rule, particularly in middle-income countries. Evidently, such preferences shed light on the intricate interplay of factors shaping the evolving perceptions of governance globally.

Notably, the most striking shift is evident in the overwhelmingly positive response from Indians towards military rule or governance by an authoritarian leader, with a staggering 85% preferring it. This upward trend resonates in nations such as Argentina, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico and South Africa. However, it faces resistance in countries such as Canada, Europe, the Scandinavian nations and the United States. www.lawpreptutorial.com

Many argue that these findings align with on-the-ground realities and corroborate agency reports and surveys. Democracy-monitoring organisations characterise contemporary India as a "hybrid regime", ranging from "free to partly free" to "electoral autocracy," and even termed it a "flawed democracy". The recent Democracy Report 2024 by the Gothenburg-based V-Dem Institute downgrades India across multiple metrics compared to its assessment in 2018, further confirming these notions. While some accept these reports, others approach them cautiously or dismiss them outright. Nevertheless, there is a growing global perception of a decline in India's democracy.

Source: *https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/reversing-the-global-democratic-recession/article68099161.ece*

91. Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the author's argument that a global shift toward authoritarian governance could lead to faster decision-making and economic development?
(a) Countries that have recently transitioned to authoritarian regimes have shown no significant change in economic growth rates.
(b) An international report indicates that countries with authoritarian regimes respond more rapidly to economic crises than democracies.
(c) Several democracies have recently reformed their political systems to increase the efficiency of their legislative processes.
(d) Public opinion polls in various democracies show a high level of satisfaction with the stability and predictability of their governments.

92. Which of the following best identifies a potential flaw in the author's reasoning?
(a) The author does not consider the potential economic benefits of democratic governance.
(b) The author assumes that all forms of government require the same level of economic resources.
(c) The assumption that dissatisfaction with democracy is solely due to its inefficiency.
(d) The failure to recognize the role of cultural factors in shaping political preferences.

93. From the passage, it can be inferred that...
(a) Lower-income countries face unique challenges that influence their political preferences.
(b) Democratic systems are universally preferred over authoritarian regimes.
(c) High-income countries show limited interest in authoritarian governance.
(d) Support for strong leaders is partly driven by economic development needs.

94. Which of the following is an implicit assumption made by the author in the passage?
(a) Political preferences are static across various populations.
(b) Surveys and reports accurately reflect genuine population sentiments.
(c) Military rule invariably leads to poorer economic performance.
(d) Western countries are fundamentally more democratic than others.

95. Based on the author's arguments, what would be the most appropriate course of action?
(a) Implement reforms in democratic systems to make decision-making processes faster.
(b) Encourage educational programs that enhance understanding of authoritarian regimes.
(c) Survey more countries to confirm if the dissatisfaction is indeed global.
(d) Increase transparency and accountability in authoritarian governments.

96. Which of the following best summarises the primary focus of the passage?
(a) Evaluating the efficiency of democratic and authoritarian governments.
(b) A survey showing a global shift towards authoritarian governance.
(c) The relationship between economic status, education, and political preferences.
(d) Historical analysis of the evolution from democratic to authoritarian regimes.

XX. Psychology

The recent study on the "Science of Happiness" course, popularly known as "Psychology and the Good Life," emphasizes the profound impact that continuous practice of evidence-informed habits like gratitude, exercise, meditation, and journaling can have on wellbeing. This course, renowned for its unique approach of bypassing traditional exams in favour of imparting practical, science-backed knowledge on happiness, has demonstrated the significant role that adopting and maintaining these habits play in enhancing mental health.

Central to the course is the concept of "happiness hacks" - practical activities grounded in peer-reviewed psychological and neuroscience research aimed at fostering mental well-being. The course covers a broad spectrum of topics, including the biological and environmental factors influencing happiness, and offers practical advice on improving mental health. It encourages students to actively engage in these evidence-based activities to better their own lives.

While previous research has acknowledged the short-term psychological benefits of psychoeducational courses, the enduring impact of such interventions remained uncertain. The current study, therefore, aimed to explore the long-term efficacy of the Science of Happiness course in sustaining students' mental wellbeing. It involved following up with students who had completed the course, assessing their wellbeing after 12 to 29 months using validated instruments like the Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-Being Scale. Initial findings showed a significant improvement in participants' mental health shortly after completing the course.

Interestingly, about half of the respondents continued practicing at least one of the happiness-enhancing activities introduced during the course, with expressing gratitude being the most popular. The study revealed that the sustained improvement in mental wellbeing was exclusive to those who regularly practiced the learned happiness hacks. This underscores the importance of ongoing engagement with positive psychology interventions for lasting mental health benefits.

The research advocates for a proactive and outward-focused approach to mental health, contrasting with the prevalent self-care narrative. It suggests that diverting attention away from oneself and towards helping others or engaging in social activities can effectively counteract negative rumination, a common cause of mental health issues.

However, the study is not without its limitations, including potential response bias and challenges in maintaining a representative sample over extended follow-up periods. These aspects highlight the need for further research to refine our understanding of maintaining

mental wellbeing through psychoeducational initiatives. This study fundamentally points to the necessity of integrating and persistently applying the principles of positive psychology in daily life to achieve and maintain a state of improved mental health.

Source: *psypost.org/happiness-is-a-habit-new-psychology-research-finds-continuous-practice-is-key/*

97. Which of the following is the author most likely to disagree with?
(a) Practical activities in psychoeducational courses reduce the academic depth needed for fully grasping psychological concepts.
(b) The enduring positive effects of courses like "Science of Happiness" rely on the learner's ongoing practice of the introduced habits.
(c) Courses on positive psychology might serve as compliment with conventional mental health treatments for those with mild issues.
(d) Shifting focus from self to others through social activities significantly enhances one's mental well-being.

98. Which of the following inferences can be most directly drawn from the study's findings on the "Science of Happiness" course?
(a) Post-course, students who practice happiness activities face no new mental health challenges.
(b) For lasting improved mental well-being, regular engagement with happiness activities is key.
(c) After the course ends, most participants stop the happiness-enhancing activities they learned.
(d) Only individuals with previous mental health issues gain from happiness-enhancing activities.

99. Which of the following is most similar to the author's statements regarding the limitations of the study on "Science of Happiness"?
(a) The study's self-reported measures may not truly reflect the efficacy of activities due to well-being's subjective nature.
(b) The lack of follow-up with all participants might overestimate the course's long-term mental health benefits.
(c) Focusing solely on "Science of Happiness" overlooks other psychoeducational efforts for a fuller mental well-being view.
(d) The study's conclusions may not apply universally across various cultures and demographics, questioning their broad validity.

100. What assumption is made by the author when discussing the impact of happiness-enhancing activities?
(a) Universally, across all demographics, happiness activities are beneficial without exception.
(b) The impact on well-being from any psychoeducational course mirrors that of the "Science of Happiness."
(c) Self-reports of well-being by participants mirror their actual mental health state accurately.
(d) Compared to traditional mental health interventions, happiness activities offer superior efficacy.

101. Which of the following best evaluates the effectiveness of the arguments presented in the passage about the long-term benefits of engaging with happiness-enhancing activities?
(a) The arguments' strength is dubious due to reliance on self-reports, potentially misrepresenting true behavioural changes and health gains.
(b) The arguments are strong, backed by initial results of mental health improvements and ongoing benefits for those maintaining practices.
(c) Despite theoretical persuasiveness, lacking a control group questions directly linking mental health gains to the course's influence.
(d) The passage convincingly argues for the broad effectiveness of these activities, downplaying individual differences in response.

102. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument regarding the long-term benefits of happiness-enhancing activities?
(a) A meta-analysis confirms similar findings across multiple studies on happiness-enhancing activities.
(b) Participants report increased happiness immediately after activities but no long-term changes.
(c) Only a small fraction of individuals find happiness-enhancing activities to be of any benefit.
(d) Most people find it difficult to incorporate happiness-enhancing activities into their daily routines.

XXI. Adventure

Extreme sports, with their unique blend of thrill and challenge, offer an unparalleled experience to enthusiasts. Among these, rafting stands out as a particularly exhilarating activity that combines adventure, natural beauty, and a sense of camaraderie, providing an unforgettable experience far removed from the monotony of everyday life. Whether it's the rush of navigating through tumultuous Himalayan rivers or the serene journey down a gently flowing stream, rafting caters to both adrenaline junkies and those seeking solace in nature's embrace.

The essence of rafting lies in its ability to present an adventure that is both thrilling and meditative. The adrenaline rush experienced while maneuvering through the rapids is unmatched, offering a physical and mental challenge that is both stimulating and rewarding. The anticipation of the unknown, the strategy involved in navigating cascading waterfalls and swirling rapids, and the teamwork required to steer through the tumultuous waters amplify the sense of adventure and excitement.

Beyond the thrill, rafting is an immersive experience that connects participants with the natural world in a profound way. The journey down a river is an exploration of its untamed beauty, from the panoramic vistas of untouched landscapes to the intimate encounters with wildlife along the banks. This connection with nature offers a unique perspective on the world, fostering a deep appreciation for the environment and its preservation.

The sense of camaraderie that develops among rafters is another facet of the experience that adds to its allure. Facing the challenges and joys of the journey together fosters a bond that transcends the duration of the rafting trip. This shared adventure creates lasting memories and friendships, further enriching the experience.

Moreover, rafting serves as a therapeutic escape from the stresses of daily life. The combination of physical exertion and the calming influence of nature provides a holistic experience that rejuvenates both body and mind. The rhythmic paddling, the sound of rushing water, and the tranquility of being on the river act as a form of meditation, offering a moment of peace and reflection amid the excitement of the adventure.

Rafting epitomises the essence of extreme sports, offering a multifaceted experience that is both exhilarating and soothing. Its appeal lies in the combination of physical challenge, natural beauty, camaraderie, and the opportunity for personal growth and reflection. Whether seeking an adrenaline-fueled adventure or a peaceful retreat into nature, rafting provides an avenue for exploration, relaxation, and the forging of deep connections with both fellow adventurers and the natural world.

Source: https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/opinion/bliss-of-everyday-life/the-joys-of-river-rafting/articleshow/108335508.cms

103. If the author's argument that rafting serves as a therapeutic escape and a form of meditation is to be supported, which of the following would be most helpful?
(a) Individuals' stories about achieving mental clarity and stress relief after engaging in rafting activities.
(b) Data comparing the involvement of rafting enthusiasts in rafting versus their involvement in other extreme sports.
(c) An analysis contrasting rafting's physical requirements with those of easily accessible sports like jogging.
(d) Insights into the variety of rapids and the specific skills necessary for navigating each level effectively.

104. In the statement that rafting "offers an unparalleled experience that is both exhilarating and soothing," the first part serves to highlight the adventure aspect, while the second part serves to underscore...
(a) the physical challenges and skill development resulting from navigating rapids.
(b) the unique sense of peace and tranquility one can find in the natural settings of rafting.
(c) the camaraderie and team-building opportunities inherent in the rafting experience.
(d) the environmental awareness and conservation efforts promoted through rafting.

105. Which of the following, if true, would most effectively weaken the author's argument that rafting offers a unique sense of camaraderie among participants?
(a) Many individuals prefer to engage in rafting solo to better connect with nature and enjoy solitude.
(b) Rafting expeditions often include participants from diverse backgrounds, enhancing the sense of camaraderie.
(c) Team sports like football or basketball are statistically proven to foster stronger team bonds than rafting.
(d) Safety training sessions prior to rafting trips significantly reduce the fear and risk associated with the sport.

106. Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument that rafting offers a therapeutic escape from daily life?
(a) A scientific study finds that outdoor activities, especially water-based sports like rafting, significantly lower stress levels.
(b) Interviews with professional athletes indicate a preference for high-intensity training over leisurely outdoor activities.
(c) A survey shows that most people prefer indoor recreational activities due to convenience and accessibility.
(d) Technological advancements have made virtual reality simulations of rafting almost as compelling as the actual experience.

107. Based on the passage, which of the following can be inferred EXCEPT?
(a) Rafting can significantly enhance one's appreciation for and connection to the natural environment.
(b) The challenges of rafting can lead to improved decision-making skills in high-pressure situations.
(c) Participants in rafting experience both physical exertion and moments of serene contemplation.
(d) Rafting is recognized as an effective way to build interpersonal relationships.

108. The author concludes that rafting epitomises the essence of extreme sports by offering a multifaceted experience. Which aspect is not included in the author's portrayal of this experience?
(a) An opportunity to enhance one's physical fitness through rigorous activity.
(b) A platform for fostering global awareness and multicultural interactions.
(c) A means of developing a deeper connection with the natural world.
(d) A chance to build and experience camaraderie among participants.

Quantitative Techniques

Each set of questions in this section is based on a single passage, graph or other representation. Please answer each question by deriving information from such passage, graph, or other representation, or applying mathematical operations on such information as required by the question.

XXII. There are 4 banks in a city namely SBI, PNB, HDFC and BOB. Total number of employee in each bank is equal to the number of males and number of females in those Banks. The difference between number of males and females in SBI bank is 220 and 28% of total employee in SBI Bank is female. The difference between number of males and number of females in PNB Bank is 50 more than the difference between number of male and female in SBI Bank, and 65% of total employee in PNB Bank is male employee. In HDFC Bank there is total 500 employees in which 18% of total employee are female. The difference between the number of male employee and female employee in BOB Bank is $66\frac{2}{3}\%$ of the difference between male and female employee in PNB Bank and 48% of total employee in BOB Bank are female and remaining are male.

109. If the ratio of number of married males and number of unmarried male in PNB is 8:5 and the ratio of married female and unmarried females in PNB is 4:3, then find the number of married males and females in PNB.
(a) 550 (b) 545
(c) 540 (d) 530

110. Find the ratio of number of males in BOB with the total number of female employee in PNB.
(a) 51:9 (b) 52:7
(c) 53:8 (d) 54:5

111. On a day in HDFC 30% of the males and 44.44% of the females were absent. Find the percentage of employees present on that day.
(a) 66.9% (b) 68.9%
(c) 67.4% (d) 65.4%

112. Find the difference between the total number of employees in BOB Bank and average number of female in SBI and BOB Bank.
(a) 3458 (b) 3350
(c) 3250 (d) 3655

113. Number of males in SBI and PNB is what percent more than the females in those Banks.
(a) 104% (b) 105%
(c) 106% (d) 108%

114. What is the total difference between the number of males and number of female in all the banks together?
(a) 890 (b) 990
(c) 870 (d) None of these

XXIII. There are different number of cycles parked in three different stands namely, 1st stands, 2nd stands and 3rd stands in five park namely (A, B, C, D and E).
Average number of cycles parked in all the three stands of park A is 300. Sum of the cycles parked in the 1st stand and the 2nd stand in park A is 600 while the difference between the number cycles parked in the 1st stand and 2nd stands is 22.22% of the total number cycles parked in all the three stands of park A.
Average number of cycles parked in all the three stands of park B is 400 and in park C is 50% more than that of park B. Average number of cycles parked in all three stand of Park D is same as of park C. while in park E is 75% of park B.
Sum of the cycles parked in 1st stand and 2nd stand in Park B is 33.33% more than that of A, and the sum of the cycles parked in the 1st stand and 2nd stand in park C and park D is 62.5% and 112.5% more than that of park B. In park E sum of the cycle parked in 1st stand and 2nd stand is 16.67% more than that of A. www.lawpreptutorial.com
The ratio of the difference cycles parked in the 1st stand and 2nd stand of park A, Park B, Park C, Park D and Park E is 2 : 4 : 3 : 1 : 1 Respectively
Note: Cycles parked in stand 1 is greater than in stand 2

115. What is the difference between sum of the cycles parked in the 2nd stand in A and B together and the number of cycles parked in 1st stand of C and D together?
(a) 1300 (b) 1200
(c) 1000 (d) 900

116. The number of cycles parked in 3rd stands in D is what percent of the number of cycles parked in 1st stand in A?
(a) 20% (b) 25%
(c) 28% (d) 30%

117. What is the average of the number of cycles parked on 1st stand in all the parks?
(a) 600 (b) 610
(c) 620 (d) 650

118. What is the difference of the average number of cycles parked in 2nd stands in park A and Park E together and the average number of cycles parked on 3rd stand in park B and park C together?
(a) 100 (b) 150
(c) 250 (d) 200

119. What is the ratio of the sum of the number of cycles parked is 1st stand and 2nd stand in park B and Park C together and the number of cycles parked in 3rd stand and 2nd stand in park D and Park E together?
(a) 2:3 (b) 5:4
(c) 4:5 (d) None of these

120. Find the total number of cycles parked in all the three stands of all the parks?
(a) 6600 (b) 6400
(c) 6200 (d) 5600

Rough

Rough

Rough

Rough