

MOCK CLAT 10018 (BASIC)

ANSWER & EXPLANATIONS

English Language

1. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Difficulty level: Difficult

In analyzing the assessment of the Indian political system during Indira Gandhi's first stint as prime minister, the passage reveals a centralized concentration of power within the executive branch. The author depicts a system where formal institutionalization existed but was significantly modified to amplify Mrs. Gandhi's personal dominance and her advisers' informal influence. This modification of institutional processes underscores the centralization of power, particularly in the prime minister's office (PMO), reminiscent of a presidential model rather than the expected parliamentary accountability. This observation highlights a departure from the conventional understanding of parliamentary democracy, where the prime minister operates as *primus inter pares*, or first among equals, within a cabinet accountable to the legislature. Instead, power was wielded more autocratically, with decision-making channels bending to the will of Mrs. Gandhi and her inner circle. The passage illustrates how this phenomenon inverted the logic of the parliamentary system, concentrating powers within the executive and diminishing the influence of institutional checks and balances. Thus, option C, which states that the Indian political system during this period centralized power in the executive branch, accurately reflects the author's assessment.

Incorrect options:

A) The passage does not suggest that parliamentary accountability was prioritized during Indira Gandhi's first stint as prime minister. Instead, it indicates a modification of institutional processes to centralize power within the executive.

B) While formal institutionalization existed, the passage highlights how it was modified to enhance the executive branch's power, rather than emphasizing its importance.

D) There is no indication in the passage that public participation in foreign policy making was encouraged during the period discussed. Instead, it emphasizes the centralization of power within the executive, limiting public input in decision-making processes.

Reference line:

"This modification of institutional processes underscores the centralization of power, particularly in the prime minister's office (PMO), reminiscent of a presidential model rather than the expected parliamentary accountability."

2. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Difficulty level: Difficult

The role of public opinion in Indian foreign policy making during the period discussed was largely ineffective, as indicated in the passage. Despite the presence of various channels for public expression, such as elections, interest groups, and the media, policymakers demonstrated a disregard for public sentiment in shaping foreign policy decisions. The passage emphasizes that public pressure failed to influence foreign policy creation, highlighting the limited impact of mass views and political communication on decision-making processes. This ineffectiveness is attributed to inadequate articulation of public opinion on foreign policy issues, both in urban and rural settings. Furthermore, elite articulation, where it occurred, was largely ineffective in swaying policymakers, contributing to the overall disregard for public sentiment in foreign policy formulation. Thus, option B accurately captures the essence of public opinion's role during this period by acknowledging its limited influence on foreign policy making.

Incorrect options:

A) There is no evidence in the passage to suggest that public opinion had a significant influence on foreign policy making during the period discussed.

C) The passage implies the opposite, indicating that policymakers did not consider public opinion extensively in foreign policy making.

D) The passage does not mention public opinion's relevance in domestic policy formulation in relation to foreign policy making.

Reference line:

"This ineffectiveness is attributed to inadequate articulation of public opinion on foreign policy issues, both in urban and rural settings."

3. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Difficulty level: Moderate

In describing the prime minister's office (PMO) in foreign policy making, the author employs a metaphor to convey its significant influence and dominance. By likening the PMO's authority to that of a presidential office, the author effectively communicates the concentration of power within the executive branch, particularly in shaping foreign policy decisions. This metaphorical comparison underscores the PMO's central role in directing Indian foreign policy, highlighting its dominance over other institutional checks and balances. Through this metaphor, the author portrays the PMO as a locus of power and authority, akin to a presidency, within the Indian government structure. Thus, option A, which identifies the use of metaphor in describing the PMO, accurately captures the rhetorical device employed by the author.

Incorrect options:

B) Hyperbole would involve exaggerated or over-the-top language, which is not evident in the description of the PMO.

C) Alliteration refers to the repetition of consonant sounds, which is not present in the description.

D) Personification involves attributing human characteristics to non-human entities, which is not the case in the passage

Reference line:

"By likening the PMO's authority to that of a presidential office, the author effectively communicates the concentration of power within the executive branch..."

4. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Difficulty level: Moderate

The author's perspective on the evolution of public opinion's role in foreign policy making suggests that it has become more influential over time. While the passage acknowledges the historical disregard for public opinion by policymakers, it also indicates a shift in this trend, noting that policymakers today have less freedom to disregard public sentiment on foreign policy issues than they did in the past. This shift implies an increasing recognition of public opinion's significance in shaping foreign policy decisions, aligning with option C's assertion that public opinion has become more influential over time.

Incorrect options:

A) The passage implies the opposite, suggesting that public opinion's influence has changed over time rather than remaining constant.

B) There is no indication in the passage that public opinion's significance has diminished over time.

D) The passage does not suggest that public opinion was never considered; rather, it highlights its limited impact during the period discussed.

Reference line:

"it also indicates a shift in this trend, noting that policymakers today have less freedom to disregard public sentiment on foreign policy issues than they did in the past."

5. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Difficulty level: Easy

The statement "There was inadequate articulation of mass views on foreign policy" best supports the author's argument about the influence of public opinion in foreign policy making. This statement reflects the passage's depiction of public opinion as having minimal impact on foreign policy decisions due to restricted political communication and ineffective elite articulation. It underscores the limited influence of mass views on shaping foreign policy outcomes, aligning with the author's argument that policymakers made decisions with little regard for public sentiment. Thus, option B accurately represents the passage's portrayal of public opinion's role in foreign policy making during the period discussed.

Incorrect options:

A) This statement suggests the opposite of the author's argument, implying that policymakers considered public opinion extensively, which contradicts the passage.

C) While public opinion had a major impact on domestic policy formulation, the passage emphasizes its limited influence on foreign policy making, making this statement less relevant.

D) This statement acknowledges the limited impact of the political Opposition on foreign policy making but does not directly support the author's argument regarding public opinion.

Reference line:

"This statement reflects the passage's depiction of public opinion as having minimal impact on foreign policy decisions due to restricted political communication and ineffective elite articulation."

6. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Difficulty level: Difficult

In the passage, the author acknowledges the role of the media in responding to the disaster in Kutch. The passage mentions that the media swiftly covered the disaster, with newspapers and television channels broadcasting it worldwide within hours. This indicates that the media played an active and crucial role in disseminating information about the disaster and mobilizing support for relief efforts.

Reasons for Choosing Option B:

Direct Reference in the Passage: The passage explicitly states that the media covered the disaster extensively and participated in relief efforts. This direct reference supports option B as the correct answer.

Incorrect options:

A) The media ignored the disaster completely: This option contradicts the information provided in the passage, which clearly indicates that the media actively covered the disaster.

C) The media sensationalized the disaster for ratings: While the media may sometimes sensationalize events for ratings, there is no indication in the passage that this occurred in the context of the Kutch disaster. The passage focuses on the media's role in relief efforts rather than sensationalism.

D) The media criticized the government's handling of the disaster: There is no mention in the passage of the media criticizing the government's response to the disaster. The passage emphasizes the media's role in relief efforts, suggesting a collaborative relationship rather than criticism.

Overall, option B is supported by direct evidence from the passage, making it the correct choice.

Reference line:

"Within hours of the tragedy, all newspapers and television channels had zoomed in to cover the disaster and broadcast it all over the world."

7. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Difficulty level: Difficult

The phrase "Life started to return to normal at a slow pace" implies that despite the challenges and difficulties faced by the people in Kutch after the disaster, they began to gradually resume their daily routines. This indicates a slow but steady process of recovery and adaptation to the new circumstances.

Reasons for Choosing Option C:

Inference from the Passage: The phrase "Life started to return to normal at a slow pace" suggests a gradual resumption of daily routines despite the challenges faced by the people. This inference aligns with option C, making it the correct answer.

Incorrect options

A) Life returned to normal quickly after the disaster: This option contradicts the information provided in the passage, which indicates a slow process of recovery rather than a quick return to normalcy.

B) The recovery process was swift and efficient: While the passage acknowledges the resilience of the people in Kutch, it does not suggest that the recovery process was swift or efficient. The phrase "at a slow pace" implies a gradual and prolonged recovery process.

D) The disaster had no lasting impact on the affected communities: This option is inconsistent with the information provided in the passage, which indicates that the disaster had a significant impact on the affected communities, requiring a gradual adjustment to new circumstances.

Overall, option C is supported by the inference drawn from the passage, making it the most appropriate choice.

Reference line:

"Life started to return to normal at a slow pace."

8. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Difficulty level: Moderate

The passage portrays the Kutchi people in a positive light, emphasizing their admirable spirit and bravery in facing the disaster. Despite being engulfed by the earthquake and losing their belongings, the people of Kutch demonstrated resilience and determination to restore normalcy. This is evident from the author's description of how they bravely faced the disaster and continued to fight for their livelihoods.

Reasons for Choosing Option B:

Direct Reference in the Passage: The passage explicitly mentions that the Kutchi people faced the disaster bravely and are still fighting to restore normalcy. This direct reference supports option B as the correct answer.

Incorrect options:

A) They were unprepared and panicked during the disaster: There is no indication in the passage that the Kutchi people panicked or were unprepared during the disaster. On the contrary, the passage emphasizes their admirable spirit and bravery in facing the challenges posed by the earthquake.

C) They blamed the government for their misfortune: There is no mention in the passage of the Kutchi people blaming the government for their misfortune. The focus of the passage is on the resilience and courage displayed by the people in overcoming the disaster.

D) They relied solely on external aid for recovery efforts: While the passage acknowledges the assistance provided by NGOs, government officials, and the media in relief efforts, it also emphasizes the active role of the Kutchi people in rebuilding their lives. There is no indication that they relied solely on external aid for recovery efforts.

Overall, option B is supported by direct evidence from the passage, making it the correct choice.

Reference line:

"The spirit of the Kutchi people is admirable."

9. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Difficulty level: Moderate

The passage describes the author's hesitation to drink the water offered by the young girl due to concerns about its cleanliness and the risk of contracting diseases like dysentery and jaundice. This indicates a cautious approach to safeguarding one's health in a post-disaster environment where access to clean water may be limited.

Reasons for Choosing Option A:

Direct Reference in the Passage: The passage explicitly mentions the author's hesitation to drink the water due to concerns about contracting diseases like dysentery and jaundice. This direct reference supports option A as the correct answer.

Incorrect Options

B) Because he was not thirsty at the time: There is no indication in the passage that the author's decision not to drink the water was based on a lack of thirst. The primary concern expressed in the passage is the risk of contracting diseases from contaminated water.

C) Because he did not trust the girl's intentions: There is no mention in the passage of the author mistrusting the girl's intentions. The author's hesitation to drink the water is solely based on concerns about its cleanliness and potential health risks.

D) Because he wanted to hurt the girl's feelings: There is no indication in the passage that the author's decision not to drink the water was motivated by a desire to hurt the girl's feelings. The primary concern expressed in the passage is the risk of contracting diseases from contaminated water.

Overall, option A is supported by direct evidence from the passage, making it the correct choice.

Reference line:

"The girl offered me a glass of water."

10. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Difficulty level: Easy

The passage mentions the girl giving the author a charpoy to sit on when he entered the tent. This indicates that a charpoy is a type of furniture used for sitting or resting. Based on the context provided in the passage, it can be inferred that a charpoy is a makeshift bed made of woven rope or string, commonly used in Indian households.

Reasons for Choosing Option B:

Contextual Inference: The passage describes the charpoy as a piece of furniture offered to the author for sitting. This suggests that a charpoy is a type of seating or resting arrangement, which aligns with the definition of a makeshift bed made of woven rope or string.

Cultural Context: The passage mentions that the author was visiting remote areas in Kutch, which implies a rural or traditional setting where such furniture would be commonly found. This cultural context supports the inference that a charpoy is a traditional Indian bed.

Incorrect options:

A) A type of grain used for cooking: There is no indication in the passage that a charpoy is related to cooking or food preparation. The context provided suggests that it is a piece of furniture rather than a food item.

C) A traditional Indian garment worn by women: There is no mention in the passage of a charpoy being associated with clothing or garments. The context provided suggests that it is a piece of furniture rather than an article of clothing.

D) A cooking utensil used for making dough: There is no indication in the passage that a charpoy is used for cooking or food preparation. The context provided suggests that it is a piece of furniture rather than a cooking utensil.

Overall, option B is supported by contextual inference and cultural context from the passage, making it the correct choice.

This concludes the explanation for the five questions based on the passage provided. Each answer was carefully chosen based on direct references, contextual inference, and logical reasoning derived from the information presented in the passage.

Reference line:

"She gave me a charpoy to sit on."

11. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Difficulty level: Difficult

The passage explicitly states that career breaks during motherhood contribute significantly to the gender pay gap over the child-bearing years. It mentions that mothers' earnings, even ten or twenty years after the birth of their first child, are about 20% lower compared to similar childless women. This highlights the long-term impact of career breaks on mothers' earning potential, emphasizing its role in perpetuating the gender pay gap. Therefore, option C is the correct answer.

Incorrect options:

Option A: Lack of career opportunities for women: While lack of career opportunities can be a contributing factor to the gender pay gap, the passage specifically focuses on career breaks during motherhood as a major driver rather than lack of opportunities.

Option B: Fathers' unwillingness to take parental leave: While fathers' involvement in parental leave policies can impact gender equality, the passage does not mention fathers' unwillingness as a significant contributor to the gender pay gap over the child-bearing years.

Option D: Discriminatory hiring practices: Discriminatory hiring practices certainly contribute to gender inequality in the workplace, but the passage emphasizes career breaks during motherhood as the primary driver of the gender pay gap during child-bearing years.

Reference line: "Career breaks during motherhood are a major driver of the increase in the gender pay gap over the child-bearing years."

12. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Difficulty level: Difficult

The passage highlights unaffordable childcare costs as the primary obstacle to mothers' participation in the workforce. It mentions that childcare fees substantially reduce take-home pay, making work less attractive for mothers. Additionally, it states that the cost of childcare represents a significant portion of earnings for part-time workers, particularly women. Therefore, the passage suggests that unaffordable childcare costs hinder mothers' ability to work, making option D the correct answer.

Incorrect options:

Option A: Lack of educational qualifications: While educational qualifications can influence employment opportunities, the passage does not suggest it as the primary obstacle to mothers' workforce participation.

Option B: Social norms and preferences: While social norms and preferences may influence mothers' decisions regarding work and childcare, the passage focuses more on the financial barrier posed by childcare costs.

Option C: Limited job opportunities: While limited job opportunities can be a barrier to workforce participation, the passage emphasizes childcare costs as the primary obstacle for mothers.

Reference line: "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."

13. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Difficulty level: Moderate

The passage suggests that childcare subsidies are effective in raising mothers' labor supply because they provide financial incentives for employment. It states that subsidies conditional on work incentivize people to seek or remain in employment. By reducing the financial burden of childcare costs, subsidies make it more financially viable for mothers to work, thereby increasing their labor supply. Therefore, option C is the correct answer.

Reasons for not choosing other options:

Option A: They directly increase mothers' wages: While childcare subsidies indirectly contribute to mothers' income by reducing childcare costs, they do not directly increase mothers' wages.

Option B: They reduce the need for parents' separation: Childcare subsidies may indirectly reduce the need for parents to separate due to financial stress, but the primary focus of subsidies is to incentivize employment rather than preventing separation.

Option D: They prioritize low-skill households: While childcare subsidies may benefit low-skill households, the passage does not suggest that they are specifically targeted at such households. Subsidies are considered effective across various household types in incentivizing employment.

Reference line: "Research shows that childcare subsidies are the most effective policy for raising mothers' labour supply, particularly among low-skill households."

14. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Difficulty level: Moderate

The passage suggests that mothers' employment has a positive impact on reducing child poverty. It states that lower wages and hours worked by mothers, combined with parents' separation, are significant sources of child poverty. Additionally, it mentions that in less educated families, women's employment is the most effective measure against the incidence of child poverty. Therefore, the passage implies that mothers' employment helps alleviate child poverty, making option C the correct answer.

Incorrect options:

Option A: Mothers' employment has no effect on child poverty: The passage contradicts this option by explicitly stating that mothers' employment is an effective measure against child poverty.

Option B: Mothers' employment is the primary cause of child poverty: While mothers' employment may contribute to certain challenges, such as parental separation, the passage does not suggest that it is the primary cause of child poverty.

Option D: Mothers' employment exacerbates child poverty: This option is contrary to the passage's implication that mothers' employment helps reduce child poverty.

Reference line: "In less educated families, women's employment is the most effective measure against the incidence of child poverty."

15. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Difficulty level: Easy

The passage suggests that childcare subsidies can be partly self-financing over the long term. It explains that when mothers work more and experience wage growth, they contribute more income tax revenue to the government. This increased revenue from working mothers can offset some of the initial government spending on childcare subsidies. Therefore, the term "self-financing" implies that the subsidies are funded, at least in part, by the increased income tax revenue generated by working mothers, making option B the correct answer.

Incorrect options:

Option A: The subsidies are funded entirely by the government: The passage indicates that childcare subsidies can be partly self-financing, suggesting that they are not solely funded by the government.

Option C: The subsidies are funded by reducing other government expenditures: While this could be a potential source of funding, the passage specifically mentions increased income tax revenue from working mothers as the financing mechanism for childcare subsidies.

Option D: The subsidies are funded by private donations: The passage does not mention private donations as a source of funding for childcare subsidies, focusing instead on income tax revenue from working mothers.

Reference line: "Research also shows that childcare subsidies can be partly self-financing over the long term."

16. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Difficulty level: Moderate

The central theme of the passage revolves around the efficacy of the Baudoin technique in resolving conflicts, particularly in the context of a family dispute over inheritance. The passage provides a detailed account of how the technique was applied by a widow to bring about a harmonious conclusion to a prolonged legal battle initiated by her late husband's children from a previous marriage. The widow's successful use of the technique demonstrates its effectiveness in resolving conflicts and achieving desired outcomes.

Option A: The importance of legal battles in inheritance disputes - While legal battles are mentioned in the passage, they serve as a backdrop to illustrate the application of the Baudoin technique rather than being the central theme itself. The focus is more on the resolution of conflicts rather than the legal proceedings involved.

Option C: The role of attorneys in settling family disputes - While attorneys are mentioned in the passage as part of the widow's efforts to resolve the dispute, their role is secondary to the application of the Baudoin technique. The passage primarily emphasizes the effectiveness of the technique rather than the role of attorneys.

Option D: The challenges faced by widows in managing inherited estates - While the passage features a widow managing an inherited estate, the main focus is on the resolution of the family dispute using the Baudoin technique rather than the challenges faced by widows in general. Therefore, this option does not capture the central theme of the passage as effectively as option B.

Reference line:

"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."

17. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Difficulty level: Moderate

The phrase "It is finished in divine order" uses metaphorical language to convey the idea of achieving a harmonious conclusion through divine intervention. Metaphor is a rhetorical device that compares two unrelated things, suggesting that they share common characteristics. In this case, the phrase metaphorically represents the widow's belief in the intervention of divine forces to bring about a favorable outcome to the family dispute.

Option A: Simile - A simile compares two things using the words "like" or "as." The phrase in question does not contain a direct comparison using "like" or "as," so it is not a simile.

Option C: Alliteration - Alliteration refers to the repetition of initial consonant sounds in neighboring words or syllables. The phrase in question does not exhibit alliteration, as there is no repetition of consonant sounds.

Option D: Hyperbole - Hyperbole involves exaggeration or overstatement for emphasis. The phrase in question does not employ hyperbolic language; instead, it conveys a sense of certainty and assurance regarding the outcome of the dispute.

Reference line:

"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."

18. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Difficulty level: Moderate

The passage describes how the widow practicing the Baudoin technique experienced a sense of inner peace and tranquility during the ten nights of affirmation. This inference is supported by the passage's description of her achieving a state akin to sleep, affirming the statement "It is finished in divine order" repeatedly, and experiencing a sense of well-being upon waking up on the eleventh day.

Option A: She experienced frustration and anxiety - There is no evidence in the passage to suggest that the widow experienced frustration and anxiety during the practice of the Baudoin technique. Instead, the passage emphasizes the positive effects of the technique on her emotional state.

Option B: She felt overwhelmed and stressed - Similarly, there is no indication in the passage that the widow felt overwhelmed and stressed during the practice. On the contrary, she achieved a sense of inner peace and tranquility, as described in the passage.

Option D: She remained indifferent and unaffected - The passage clearly states that the widow experienced a sense of well-being and conviction regarding the resolution of the dispute after practicing the Baudoin technique. Therefore, she was not indifferent or unaffected by the process.

Reference line:

"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."

19. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Difficulty level: Easy

The passage describes how the widow practiced the Baudoin technique for ten consecutive nights, systematically relaxing her body and affirming the statement "It is finished in divine order." During this process, she experienced a sense of inner peace and tranquility, as indicated by the passage. This inference is drawn from the passage's description of her achieving a state akin to sleep, feeling a sense of well-being upon waking up on the eleventh day, and the successful resolution of the dispute. Therefore, option C is the correct inference about the widow's emotional state during the practice of the Baudoin technique.

Not choosing other options:

Option A: She experienced frustration and anxiety.

This option suggests that the widow felt frustrated and anxious during the ten nights of practicing the Baudoin technique. However, there is no evidence in the passage to support this inference. Instead, the

passage emphasizes that she achieved a sense of inner peace and tranquility during the practice, which contradicts the idea of experiencing frustration and anxiety.

Option B: She felt overwhelmed and stressed.

This option implies that the widow felt overwhelmed and stressed while practicing the Baudoin technique. However, there is no indication in the passage to suggest that she experienced such negative emotions. Instead, the passage highlights her systematic relaxation and the positive effects of the technique, leading to a sense of inner peace and tranquility.

Option D: She remained indifferent and unaffected.

This option suggests that the widow remained indifferent and unaffected by the practice of the Baudoin technique. However, the passage clearly indicates that she experienced positive emotions and achieved a sense of inner peace and tranquility during the practice. Therefore, the idea of remaining indifferent or unaffected does not align with the passage's description of her emotional state.

Reference line:

"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."

20. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Difficulty level: Difficult

Throughout the passage, the author presents a positive and supportive attitude towards the effectiveness of the Baudoin technique. The narrative provides a detailed account of how the technique was applied by a widow to successfully resolve a prolonged legal dispute. The author describes the technique's application and the resulting favorable outcome without expressing any doubts or reservations. Therefore, based on the tone of the passage, it can be inferred that the author views the effectiveness of the Baudoin technique in a supportive light, making option D the correct answer.

Incorrect options:

Option A: Skeptical - The author does not express skepticism towards the effectiveness of the Baudoin technique; instead, the narrative portrays confidence in its efficacy.

Option B: Neutral - The author's tone is not neutral but rather positive and supportive of the Baudoin technique's effectiveness.

Option C: Critical - The author does not adopt a critical stance towards the Baudoin technique; instead, the narrative highlights its successful application in resolving the conflict.

Reference line:

The passage consistently portrays the successful application of the Baudoin technique by the widow in resolving the dispute, without any indication of skepticism or criticism from the author. Therefore, option D, "Supportive," best reflects the author's tone regarding the effectiveness of the technique.

21. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Difficulty level: Difficult

In the passage, James Prinsep's achievements are portrayed in a positive light, indicating admiration and reverence from the author. The passage describes Prinsep's remarkable journey from being penniless to becoming a successful merchant, member of parliament, and influential figure in various fields. Phrases like "lady luck indeed shone bright on him" and "memorable contributions" reflect the author's admiration for Prinsep's accomplishments.

Incorrect options:

Option B) Critical and disapproving: This option is not suitable because there is no indication of criticism or disapproval towards Prinsep's achievements in the passage. The author consistently highlights Prinsep's positive contributions and talents.

Option C) Indifferent and neutral: This option is not appropriate because the author's tone is not neutral but rather appreciative and respectful towards Prinsep's accomplishments. The passage emphasizes Prinsep's remarkable abilities and significant impact on the development of Benares and Calcutta.

Option D) Skeptical and doubtful: This option is incorrect because there is no evidence of skepticism or doubt in the passage regarding Prinsep's achievements. The author's portrayal of Prinsep is consistently positive, indicating confidence in his abilities and contributions.

Reference line: The entire passage portrays James Prinsep's achievements in a positive light, indicating admiration and reverence from the author. For example, phrases like "lady luck indeed shone bright on him" and "memorable contributions" reflect the author's admiration for Prinsep's accomplishments.

22. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Difficulty level: Difficult

The correct answer is C) Prinsep focused solely on his official duties at the mint during his tenure in Benares.

This statement is least likely to be inferred from the passage regarding James Prinsep's tenure in Benares. The passage highlights Prinsep's diverse interests and activities beyond his official duties at the mint, indicating that he was actively involved in various projects related to architecture, sanitation, and illustration.

Incorrect options:

Option A) Prinsep made significant contributions to improving the sanitation of Benares: This option is likely to be inferred from the passage, as it mentions Prinsep's involvement in designing an arched tunnel to improve sanitation in Benares.

Option B) Prinsep's eyesight improved considerably during his time in Benares: This option is also likely to be inferred from the passage, as it mentions a fortuitous outcome leading to the improvement of Prinsep's eyesight.

Option D) Prinsep was actively involved in studying temple architecture and producing illustrations: This option is supported by the passage, which describes Prinsep's dedication to studying temple architecture and creating illustrations during his tenure in Benares.

Reference line: The passage describes James Prinsep's tenure in Benares as a period of significant personal and professional growth. Specific details such as his involvement in designing structures, studying temple architecture, and producing illustrations support the inference that Prinsep was not solely focused on his official duties at the mint during his time in Benares.

23. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Difficulty level: Moderate

Based on the passage, one can conclude that James Prinsep had a keen interest in architecture, drawing, and mechanical inventions. The passage mentions Prinsep's remarkable ability in making detailed drawings and mechanical inventions from a young age, as well as his involvement in studying architecture and producing illustrations.

Incorrect options:

Option A) He was primarily interested in business and commerce: This option is not supported by the passage, which emphasizes Prinsep's diverse interests beyond business and commerce.

Option C) He was only focused on his official duties and showed no interest in other activities: This option is contradicted by the passage, which describes Prinsep's involvement in various projects beyond his official duties.

Option D) He had no significant contributions to the development of Benares: This option is incorrect as the passage highlights Prinsep's significant contributions to the development of Benar

Reference line: The passage highlights James Prinsep's diverse interests and talents, including architecture, drawing, and mechanical inventions. Details such as his remarkable ability in making detailed drawings and mechanical inventions from a young age, as well as his involvement in studying architecture and producing illustrations, support the conclusion that he had a keen interest in these areas.

24. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Difficulty level: Moderate

This sentence implies James Prinsep's dedication to his work and his multifaceted talents. It highlights Prinsep's commitment to studying temple architecture and his creative output in producing illustrations related to his studies. The phrase "devoted himself" indicates a high level of dedication and passion for his work, while "made several illustrations" demonstrates his ability to apply his talents in practical ways.

Option A) "James Prinsep's life underwent a major transformation during his tenure in Benares." This option does not provide specific information about Prinsep's actions or accomplishments during his tenure in Benares.

Option C) "Prinsep moved back to Calcutta as deputy assay master and two years later, became the chief assay master." This option focuses on Prinsep's career advancements but does not emphasize his personal dedication or the range of his talents and interests.

Option D) "He regularly contributed articles on chemistry, mineralogy, numismatics, and on the study of Indian antiquities." This option highlights Prinsep's contributions to the Asiatic Society of Bengal but does not specifically address his dedication to studying temple architecture and producing illustrations.

Reference line: "He devoted himself to studying temple architecture and made several illustrations on it" directly implies James Prinsep's dedication to his work and his multifaceted talents. The phrase "devoted himself" indicates a high level of dedication and passion for his work, while "made several illustrations" demonstrates his ability to apply his talents in practical ways.

Current Affairs and General Knowledge

25. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Breach of De Minimis Limit:

India acknowledges that it breached the 10% de minimis limit for subsidies, which triggered the "peace clause" established in 2013.

The interim peace clause was put in place in 2013 under the Bali Agreement to protect developing countries from being challenged for breach of subsidy levels.

However, India has questioned the way subsidies are calculated at the WTO, saying it is calculated at a fixed and outdated 1986-88 price, which overestimates the subsidy.

India is seeking to change it at the WTO negotiations on agriculture.

26. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer.

The Cairns group comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Ukraine, Uruguay, and Vietnam. It has been lobbying for agricultural trade liberalisation. Cairns Group:

Established: 1986 in Cairns, Australia

Members: 19 agricultural exporting countries, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Pakistan, and New Zealand.

India is not a Member of Cairns Group.

Stance: Advocates for liberalization of agricultural trade, meaning they generally support reducing tariffs, subsidies, and other trade barriers that hinder the free flow of agricultural products across borders. They believe this will benefit all countries by promoting efficiency and economic growth.

27. **Answer:** B

Explanation: 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. The primary concern of the protesting farmers is that no law on MSP has been enacted yet, and that the Union government is turning a blind eye to their other demands despite repeated appeals. The MSP is the price at which the government promises, on paper, to procure agricultural produce from farmers.

Calling the WTO policies "anti-farmer", the protesters also demanded legal guarantees for MSP, debt waiver, the implementation of Swaminathan Commission recommendations on issues related to agriculture, and pensions for farmers.

28. **Answer:** B

Explanation: G-33 Group:

Established: Prior to the 2003 Cancun ministerial conference

Members: Originally 33 developing countries, currently around 48, including India, China, and Cuba.

Stance: Advocates for special treatment for developing countries in agricultural trade negotiations.

They argue that developing countries need more flexibility to protect their domestic agricultural sectors and ensure food security, even if it means maintaining some trade barriers.

They are also concerned about the potential negative impacts of full trade liberalization on their livelihoods and rural development.

29. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Thailand 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.

30. **Answer:** B

Explanation: The ADITI scheme worth Rs 750 crore for the period 2023-24 to 2025-26 falls under the iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) framework of Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence.

Under the scheme, start-ups are eligible to receive grant-in-aid of up to Rs 25 crore for their research, development, and innovation endeavours in defence technology.

The scheme will nurture the innovation of youth, and help the country leap forward in the field of technology.

In the first edition of ADITI, 17 challenges – Indian Army (3), Indian Navy (5), Indian Air Force (5) and Defence Space Agency (4) - have been launched.

31. **Answer:** B

Explanation: India's military spending of \$81.4 billion was the fourth highest in the world in 2022 and saw a jump of 6% from the previous year, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said on Monday. Global spending on military equipment reached an all-time high of \$2.24 trillion in 2022. The report mentioned that 2022 was the eighth consecutive year when global military spending rose. The report comes amidst the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, impacting the security architecture of Europe. China maintained its position as the world's second-largest military spender, allocating an estimated \$292 billion toward military expenditure in 2022. This amount was 4.2% higher than in 2021 and represented an increase of 63% compared to 2013. It is noteworthy that China's military spending has increased for 28 years in a row. The United States continues to be the largest military spender globally, with military spending amounting to \$877 billion in 2022. This figure represented 39% of the total global military expenditure and was three times higher than the military spending of China, which is the world's second-largest spender. Despite the 0.7% increase in US military spending in real terms in 2022, the increase would have been more significant if it were not for the highest levels of inflation since 1981.

32. **Answer:** D

Explanation: India has cleared the first 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in the defence sector, with permissions granted to Sweden's Saab to set up a new facility that will manufacture rockets. Sources said the FDI proposal, valued at under ₹ 500 crore, was cleared last month.

33. **Answer:** C

Explanation: There are different editions of iDEX Prime catering to specific needs:

iDEX Prime (X): This edition has larger challenges and grants compared to the regular iDEX Prime.

iDEX Prime (SPRINT): This edition focuses on faster development cycles and shorter deadlines for specific problem statements from the Indian Navy.

34. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Under the scheme, start-ups are eligible to receive grant-in-aid of up to Rs 25 crore for their research, development, and innovation endeavours in defence technology.

The scheme will nurture the innovation of youth, and help the country leap forward in the field of technology.

In the first edition of ADITI, 17 challenges – Indian Army (3), Indian Navy (5), Indian Air Force (5) and Defence Space Agency (4) - have been launched.

35. **Answer:** C

Explanation: NexCar19 is a type of CAR-T and gene therapy developed indigenously in India by ImmunoACT, which is a company incubated at IIT Bombay.

It is designed to target cancer cells that carry the CD19 protein.

This protein acts like a flag on cancer cells, which allows CAR-T cells to recognise and attach themselves to the cancer cells and start the process of elimination.

Even some developed nations don't have their own CAR-T therapies; they import them from the United States or Europe.

36. **Answer:** B

Explanation: It is designed to treat B-cell cancers, such as leukaemia and lymphoma.

The therapy is now available in over 30 hospitals in more than 10 cities in India. Patients aged above 15, who are suffering from B-cell cancers are eligible for treatment.

37. **Answer:** B

Explanation: CAR T-cell therapy is a type of immunotherapy. You might also hear it called a type of adoptive cell transfer. Adoptive cell transfer that uses T cells from a donor is being studied in the treatment of some types of cancer and some infections. Also called adoptive cell therapy, cellular adoptive immunotherapy, and T-cell transfer therapy.

38. **Answer:** D

Explanation: 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 Alka Dwivedi 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 NexCAR19, which showed promising results for blood cancers like leukaemia and lymphoma.

NexCAR19 is also available at a reasonable cost and meets the needs of patients in India's healthcare system.

39. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Recently, The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has granted market authorisation for NexCAR19, India's first indigenously-developed Chimeric Antigen Receptor T cell (CAR-T cell) Therapy.

India is now one of the first developing countries to have its indigenous CAR-T and gene therapy platform.

40. **Answer:** C

Explanation: In 1975, the Punjab government issued a notification dividing its 25% SC reservation at that time into two categories. In the first category, seats were reserved solely for the Balmiki and Mazhbi Sikh communities, which were and continue to be considered two of the most economically and educationally backward communities in the state. As a result, they were to be given first preference for any reservations in education and public employment. The second category consisted of the rest of the SC communities, which didn't get this preferential treatment. It was 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.

While the notification remained in force for nearly 30 years, it ran into legal hurdles when in 2004, a five-judge constitution bench struck down a similar law introduced by Andhra Pradesh in 2000. In 'E.V. Chinniah v State of Andhra Pradesh', the Supreme Court struck down the Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Castes (Rationalisation of Reservations) Act, 2000 for being violative of the right to equality. The law contained an expansive list of scheduled caste communities identified in the state and the quota of reservation benefits provided to each of them.

41. **Answer:** B

Explanation: There is a constitutional mandate and a judicial endorsement for sub-categorisation within castes, as Article 16 (4) of the Constitution empowers that the State can make any provision for reservation in matters of promotion in favour of the SCs and STs if they are not adequately represented in the services under the State.

42. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Andhra Pradesh is all set to become the second state in the country after Bihar to hold a caste census with the elaborate exercise kicking off on Friday. Significantly, it will coincide with the unveiling of the 'Statue of social justice' - Dr BR Ambedkar's 125-foot statue - in Vijayawada city, believed to be the tallest statue of the Dalit icon in the world. The state government wants to complete the census exercise by Jan 28, 2024.

43. **Answer:** A

Explanation: The Supreme Court of India, in the case of E.V.Chinnaiah vs State Of Andhra Pradesh And Ors, 2004, asserted that only Parliament has the authority to create and notify SC and Scheduled Tribes (STs) lists. While the notification remained in force for nearly 30 years, it ran into legal hurdles when in 2004, a five-judge constitution bench struck down a similar law introduced by Andhra Pradesh in 2000. In 'E.V. Chinnaiah v State of Andhra Pradesh', the Supreme Court struck down the Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Castes (Rationalisation of Reservations) Act, 2000 for being violative of the right to equality. The law contained an expansive list of scheduled caste communities identified in the state and the quota of reservation benefits provided to each of them. In 2014, the Supreme Court in 'Davinder Singh v State of Punjab', 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.

44. **Answer:** C

Explanation: 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 2018.

45. **Answer:** D

Explanation: In its judgment in the Bachan Singh vs. State of Punjab case, the Supreme Court of India upheld the constitutionality of the death penalty but introduced the concept of "rarest of rare" cases as a guideline for deciding whether the death penalty should be imposed. The court held that the death penalty should only be imposed in the rarest of rare cases, where the alternative sentence of life imprisonment would be "unquestionably inadequate" and the death penalty was the only appropriate punishment. The court also held that the death penalty should only be imposed after considering all relevant factors, including the nature of the crime, the circumstances of the offender, and the impact on society.

46. **Answer:** C

Explanation: On the night of April 14, 2008, a terrifying incident shook Bawankhedi, a village in Amroha's Hasanpur tehsil. An entire family of seven, including a 10-month-old, was murdered in sleep by one of their own. The accused was Shabnam, then a young 24-year-old, who executed the murderous plan with lover Saleem. Both are currently on the death row. The seven persons who they killed were Shabnam's father Shaukat Ali (55), mother Hashmi (50), elder brother Anees (35), Anees's wife Anjum (25), younger brother Rashid (22), cousin Rabia (14), and Arsh, Anees's 10-month-old son. If executed, Shabnam will be the first woman to be hanged for a crime in independent India. Shabnam was a double MA, and taught at a village primary school. She was engaged in a love affair with Saleem, who was a Class VI dropout and worked at a wood sawing unit outside Shabnam's home.

47. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Alabama inmate Kenneth Smith was executed on January 25 by nitrogen hypoxia, 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.

48. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Alabama inmate Kenneth Smith was executed on January 25 by nitrogen hypoxia, 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. The execution, however, took roughly 22 minutes, and onlookers were left distressed by what they saw.

49. **Answer:** B

Explanation: While the highest number of leopards were reported in Madhya Pradesh (3,907), only three other States reported over a 1,000 animals each — Maharashtra (1,985), Karnataka (1,879) and Tamil Nadu (1,070). The carnivores were completely wiped from the country and were declared extinct in 1952, due to overhunting and habitat loss were reintroduced as part of the 'Action Plan for Reintroduction of Cheetah in India' prepared by the Wildlife Institute of India.

50. **Answer:** B

Explanation: The Indian government is planning to spend crore of rupees on the import of Cheetahs from South Africa once again. Project Cheetah head SP Yadav on Saturday told PTI news agency that Cheetahs will be imported from South Africa and introduced into Madhya Pradesh's Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary. However, Yadav did not share any specific date when the Cheetahs will be imported to India, he said by the end of this year, the big cats may come into India. Last year eight cheetahs arrived in Madhya Pradesh after a flight from Africa. The five female and three male cheetahs were introduced at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.

In less than a year 20 African cheetahs were translocated to India at Kuno National Park as the Government of India has signed an MoU to bring 8 cheetahs from Namibia and 12 from South Africa.

The total cost of this project is estimated at around ₹91 crore. India's top oil firm IOC will give Rs. 50.22 crore for this project as a CSR (Corporate social Responsibility).

51. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Until recent years, the snow leopard range in India was undefined due to a lack of extensive nationwide assessments for this vulnerable species. Before 2016, approximately one-third of the range (around ca. 100,347 km²) received minimal research attention, reduced to just 5% in pockets like Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh. Recent status surveys have significantly increased understanding, providing preliminary information for 80% of the range (about 79,745 km²), compared to 56% in 2016. To gather robust information on Snow leopard numbers, the SPAI exercise surveyed habitats using a substantial network of camera traps.

The report also mentions the need for establishing a dedicated Snow Leopard Cell at WII under the MoEFCC is proposed, with a primary focus on long-term population monitoring, supported by well-structured study designs and consistent field surveys. Consistent monitoring is essential to ensuring Snow leopards' long-term survival. For the same, states and UTs can consider adopting a periodic population estimation approach (every 4th year) in the Snow leopard range. These regular assessments will offer valuable insights for identifying challenges, addressing threats, and formulating effective conservation strategies.

52. **Answer:** B

Explanation: 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 718 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.

Legal Reasoning

53. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference Lines from the Passage: "The statement must specifically refer to the plaintiff, which can be a direct or indirect reference to an individual..."

Difficulty level: Moderate

Option a: This option incorrectly assumes that a defamatory statement requires direct naming of the individual. The principle clearly allows for indirect references to suffice for defamation. In this case, the article's description led to the public and professional circle of the teacher being able to identify them as the subject of the allegations, which can significantly impact their reputation and standing. Indirect references, especially when they point unmistakably to a specific individual, can be just as damaging as direct naming. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option b: This option is correct because it recognizes that defamation can occur through indirect means of identification. Given that the description in the article could only apply to one specific teacher, it fulfills the criterion for defamation by indirectly pointing to an identifiable individual. The resulting damage to the teacher's reputation, as claimed, aligns with the principle that the content of the statement must be defamatory by inciting negative perceptions. Thus, by lowering the teacher's standing in the community and inciting feelings of distrust or disdain among colleagues and parents, the article fulfills the criteria for defamation. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option c: While freedom of speech is a vital right, it does not provide blanket protection for statements that are defamatory. The principle makes it clear that the content of the statement, if defamatory, cannot hide behind the shield of freedom of speech, especially when it accuses someone of misconduct without sufficient proof or basis. Accusations of professional misconduct, when made publicly and without substantiation, can be deeply damaging to a person's professional and personal life, thereby fulfilling the criteria for defamation. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option d: This option misinterprets the scope of defamation, suggesting it does not apply to professional conduct. The principle does not distinguish between statements about professional or personal life; the key factor is whether the statement has the potential to harm the individual's reputation. In this scenario, alleging professional misconduct (selling exam papers) directly impacts the teacher's reputation, invoking feelings of mistrust and disdain, which are central to the concept of defamation. Therefore, the nature of the statement, aimed at professional integrity, does not exempt it from being considered defamatory. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

54. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Reference Lines from the Passage: "The content of the statement itself must be defamatory, meaning it should lower the individual's reputation in the eyes of others..."

Difficulty level: Easy

Option a: This option correctly identifies that making a public accusation of criminal behavior without evidence can significantly harm an individual's reputation, fulfilling the criteria for defamation. The principle specifies that for a statement to be considered defamatory, it must lower the individual's reputation in the eyes of the public. Accusing someone of being a "known fraudster" implicates them in criminal activity, which is likely to incite feelings of distrust and disdain without any legal basis or conviction to support such

a claim. This not only affects the accused politician's personal reputation but also has the potential to damage their professional career and public standing, making this a clear case of defamation. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option b: Political debates are indeed platforms for robust discussion, but this does not exempt participants from the consequences of making unsubstantiated defamatory statements. The principle articulated does not provide an exemption for defamation under the guise of political speech. Even in political contexts, accusations must be based on truth or evidence to avoid being defamatory. Therefore, the protective cloak of political speech does not extend to protect defamatory statements made without evidence, making this option incorrect. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option c: The fact that a statement is made on a public platform does not remove its potential to be defamatory. Freedom of expression is a fundamental right, but it does not absolve individuals from responsibility for the consequences of defamatory statements. The principle underlines that defamation hinges on the content of the statement and its impact on an individual's reputation, not the platform on which it was made. Making unfounded accusations in a public forum only amplifies the potential harm to the individual's reputation, thus fulfilling the criteria for defamation. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option d: The ability of the accused to defend themselves against the accusation does not negate the defamatory nature of the statement. Defamation concerns the impact of the statement on the individual's reputation among the public, not the opportunities for rebuttal. The principle emphasizes the effect of the statement in lowering the individual's reputation, regardless of their capacity to respond. The damage to reputation occurs at the point of accusation, especially when such accusations are made publicly and without evidence, leading to a presumption of guilt in the public eye. The potential for self-defense does not diminish the initial harm caused by the defamation. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

55. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference Lines from the Passage: "The intention behind making the statement is also a crucial element. If the person making the statement does so knowing that it is likely to be believed and could harm the reputation of the individual, then it fulfills another criterion for defamation."

Difficulty level: Moderate

Option a: This option incorrectly assumes that the basis of the statement in publicly available data and the blogger's belief in its truthfulness exempts it from being defamatory. The principle under discussion emphasizes that the defamatory nature of a statement is determined not by the source of the information or the belief in its truth, but by its content and the impact on the individual's reputation. Accusing someone of tax evasion, especially in a public forum and based on personal analysis rather than conclusive evidence, can have severe repercussions on the business owner's reputation and livelihood. The mere belief in the truth of the allegations does not mitigate the defamatory impact of accusing someone of a crime, making this option incorrect. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option b: This option correctly identifies the post as defamatory because it accuses the business owner of a serious crime—tax evasion—without providing conclusive evidence to support the claim. The principle highlights the importance of the content of the statement and its impact on the individual's reputation. In this scenario, the blog post has led to tangible harm, including loss of customers and damage to the business owner's reputation, which is a direct consequence of the defamation. By presenting allegations of illegal activity as fact without adequate proof, the blogger has lowered the business owner's standing in the community, fulfilling the criteria for defamation. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option c: The intention to inform the public, while noble, does not shield a statement from being defamatory if it accuses someone of illegal activity without solid evidence and results in harm to their reputation. The principle specifies that the impact of the statement on the individual's reputation is a key element in determining defamation. Even if the blogger's intention was to highlight a potential issue of public concern, the method—making serious accusations without conclusive proof—can still be defamatory. The intention behind the post does not negate its defamatory impact, especially when such statements lead to negative repercussions for the accused. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option d: Contributing to a matter of public interest is important for societal discourse; however, this does not provide immunity for statements that are defamatory. The principle indicates that the defamation criteria focus on the statement's content and its reputational impact, not the perceived value of the discussion to public interest. While tax evasion is undeniably a matter of public concern, making unsubstantiated accusations against an individual, leading to reputational harm and financial loss, transcends the bounds of contributing to public discourse and enters the realm of defamation. The public interest in the subject does not absolve the blogger from the consequences of making defamatory statements. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

56. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference Line from the Passage: "The statement must be false, as truthfulness is a defense against defamation charges."

Difficulty Level: Easy

Option a: This option incorrectly suggests that the platform of the statement (televised interview) affects its defamatory nature. The principle clearly indicates that the falsity of the statement and its impact on reputation are what determine defamation, not the medium through which it was communicated. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option b: This option misinterprets the principle by focusing on the credibility of the journalist's sources rather than the falsity of the politician's accusation. While the journalist's integrity is relevant, the principle directly addresses the truthfulness of the statement made about the journalist, making this option incorrect. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option c: This option correctly applies the principle, identifying the politician's statement as defamatory because it falsely accuses the journalist of fabrication, which can damage their professional reputation. The statement's falsity, combined with its potential to harm the journalist's standing, aligns with the principle that falseness is a key factor in defamation. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

Option d: The public nature of an individual's profession does not grant immunity from defamation. This option fails to address the principle that defamation hinges on the falsity of the statement and its defamatory impact, making it incorrect. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

57. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Reference Line from the Passage: "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."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Option a: This option incorrectly focuses on the intent behind the email's distribution rather than the content and the fact of its publication. The principle of defamation concerns the communication of a false statement to others, regardless of whether the distribution was intentional or accidental. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option b: The clerical error does not negate the defamatory nature of the email. The principle states that the key elements are the falsity of the statement and its publication, not the reason behind the mistake. The impact of the false accusation on Alex's reputation is the primary concern. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option c: The manner in which the statement was published (mistakenly) does not affect its qualification as defamation. The principle requires only that the statement be communicated to someone other than the subject, which occurred in this case. The accidental nature of the publication does not exempt it from meeting the publication requirement for defamation. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option d: This option correctly applies both principles, recognizing that the false statement about Alex was communicated to others, fulfilling the publication requirement. The statement's falsity, combined with its communication to the office, directly aligns with the criteria for defamation, making this the correct answer. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

58. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference lines: "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 disqualified by law and should not be of unsound mind.."

Difficulty level: Moderate

Option a: This option misunderstands the concept of legal capacity, which is distinct from mental capacity. Legal capacity involves specific criteria set by law, such as age, which in many jurisdictions, is 18 years. While Alex may understand the investment, the law protects minors by allowing them to void contracts they entered into, acknowledging that they may not fully grasp the long-term implications of such agreements. This protective measure ensures minors are not unfairly bound by decisions made without the requisite maturity or understanding of legal obligations. Hence, Option a is not the correct answer.

Option b: This option directly aligns with the principle that contracts entered into by minors are void. This means that Alex, being under the age of 18, cannot enter into a contract. This principle is designed to protect minors from exploitation and from entering into agreements that they may not fully understand or that may not be in their best interest. The contract's voidability does not question Alex's understanding or intentions but rather enforces a legal safeguard based on age. Hence, Option b is the correct answer.

Option c: While seeking advice from a financial advisor can help in making informed decisions, it does not confer legal capacity to enter into contracts. The law explicitly defines who has the capacity to contract, and minors are generally excluded from this category regardless of the advice they receive or their understanding of the contract. This ensures that individuals who are considered unable to fully understand or bear the legal implications of their actions are protected, regardless of the guidance they seek or receive. Hence, Option c is not the correct answer.

Option d: The nature of the contract, whether it is for investment or otherwise, does not inherently determine its validity with respect to the capacity to contract. The void or voidable status of a contract involving a minor hinges on the minor's legal capacity, not on the contract's content or type. This principle ensures that minors are uniformly protected across different types of agreements, preventing their exploitation in the legal and financial arenas. Hence, Option d is not the correct answer.

59. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference lines: "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."

Difficulty level: Moderate

Option a: While Sophie and Emma did initially agree to start a business together, the legality and enforceability of subsequent agreements, particularly those altering fundamental aspects like profit sharing, hinge on both parties' free and informed consent. An initial agreement does not validate subsequent modifications made under deceptive conditions. The principle of free consent underscores the necessity for all parties to a contract to fully and freely agree to the terms, including any changes or amendments. Hence, Option a is not the correct answer.

Option b: This option highlights the critical issue of consent obtained through deceptive means. The manipulation of the recording to alter the agreed-upon terms breaches the fundamental legal principle of free consent, rendering the altered agreement legally untenable. In legal terms, consent must be given freely and knowingly for an agreement to be binding. When consent is obtained through deception, it is considered invalid because it does not reflect the deceived party's true intention or understanding of the agreement. This principle protects individuals from being bound by agreements they were misled into. Hence, Option b is the correct answer.

Option c: Although the recording might appear to provide evidence of an agreement, the fact that it was manipulated disqualifies it as a valid piece of evidence for enforcing the terms it purports to represent. The integrity of consent is paramount in contract law, and any evidence of an agreement that has been tampered with undermines the very basis of free and informed consent. The law seeks to uphold the integrity of agreements by ensuring they are entered into willingly and with a full understanding of the terms, which is not the case when deception is involved. Hence, Option c is not the correct answer.

Option d: The issue in this scenario is not the binding nature of verbal agreements, which can be legally enforceable under certain conditions, but rather the integrity of the consent. The principle at stake here is not the form of the agreement (whether verbal or written) but the manner in which agreement terms were altered and consent was purportedly obtained. Even in jurisdictions where verbal agreements are enforceable, the consent for such agreements must be free from deception for the agreement to be valid. Hence, Option d is not the correct answer.

60. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference lines: "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."

Difficulty level: Moderate

Option a: Registration of an agreement is not a prerequisite for its enforceability by law, especially in the context of personal property transactions like the sale of a vintage car. The critical factor is the agreement's compliance with the legal criteria for a contract, not its registration status. Hence, Option a is not the correct answer.

Option b: This option correctly interprets the principle that an agreement becomes a contract when it is enforceable by law. Raj and Maya's agreement, confirmed through verbal agreement and subsequent emails, fulfills the criteria for a contract, including offer, acceptance, and consideration (the car in exchange for ₹500,000). Therefore, Maya can take legal action against Raj for not honoring the agreement, constituting a breach of contract. Hence, Option b is the correct answer.

Option c: The nature of the item involved in the transaction (a vintage car, in this case) does not affect the enforceability of an agreement unless the item is illegal or the transaction contravenes specific laws. The principle that agreements enforceable by law are contracts applies universally to all legal transactions. Hence, Option c is not the correct answer.

Option d: While the presence of a witness can strengthen the evidence of an agreement, it is not a condition for the enforceability of a contract. A contract's enforceability is determined by the presence of its essential elements (offer, acceptance, and consideration), not by the manner in which these elements are agreed upon or witnessed. Hence, Option d is not the correct answer.

61. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference lines: "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."

Difficulty level: Moderate

Option a: While the contract was valid at the time of agreement, the enforceability of contracts is subject to changes in the law. A contract cannot obligate parties to engage in illegal activities, and any change in law that renders the contracted action illegal or impossible automatically affects the contract's validity. Hence, Option a is not the correct answer.

Option b: This option accurately reflects the principle that a contract must be enforceable by law and that mutual obligations agreed upon by parties must be legal and possible to perform. When a change in law makes the performance of the contract illegal or impossible, the contract becomes void due to the impossibility of performance, aligning with the principle that contracts are agreements enforceable by law. Hence, Option b is the correct answer.

Option c: The legality and enforceability of contracts are contingent upon their compliance with current laws. No party can be legally forced to complete a transaction that has become illegal due to a change in law. This option contradicts the foundational legal principle that contracts cannot enforce illegal actions. Hence, Option c is not the correct answer.

Option d: The voidability of a contract typically relates to situations involving misrepresentation, fraud, undue influence, or mistake, not to changes in law that render a contract's performance illegal or impossible. The new law affecting the legality of the contract's subject matter makes the contract void, not merely voidable at one party's discretion. Hence, Option d is not the correct answer.

62. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference lines: "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."

Difficulty level: Moderate

Option a: For a contract to exist, there must be a clear understanding and agreement on the terms between the parties involved. In this scenario, Tom's acceptance was based on a fundamental misunderstanding of the nature of Elina's offer. He believed it to be a gift, whereas Elina intended it as a sale. This discrepancy in understanding means there was no meeting of minds or consensus ad-idem, which is essential for the formation of a contract. Hence, Option a is not the correct answer.

Option b: This option accurately captures the essence of the situation. The principle of consensus ad-idem requires that both parties have a common understanding of the agreement's terms. Since Tom and Elina had different understandings of the offer (a sale versus a gift), there was no mutual agreement or meeting of minds on the same terms, which is fundamental for contract formation. The lack of consensus ad-idem means that no contract was formed between Elina and Tom, as the agreement to the terms of the contract was not mutual. Hence, Option b is the correct answer.

Option c: The belief that a contract for a gift exists is based on a misunderstanding of the nature of Elina's offer and the requirements for contract formation. A contract requires an offer, acceptance, and consideration (something of value exchanged between the parties). Tom's expectation of a gift does not meet these criteria, especially since there was no mutual understanding or agreement on the terms. A contract cannot be enforced based on a unilateral misunderstanding of the offer's nature. Hence, Option c is not the correct answer.

Option d: While Tom may have misunderstood Elina's offer, the issue at hand is not one that makes the contract voidable. Voidable contracts typically involve elements like coercion, undue influence, fraud, or misrepresentation, none of which are present in this scenario. The fundamental issue is the absence of consensus ad-idem, which is not merely a matter of the contract being voidable but rather that no contract was formed in the first place. Hence, Option d is not the correct answer.

63. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference from the passage: "The government being an executory body did not possess the power to enter into that activity or trade without specific legislations."

Difficulty level: Moderate

Option a: The venue or method of announcement, such as a press conference, does not confer legal authority or enforceability to government actions. Legal enforceability requires adherence to the established legislative process, ensuring that all actions have a solid legal foundation. This ensures transparency and accountability in governance. Hence, Option a is not the correct answer.

Option b: While the intention behind the government's action, such as promoting environmental development, is crucial for policy direction, it does not substitute for the legal processes required to make such actions enforceable by law. All government actions, regardless of their noble intentions, must navigate through the requisite legislative procedures to gain legal standing. Hence, Option b is not the correct answer.

Option c: This option aligns with the principle that government initiatives, especially those that involve significant public interest or financial commitments, need to be supported by specific legislation. This legislative support provides the necessary legal framework for the initiative, ensuring that the government's actions are within the scope of its legal authority and are accountable to the legislative standards. The requirement for specific legislation is a fundamental aspect of the rule of law, ensuring that executive actions are subject to oversight and are in alignment with national legal standards. Hence, Option c is the correct answer.

Option d: While the executive branch does carry out a range of functions as part of its standard operations, initiating new activities or policies, especially those that have significant implications or require substantial resources, often necessitates legislative endorsement. This ensures that such actions are not only within

the legal purview of the executive but also have the backing of the broader legislative framework, which represents the will of the people. Hence, Option d is not the correct answer.

64. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference from the passage: "The government being an executory body did not possess the power to enter into that activity or trade without specific legislations."

Difficulty level: Easy

Option a: Protecting local industries is a valid policy goal, but the means to achieve such objectives must comply with the legal and constitutional framework. The imposition of tariffs affects international trade relations and has significant economic implications, necessitating clear legislative authority to ensure such actions are within the bounds of the law and reflect a comprehensive policy decision. Hence, Option a is not the correct answer.

Option b: This option directly addresses the core issue of legality and legislative authority. Trade policies, especially those that impose tariffs, significantly impact national and international economic relations and require a firm legal basis provided by legislative authorization. The absence of this legislative backing renders the executive order legally questionable, as it bypasses the essential checks and balances provided by the legislative process. This ensures that significant policy shifts, such as imposing tariffs, are subject to thorough scrutiny and debate. Hence, Option b is the correct answer.

Option c: While the President does execute actions on behalf of the executive branch, this authority is bounded by law. Not all actions carried out in the name of the President are automatically legal; they must also be grounded in existing legislative authorizations or constitutional powers. This principle ensures that executive power is exercised within a legal framework that safeguards against overreach and maintains the balance of power. Hence, Option c is not the correct answer.

Option d: The legality of the executive order cannot be assumed merely as an implementation of existing trade legislation unless it explicitly falls within the powers granted by such legislation. Imposing new tariffs, especially heavy ones, typically requires a specific legislative mandate to ensure that such actions are a reflection of a broader policy decision supported by the legislative body. This process ensures that policies are developed and implemented in a manner that is transparent, accountable, and legally sound. Hence, Option d is not the correct answer.

65. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference from the passage: "The executive cannot be restricted to mere implementations of legislations."

Difficulty level: Moderate

Explanation:

Option a: While aligning with national goals provides a direction for executive action, it does not automatically grant unlimited power to the executive branch. The actions undertaken by the executive must still fall within the scope of its legal authority and comply with existing laws. This ensures that while the executive can take proactive steps in areas of national importance, such as environmental rehabilitation, these actions are grounded in legal authority and respect the separation of powers. Hence, Option a is not the correct answer.

Option b: This option incorrectly assumes that all executive actions require explicit legislative approval. The executive branch possesses certain discretionary powers that allow it to act in the interest of the nation within the boundaries of existing legal frameworks. While significant policy initiatives often require legislative support, the executive can undertake actions that are within its purview and that do not require new legislation, especially in areas where existing laws provide a broad mandate. Hence, Option b is not the correct answer.

Option c: This option accurately captures the essence of the executive's authority and its limitations. The executive branch is empowered to take actions that are necessary and appropriate within the scope of existing laws, especially in response to urgent situations like environmental disasters. As long as these actions do not contravene existing legislation, they can be considered within the executive's authority to address immediate needs and align with broader national objectives. This balance allows the executive to

respond effectively to national challenges while ensuring that such responses are legally grounded. Hence, Option c is the correct answer.

Option d: A public referendum is a mechanism for direct democracy and is typically reserved for decisions of significant national importance that require the direct input of the citizenry. It is not a general requirement for the legality of executive actions. The executive's authority to initiate programs, especially in areas like environmental protection, derives from existing legal mandates and the executive's responsibility to address national issues. While public input is valuable, the legal basis for executive actions comes from existing laws and the executive's discretionary powers. Hence, Option d is not the correct answer.

66. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference from the passage: "To be eligible for election as the President of India, 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."

Difficulty level: Easy

Option a: While philanthropic contributions and societal impact are commendable, they do not substitute for the constitutional requirements for eligibility for the presidency, which includes age, citizenship, and the ability to be elected as a member of the House of the People. Hence, Option a is not the correct answer.

Option b: This option correctly identifies the crucial factor affecting Anita's eligibility for the presidency. The constitutional requirement stipulates that a candidate must have reached the age of thirty-five years to be eligible. Anita, being 34, does not meet this criterion, regardless of her citizenship status or qualifications. Hence, Option b is the correct answer.

Option c: Although citizenship is a necessary condition for eligibility, it is not the sole criterion. Candidates must also meet other requirements, including age and qualifications for election as a member of the House of the People. Therefore, merely being a citizen does not automatically qualify Anita for the presidency. Hence, Option c is not the correct answer.

Option d: The constitution does not provide for special permissions based on an individual's contributions to society. Eligibility for the presidency is strictly defined by the criteria mentioned in the constitution, including age, citizenship, and qualifications related to the House of the People. Hence, Option d is not the correct answer.

67. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference from the passage: "The President is prohibited from being a member of either House of Parliament or any state legislature, and upon assuming the presidency, must vacate their seat if they are a member."

Difficulty level: Easy

Option a: While Vikram's commitment to education reform is admirable, the constitution clearly stipulates that upon assuming the presidency, an individual cannot hold membership in either House of Parliament or any state legislature. This requirement is designed to maintain the separation of powers and ensure the president's impartiality. Hence, Option a is not the correct answer.

Option b: The constitutional provision is explicit in stating that the president cannot be a member of any legislative body. This rule is in place to prevent any potential conflicts of interest and to uphold the dignity and neutrality of the presidential office. Therefore, Vikram's seat in the State Legislative Assembly is incompatible with his role as president. Hence, Option b is not the correct answer.

Option c: This option accurately reflects the constitutional requirement. Upon assuming the presidency, Vikram must vacate his seat in the State Legislative Assembly. This action is necessary to comply with the constitutional prohibition against the president holding membership in any legislative body, ensuring that his role as the head of state is free from any legislative bias or conflict. Hence, Option c is the correct answer.

Option d: The decision to retain or vacate a seat in a legislative assembly is not left to personal preference for the president. The constitution mandates the vacation of such seats to uphold the principles of governance and the distinct roles of the executive and legislative branches. Hence, Option d is not the correct answer.

68. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Reference lines: "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."

Difficulty level: Moderate

Option a: This option correctly captures the essence of criminal force as defined by the intentional act of using force without the other person's consent, aimed at causing harm or inducing fear or annoyance. The fact that Varun was able to dodge the stone does not diminish the intent behind Akash's action, which was to cause harm. The act itself, coupled with the intention to inflict injury or fear, constitutes the use of criminal force, regardless of the outcome. Hence, Option a is the correct answer.

Option b: The definition of criminal force emphasizes the intention behind the action and the use of force without consent, not necessarily the outcome of the action. Even though Varun was not physically harmed due to his quick reaction, the act of throwing the stone with harmful intent satisfies the criteria for criminal force. The law recognizes the potential for harm and the violation of personal safety that such actions represent. Hence, Option b is not the correct answer.

Option c: The context of an argument does not provide justification for actions intended to harm, induce fear, or cause annoyance. The legal framework distinguishes between freedom of expression and actions that infringe on another's safety or peace of mind. Akash's action, driven by the intent to harm or intimidate, cannot be excused as a form of self-expression within the bounds of a disagreement. Hence, Option c is not the correct answer.

Option d: The legal definition of force and, by extension, criminal force does not strictly require physical contact to be considered valid. The act of throwing the stone, combined with the harmful intent, constitutes an act of force. This understanding acknowledges the broader implications of actions intended to threaten or cause distress, extending beyond physical harm to include psychological effects. Hence, Option d is not the correct answer.

69. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference lines: "If there is consent, it won't be counted as criminal force."

Difficulty level: Easy

Option a: The occurrence of an injury during a consensual activity, especially one involving inherent risks like a challenging dance lift, does not automatically imply the use of criminal force. The key distinction lies in the consent provided by Priya to engage in the activity, which was informed by Rahul's assurances regarding safety. This consent, understanding the risks involved, differentiates the situation from one involving criminal force, where actions are taken without consent and with the intention to harm. Hence, Option a is not the correct answer.

Option b: This option accurately reflects the principle that consent plays a crucial role in defining the use of force. In this scenario, Priya's agreement to participate in the lift, despite the risks, constitutes consent to the physical actions involved. The unfortunate result of the injury does not retroactively negate this consent or transform the action into criminal force. The emphasis on consent underlines the legal distinction between accidents occurring within consensual activities and actions intended to cause harm without consent. Hence, Option b is the correct answer.

Option c: The context of the activity being professional does not inherently impact the legal assessment regarding the use of force. The determination of criminal force hinges on the absence of consent and the presence of intent to harm, neither of which applies in this scenario. The professional setting, along with the precautions taken and consent obtained, frames the incident as an accident rather than an act of criminal force. Hence, Option c is not the correct answer.

Option d: While assurances of safety are important and contribute to the decision to consent, they do not directly influence the legal definition of force used in the scenario. The critical factor is Priya's consent to the activity, based on her understanding of the risks and the safety measures communicated by Rahul. This consent is what legally distinguishes the actions taken during the rehearsal from those that would be considered criminal force. Hence, Option d is not the correct answer.

70. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Reference lines: "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."

Difficulty level: Moderate

Option a: While the injury to Geeta highlights the consequences of Suresh's actions, the definition of criminal force focuses on the use of force without consent, potentially aiming to cause harm, fear, or annoyance. The specific intent to harm an individual is not a prerequisite for an action to be considered as using force. Suresh's intention to move through the crowd, resulting in unintentional harm to Geeta, aligns with the act of using force as defined, regardless of his specific intent towards Geeta. Hence, Option a is not the correct answer.

Option b: The absence of a specific intention to harm Geeta does not exempt Suresh's actions from being considered as the use of force. The legal framework acknowledges that actions resulting in physical impact on another person without their consent can constitute the use of force. The focus is on the action and its effect on the person, rather than the subjective intent towards the individual. Hence, Option b is not the correct answer.

Option c: This option correctly identifies that the action of pushing through the crowd, leading to Geeta being pushed to the ground, falls under the definition of using force. The critical elements here are the lack of consent from Geeta for the physical impact and the substantial change in her motion caused by Suresh's actions. The scenario illustrates how actions, even if not directed towards a specific individual with malicious intent, can constitute the use of force when they result in unwanted physical consequences for others. Hence, Option c is the correct answer.

Option d: The context of a crowded environment does not negate the principles related to the use of force. Individuals are responsible for their actions, even in crowded settings, and must take care to avoid causing harm to others. The law does not provide exemptions for the use of force based on environmental factors; instead, it considers the actions taken and their impact on individuals. The inadvertent causing of harm in such settings still falls within the scope of using force, emphasizing the importance of personal responsibility in public spaces. Hence, Option d is not the correct answer.

71. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference lines: "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."

Difficulty level: Easy

Option a: The perception of an action as a prank does not eliminate its potential to be considered assaultive under the law. The defining factor is the apprehension of harm by the receiving party, not the physical outcome or the intent behind the gesture. Hence, Option a is not the correct answer.

Option b: This option aligns with the legal definition of assault, focusing on the apprehension of criminal force by the targeted individual. Rahul's threatening gesture, even in the absence of physical contact, is sufficient to instill fear of imminent harm in Sameer, qualifying as assault. The law emphasizes the perceived threat and the impact on the victim's sense of safety. Hence, Option b is the correct answer.

Option c: Expressing frustration through a threatening gesture that causes another person to fear imminent harm still falls within the legal parameters of assault. The law assesses the effect of the gesture on the victim, not the perpetrator's subjective intention or emotional state. Hence, Option c is not the correct answer.

Option d: The absence of physical contact does not negate the occurrence of assault. The critical aspect is the creation of a reasonable fear of imminent harm, which can be achieved through threatening gestures alone. The legal framework for assault encompasses actions that lead to apprehension of criminal force, highlighting the importance of personal security. Hence, Option d is not the correct answer.

72. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Reference lines: "Aggravated forms of assault or use of criminal force include aggravating elements that consist of the intention to outrage the modesty of a woman and he has the knowledge that will outrage his modesty."

Difficulty level: Moderate

Option a: The crowded environment does not provide a blanket excuse for actions that intentionally violate another's personal space, especially with an underlying intent that is perceived as an outrage to modesty. Legal standards recognize that intentional actions leading to such outcomes are not justified by external circumstances. Hence, Option a is not the correct answer.

Option b: A perpetrator's claim of accidental contact does not automatically negate the perceived intent and impact of their actions. The law assesses the deliberate nature of the conduct and its effect on the victim, particularly in cases where the actions are repeated and targeted, as described by Priya. Hence, Option b is not the correct answer.

Option c: This option accurately reflects the principle that intentional and unwelcome physical contact, especially when it carries an intent to outrage the modesty of an individual, constitutes an aggravated form of assault. The emphasis is on Arjun's deliberate actions and their impact on Priya, meeting the criteria for using criminal force with an aggravating intention. Hence, Option c is the correct answer.

Option d: In cases of assault aimed at outraging modesty, the requirement is not for physical harm to be evidenced but for the intent and impact of the actions to be established. The law prioritizes the protection of individual dignity and personal space, focusing on the intent behind the actions and the resultant violation of modesty. Hence, Option d is not the correct answer.

73. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference lines: "The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act of 1956 broadens this definition to include not just financial assistance but also the provision of food, clothing, shelter, education, medical attendance, and treatment to the wife, children, and elderly parents."

Difficulty level: Easy

Option a: Aniket's perspective that providing financial assistance alone fulfills his obligations underlines a common misconception about the nature of maintenance under the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act of 1956. This act explicitly broadens the scope of maintenance beyond mere financial support to include direct provisions for food, clothing, shelter, education, medical attendance, and treatment. The law's comprehensive approach is designed to ensure that elderly parents receive all necessary care, reflecting a holistic understanding of what support truly entails. By focusing solely on financial aid, Aniket overlooks the act's emphasis on ensuring the physical well-being and comfort of his parents, which is as crucial as financial security. Hence, Option a is not the correct answer.

Option b: This option directly aligns with the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act of 1956, which mandates a broad interpretation of maintenance. By including specific provisions for medical needs along with financial assistance, the act acknowledges the multifaceted nature of care required by elderly individuals. Aniket's obligation, as dictated by the act, encompasses a duty to ensure his parents' health and daily living needs are adequately met, recognizing that financial assistance alone might not cover all aspects of their well-being. This comprehensive care model is integral to the act's objective of safeguarding the dignity and health of elderly parents, ensuring they are supported in all necessary facets of life. Hence, Option b is the correct answer.

Option c: Suggesting that Aniket's responsibility is limited to providing shelter significantly narrows the scope of his obligations and contradicts the express provisions of the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act of 1956. The act's inclusive definition of maintenance clearly encompasses medical care, reflecting an understanding of the essential needs that contribute to a person's well-being. This reductionist view fails to appreciate the act's holistic approach to elder care, which aims to ensure elderly parents are not just housed but also nurtured and cared for in all necessary aspects, including their health. Hence, Option c is not the correct answer.

Option d: Proposing that Aniket increase his financial assistance for non-medical expenses while neglecting medical needs misinterprets the priorities set forth in the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act of 1956. The act places a clear emphasis on ensuring elderly parents' health and well-being, which includes medical care as a fundamental component of maintenance. This option overlooks the critical importance of health care in the overall care framework, mistakenly prioritizing other forms of support over

the essential medical needs that directly impact his parents' quality of life. Hence, Option d is not the correct answer.

74. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Reference lines: "Similarly, the Maintenance and Welfare Of Parents And Senior Citizen Act 2007 defines maintenance to include necessities such as food, clothing, residence, and medical attendance."

Difficulty level: Moderate

Option a: This option asserts that the son's obligation to provide financial assistance for medical expenses is unconditional, reflecting the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Act, 2007's intent. The Act's definition of maintenance explicitly includes medical attendance and treatment, emphasizing that children's responsibilities towards their parents do not diminish due to the parents' living situation or financial independence. This provision ensures that senior citizens' right to adequate care and support is upheld, making the son's responsibility clear regardless of the parents' choice to live independently or their financial status. The Act aims to protect elderly parents by ensuring they have access to the necessary care, highlighting the societal value placed on supporting the well-being of senior citizens. Hence, Option a is the correct answer.

Option b: Suggesting that the son's financial obligation is waived if the parents have savings misunderstands the essence of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Act, 2007. The Act mandates children to support their elderly parents' medical and other essential needs, irrespective of the parents' financial situation. The presence of savings does not exempt the son from his duty; rather, the law seeks to ensure that elderly parents are not left to fend for themselves in times of need, particularly concerning their health. This provision is rooted in the principle of filial responsibility and the collective duty to care for the elderly, ensuring they receive the necessary support without having to deplete their savings. Hence, Option b is not the correct answer.

Option c: The requirement for the son to provide financial assistance under the Act is not contingent upon the parents' previous dependency. This option fails to capture the Act's broad protective scope, designed to safeguard the welfare of all senior citizens by emphasizing the children's duty to contribute to their parents' care. The Act's provisions are clear that children have a legal obligation to ensure their parents' well-being, including medical expenses, reflecting a commitment to the dignity and health of the elderly that transcends past living arrangements or dependency status. Hence, Option c is not the correct answer.

Option d: The notion that the son has no legal obligation to provide assistance based on the parents' independence or the availability of government aid misinterprets the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Act, 2007. The law establishes a direct and personal responsibility on children to ensure the care and support of their elderly parents, reinforcing the importance of familial support over governmental assistance. The Act underscores the principle that the family unit plays a crucial role in the care of senior citizens, aiming to ensure their rights to necessary support and care are met by their closest relatives. Hence, Option d is not the correct answer.

75. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference lines: "The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Act, 2007, was enacted to reinforce the rights of elderly parents and senior citizens, ensuring their maintenance and the provision of essential services."

Difficulty level: Easy

Option a: Vikram's personal and professional commitments, while demanding, do not provide legal grounds for exemption from providing maintenance under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Act, 2007. The Act makes it clear that children have a legal duty to support their elderly parents, including covering daily expenses and medical needs. This legal framework is designed to prioritize the welfare of senior citizens, ensuring they are provided for adequately, irrespective of the other obligations their children may have. The emphasis is on the moral and legal duty to care for one's parents in their old age, highlighting the societal value placed on respecting and supporting the elderly. Hence, Option a is not the correct answer.

Option b: This option accurately reflects the obligations imposed by the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Act, 2007. Vikram's legal duty to ensure his parents' well-being is comprehensive, encompassing both daily living expenses and medical care. The Act's purpose is to affirm the rights of elderly parents and senior citizens to receive adequate support from their children, ensuring their dignity, health, and comfort in their later years. By mandating children to provide such care, the Act reinforces the societal commitment to the welfare of the elderly, recognizing the essential role of family in providing support. Hence, Option b is the correct answer.

Option c: The Act does not stipulate that maintenance is only required if parents live with their children. Such a condition would undermine the law's intent to protect the rights and welfare of all senior citizens, regardless of their living arrangements. The duty to provide maintenance is based on the needs of the elderly parents, not their residential choices, ensuring that children cannot evade their responsibilities simply because their parents choose or are able to live independently. The law aims to cover the broader needs of senior citizens, emphasizing the children's role in their care. Hence, Option c is not the correct answer.

Option d: The possibility of elderly parents seeking government aid does not absolve children of their maintenance obligations under the Act. The legislation explicitly outlines the duty of children to care for their elderly parents, establishing a legal framework that prioritizes familial support over reliance on government programs. The Act's focus on ensuring the direct support from children to their elderly parents serves to strengthen the familial bond and ensure that the basic needs of senior citizens are met by those closest to them, rather than delegating this responsibility to external entities. Hence, Option d is not the correct answer.

76. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference lines: "Under the Hindu Adoption And Maintenance Act, 1956, an obligation is placed on both sons and daughters to maintain their parents."

Difficulty level: Easy

Option a: This option misinterprets the Act, which clearly states that the obligation to maintain parents is not gender-specific. Both sons and daughters are equally responsible for their parents' maintenance, reflecting the Act's inclusive approach to familial duties. Hence, Option a is not the correct answer.

Option b: Accurately reflecting the principles of the Act, this option underscores that both Priya and Arjun share the responsibility for their parents' maintenance. The Act mandates equal obligations for sons and daughters, emphasizing the collective duty of children to support their parents without discrimination based on income or gender. Hence, Option b is the correct answer.

Option c: Suggesting that Priya's obligation is lesser due to traditional roles contradicts the explicit provisions of the Act, which does not differentiate between sons and daughters in terms of their maintenance obligations. The law promotes equality among siblings regarding their parents' care, ensuring that all children contribute to their welfare. Hence, Option c is not the correct answer.

Option d: The Act does not specify that only the child with the higher income bears the responsibility for parents' maintenance. It places the duty on all children, irrespective of their financial status, fostering a shared responsibility among siblings. The focus is on the collective support for parents, not on individual income levels. Hence, Option d is not the correct answer.

77. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference lines: "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."

Difficulty level: Moderate

Option a: This option inaccurately suggests that owning property automatically negates the children's obligation to support their parents under Muslim law. The law specifies that the duty of maintenance arises when parents cannot sustain themselves, considering both their income and property. Hence, Option a is not the correct answer.

Option b: Suggesting that only Omar has the obligation due to traditional gender roles misrepresents Muslim law regarding maintenance. The law clearly states that both sons and daughters have

responsibilities toward their parents' care, emphasizing equality in filial duties. Hence, Option b is not the correct answer.

Option c: Correctly interpreting Muslim law, this option highlights the equal responsibility of both Aisha and Omar to provide for their parents. The law mandates children to ensure their parents' well-being if they lack sufficient resources, including income from property, to support themselves. This provision ensures that elderly parents receive the necessary care from their children. Hence, Option c is the correct answer.

Option d: This option misinterprets Muslim law by suggesting that only sons have the duty to support their parents. The law is clear that both sons and daughters share the responsibility for their parents' maintenance, promoting a balanced approach to familial support. Hence, Option d is not the correct answer.

78. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference lines: "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."

Difficulty level: Moderate

Option a: This option incorrectly interprets the amendments to the Act, which explicitly expanded the definition of 'children' to include sons-in-law, among others. This expansion aims to ensure broader support for elderly parents and in-laws, recognizing the changing dynamics of family responsibilities. Hence, Option a is not the correct answer.

Option b: While Ravi's duty towards his own parents is important, the amendment to the Act clarifies that his responsibilities also extend to his in-laws. The law seeks to balance the support provided to elderly family members, ensuring that in-laws are not left without necessary care. Hence, Option b is not the correct answer.

Option c: Accurately reflecting the amendments to the Act, this option highlights Ravi's inclusion in the expanded definition of 'children,' which now encompasses sons-in-law. This change underscores the legal obligation of Ravi to provide maintenance to his in-laws, aligning with the Act's goal of ensuring the welfare of all elderly family members. Hence, Option c is the correct answer.

Option d: The amendment does not provide exemptions based on existing support to one's parents. The inclusion of sons-in-law in the definition of 'children' means Ravi has a legal duty to assist his in-laws, aiming to create a comprehensive support system for elderly citizens across the family spectrum. Hence, Option d is not the correct answer.

79. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference lines: "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."

Difficulty level: Easy

Option a: This option incorrectly suggests that the completion of the sale absolves Rohan of any wrongdoing. The essence of cheating under Section 417 IPC focuses on the intention to deceive, not merely on the transaction's completion. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option b: Reflecting the principles of Section 417 IPC, this option accurately identifies Rohan's culpability in cheating. By knowingly providing false information with the intent to deceive Seema into making the purchase, Rohan fulfills the criteria for cheating as his intention to deceive was present from the outset. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option c: While due diligence by the buyer is advisable, this does not negate the seller's responsibility to provide accurate information. Rohan's deliberate misinformation intended to deceive Seema constitutes cheating, irrespective of Seema's actions to verify the car's condition. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option d: Rohan's occupational role as a salesman does not justify deceitful practices. The law clearly distinguishes between legitimate sales tactics and deceitful conduct intended to mislead the buyer,

emphasizing the protection of individuals from fraudulent transactions. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

80. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference lines: "There can be multiple reasons for initiating a marriage proposal and then the proposal not reaching the desired end, in order to prove an offence of cheating in such cases prosecution must have reliable and trustworthy evidence, the Court added."

Difficulty level: Moderate

Option a: This option hinges on the premise that Anita's initial intention was fraudulent. However, the principle related to cheating emphasizes the necessity of proving an intention to deceive from the outset. If Anita's decision was based on discovering their incompatibility, it does not equate to the intention to deceive required for cheating. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option b: Reflecting the nuanced understanding of relationships and intentions, this option correctly identifies that changing one's mind about marriage, based on discovering incompatibilities, does not meet the legal criteria for cheating. The absence of deceitful intent at the beginning of their engagement exempts Anita from accusations of cheating. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

Option c: This option incorrectly generalizes the termination of engagements as cheating. The law requires specific fraudulent intent at the initiation of the proposal for it to constitute cheating. Personal reasons for ending an engagement, such as incompatible life goals, do not automatically imply deceit. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option d: Varun's accusations require substantiation of deceitful intent from the beginning of their relationship. Without evidence of Anita's intention to exploit Varun's connections from the start, the claim does not fulfill the requirements for cheating. The situation underscores the importance of distinguishing between personal decisions and fraudulent intentions. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

81. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference line from the passage: "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."

Difficulty level: Easy

Option a: While the hall owner's financial loss is unfortunate, the Supreme Court's holding clarifies that the non-performance of a marriage at the booked venue does not constitute the offence of cheating under Section 417 IPC. The essence of cheating requires deceitful intent to cause wrongful loss to another person, which is not automatically inferred from the cancellation of a booking. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option b: This option directly aligns with the principle derived from the Supreme Court's holding. The act of cancelling a marriage hall booking, even if it results in financial loss to the hall owner, does not meet the legal definition of cheating under Section 417 IPC without the necessary element of deceitful intent from the onset. Arjun's decision to cancel the booking, dictated by unforeseen personal circumstances, does not equate to the intention to cheat. Hence, this option is correct.

Option c: The validity of Arjun's reason for cancellation is secondary to the essential requirement of an intention to deceive at the time of making the booking. The principle emphasizes that the offence of cheating hinges on the intent to cheat or deceive from the beginning, which is not contingent on the justifiability of the cancellation. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option d: The necessity to prove intent to cheat from the beginning is a critical aspect of the offence under Section 417 IPC. However, the scenario does not suggest that Arjun booked the marriage hall with the premeditated intention to cancel and cause financial loss to the hall owner. The principle, as stated, highlights that mere cancellation does not equate to cheating without this specific intent. Hence, Option (d) reinforces the principle but is not the direct answer to whether Arjun's action constitutes cheating, making Option (b) more appropriate and direct.

82. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Reference lines: "In order to prove an offence of cheating in such cases prosecution must have reliable and trustworthy evidence, 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."

Difficulty level: Moderate

Option a: Correctly identifies that for a charge of cheating under Section 417 IPC, there must be evidence of intentional deceit from the beginning. The absence of such evidence, in this case, means that a mistake alone does not constitute cheating. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

Option b: This option is incorrect because, according to the Supreme Court, merely making a mistake in providing information does not automatically fulfill the criteria for cheating. There needs to be evidence of intent to deceive right from the start, which is not indicated by a simple mistake. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option c: Incorrectly assumes guilt based solely on the outcome of the transaction without considering the necessity for proving intent to deceive, which is a critical element in establishing an offense under Section 417 IPC. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option d: Misinterprets the legal definition of cheating by not accounting for the requirement of intentional deceit. A mere mistake in providing information does not automatically meet the criteria for cheating under the law. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

83. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Reference lines: "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."

Difficulty level: Moderate

Option a: Incorrectly equates the failure of the product and the startup with the legal definition of cheating, ignoring the necessity for evidence of deceitful intent from the outset. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option b: This option contradicts the established legal principle that for an act to be considered cheating under Section 417 IPC, there must be clear evidence of intent to deceive. Without evidence of the founders' intentional deceit or knowledge that their claims were false at the time of investment, charging them with cheating is not supported by the principles of Section 417 IPC. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option c: While acknowledging the inherent risks in investments, this option fails to directly address the criteria for cheating under Section 417 IPC, which focuses on the presence of deceitful intent rather than the risk assumption by the investor. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option d: Accurately states that for an offense of cheating to be established under Section 417 IPC, there must be proof of deceitful intent behind the founders' claims. Optimistic business projections, without evidence of knowing falsity, do not meet the legal criteria for cheating. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

84. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Reference lines: "There is no such evidence before the prosecution and therefore no offence under Section 417 is also made out."

Difficulty level: Easy

Option a: Misconstrues the criteria for cheating by not recognizing the essential requirement for intentional deceit as part of the legal definition of cheating under Section 417 IPC. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

Option b: This revised statement is incorrect because it suggests that cheating under Section 417 IPC can be established without evidence of intentional deceit. This contradicts the legal requirement that, for a charge of cheating to hold, there must be clear evidence of the accused's intent to deceive from the beginning. The absence of evidence of intentional deceit means that the elements necessary to constitute cheating under Section 417 IPC are not satisfied. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

Option c: Incorrectly assumes that the mere failure of the company to meet its promises automatically constitutes cheating, overlooking the necessity for demonstrating intentional deceit at the inception of the job offer. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

Option d: Correctly identifies that the legal framework for charging an individual or entity with cheating under Section 417 IPC requires evidence of intentional deceit. In the absence of such evidence, discrepancies between job offers and actual positions do not constitute cheating. This option accurately reflects the legal standards for proving cheating, emphasizing the critical role of deceitful intent. Hence, Option (d) is the correct answer.

Logical Reasoning

85. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "The Sixteenth Finance Commission faces several challenges...about a decline in their share of resources transferred from the Centre."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) The Sixteenth Finance Commission should explore new criteria to overhaul the existing resource distribution framework entirely. This option suggests a radical overhaul of the resource distribution framework, implying the introduction of completely new criteria, which goes beyond what the passage indicates. The passage does not call for an entire system overhaul but focuses on adjustments within the existing framework to address specific imbalances, making this option misleading. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) Reevaluation of resource distribution methods by Finance Commissions is needed to correct imbalances affecting southern states. This option directly captures the essence of the passage, which argues for a reevaluation and adjustment of the current distribution methods to address specific imbalances that disproportionately affect southern states. It aligns with the author's concerns about fairness and the need for methodological refinements, accurately summarizing the central theme. Hence, Option b) is the correct answer.

c) Southern states should autonomously manage resources, bypassing the Centre's distribution mechanisms for better control. This option introduces an idea of complete autonomy for southern states in managing resources, which is not mentioned in the passage. It suggests a solution that is more extreme and decentralized than what the passage discusses, thus not accurately reflecting the author's focus on adjustments within the central distribution mechanism. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) Abandoning the principle of equalization in favour of a straightforward, population-centric resource distribution approach is advised. This option misrepresents the author's stance by suggesting the abandonment of the equalization principle. The passage does not advocate for a population-centric approach at the expense of equalization but suggests refining the criteria to address specific imbalances. This misinterpretation fails to capture the nuanced argument presented. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

86. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "To ensure fairness in distribution, it's crucial to maintain the income distance criterion but consider adjusting its weight, alongside modifying other criteria."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) Adjusting the weights of the criteria used for distribution will automatically lead to a more equitable outcome for all states. This assumption implies that a simple adjustment in the weights assigned to distribution criteria will resolve issues of equity across states. It overlooks the complexities involved in achieving equitable outcomes and the interconnectedness of various criteria, making it a simplification of the challenge at hand. The passage suggests adjustments but does not claim they will automatically ensure equity, reflecting an optimistic but unverified belief in the power of criteria adjustment. Hence, Option a) is the correct answer.

b) The income distance criterion is inherently unfair and should be entirely removed from the calculation process. This interpretation overstates the critique of the income distance criterion. The passage suggests adjustments to the weight of this criterion, not its complete removal, acknowledging its role in ensuring fairness while indicating that its current application may not be optimal. This option incorrectly interprets the author's stance as advocating for the criterion's total elimination, which is not supported by the text. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) States with higher incomes and lower fertility rates are being unjustly penalized under the current resource distribution system. While the passage discusses the challenges faced by certain states under the current distribution system, it does not explicitly claim these states are being "unjustly penalized." This option infers a judgment that the passage stops short of making, focusing instead on the need for adjustment rather than casting the current system as unjust. It oversimplifies the nuanced critique offered by the author. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) Cesses and surcharges have no significant impact on the central government's ability to distribute resources equitably. This option misinterprets the passage, which implies that cesses and surcharges do indeed affect the divisible pool of resources and, by extension, the equity of distribution. The passage suggests that these financial mechanisms play a role in the distribution dynamics, though it focuses more on criteria adjustments than on outright denying the impact of cesses and surcharges. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

87. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "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."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) Adopting 2011 census data for population criteria significantly advanced equitable resource distribution across states. This option presents a potential counter-argument by suggesting that recent adjustments, such as using newer census data, have already made significant strides towards equity. However, it contradicts the passage's suggestion that despite such adjustments, imbalances remain, particularly affecting southern states. This option fails to counter the author's central claim effectively, as it overlooks the nuanced issues the author raises. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) Southern states' reduced resource share mirrors their higher incomes, showing no system bias but economic rationale. This option provides a direct counter-argument to the author's concern by suggesting that the current distribution outcomes are rational reflections of economic status rather than biases. It implies that the system is functioning as intended, allocating resources based on economic criteria that naturally result in the observed distribution patterns. This challenges the author's premise by attributing the distribution outcomes to logical economic factors rather than systemic imbalances. Hence, Option b) is the correct answer.

c) Capping cesses and surcharges would sharply cut central revenue, adversely affecting all states' financial health. This option suggests that addressing one of the concerns raised by the author—cesses and surcharges—would have detrimental effects on overall financial health. While this could be a valid concern, it does not directly counter the author's main argument about adjusting distribution criteria to address specific imbalances. It addresses a related but distinct aspect of the financial ecosystem, making it a less direct counter-argument to the author's claims. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) Economic and social justice principles dictate resource allocation based on need, aptly served by the income distance criterion. This option defends the use of the income distance criterion by aligning it with principles of economic and social justice, suggesting that the criterion already accomplishes what the author desires: a fair distribution based on need. It posits that the existing mechanism is effective in addressing disparities, opposing the author's suggestion for adjustments. However, it overlooks the specific concerns raised about how these principles are applied, making it a weaker counter-argument to the author's nuanced critique. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

88. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference Line: "To ensure fairness in distribution, it's crucial to...consider adjusting its weight."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) The principle of equalization should prioritize states with the highest population growth since the last census. This option misinterprets the author's focus, suggesting a unilateral prioritization of population growth in resource distribution. The passage does not advocate for making population growth the sole or primary criterion for equalization. Instead, it calls for a nuanced adjustment of various criteria, including but not limited to population. This option simplifies the author's argument to a single criterion, missing the broader call for methodological refinement. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) Adjusting the weight of the income distance criterion could lead to a fairer resource distribution among states. This option aligns with the passage's suggestion that adjusting the criteria, specifically the weight of the income distance criterion, could improve fairness in resource distribution. It captures the essence of the author's argument for methodological adjustments to address imbalances, reflecting a nuanced understanding of the distribution challenges and potential solutions. Hence, Option b) is the correct answer.

c) Resource distribution should be solely based on states' current economic performance, disregarding historical data. This option oversimplifies the author's argument, suggesting a narrow focus on current economic performance to the exclusion of historical context. The passage advocates for a balanced approach that considers multiple factors, including economic performance and demographic changes, rather than a singular focus on current economic indicators. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) The impact of changing census data on resource distribution has been overstated and requires no further adjustments. This option contradicts the passage, which acknowledges the challenges posed by demographic changes and suggests that adjustments, including consideration of newer census data, may be necessary. It dismisses concerns about the adequacy of current data usage, which the author implies need to be addressed as part of a broader set of adjustments for fairer distribution. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

89. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference Line: "The impact of these changes has been marginal for all state groups."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) States with successful fertility rate reduction have been marginally impacted by the change to 2011 census data. This inference aligns with the passage's discussion on the marginal impact of demographic changes, specifically mentioning the shift to newer census data and its effects. It suggests that states, particularly those with reduced fertility rates, have not seen significant changes in their resource share as a result of this data update, which is a logical deduction based on the author's analysis. Hence, Option a) can be inferred.

b) The increase in the share of central cesses and surcharges has diminished the overall pool of divisible resources. This inference is supported by the passage's critique of the growing proportion of cesses and surcharges, which effectively reduces the pool of resources available for distribution among states. It captures an underlying concern raised by the author regarding the structural factors that limit the equitable distribution of resources, reflecting a logical deduction from the passage. Hence, Option b) can be inferred.

c) All states have uniformly benefited from the adjustments made by the Finance Commissions over the years. This option cannot be inferred from the passage, as it suggests a uniform benefit from commission adjustments, which contradicts the author's specific concerns about imbalances affecting certain states. The passage indicates that despite adjustments, disparities remain, particularly disadvantaging some states, making this inference incorrect in the context of the author's argument. Hence, Option c) cannot be inferred and is the correct answer.

d) The use of the 1971 census data before the Fifteenth Finance Commission favored states with lower fertility rates. This inference is reasonable based on the passage's discussion of historical census data usage and its implications for resource distribution. It suggests that reliance on outdated data may have

inadvertently benefited states with certain demographic profiles, aligning with the author's critique of the need for methodological updates to reflect current realities. Hence, Option d) can be inferred.

90. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Reference Line: "Population is another contentious criterion...introducing a demographic change criterion."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) Southern states are inherently more capable of generating revenue independently of central transfers. This assumption is not directly supported by the passage, which focuses on the fairness of central resource distribution rather than the inherent revenue-generating capabilities of southern states. It introduces an unrelated premise that does not underpin the author's argument for adjusting distribution criteria to address specific imbalances. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) The current resource distribution system adequately reflects the economic and social justice intended by its criteria. This assumption contradicts the passage's critique of the current distribution system, which suggests that despite its intentions, the system has resulted in imbalances that need correction. The author's argument is predicated on the belief that the system's implementation of criteria does not fully achieve its goals of economic and social justice, making this assumption contrary to the argument presented. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) The weight given to different criteria in resource distribution has not kept pace with changing economic realities. This assumption is central to the author's argument, suggesting that the criteria weights used in resource distribution have become outdated in light of evolving economic conditions and demographics. It supports the call for adjustments to the distribution methodology to better reflect current realities and address imbalances, directly underpinning the logical flow of the argument. Hence, Option c) is the correct answer.

d) The size of the divisible pool of resources is not significantly affected by the implementation of cesses and surcharges. This assumption is contradicted by the passage, which explicitly discusses the impact of cesses and surcharges on reducing the divisible pool of resources available for distribution. The author's argument acknowledges these impacts as part of the broader issue of resource distribution fairness, making this assumption inconsistent with the critique presented. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

91. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference Lines: "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."

Difficulty Level: Easy

a) Countries that have recently transitioned to authoritarian regimes have shown no significant change in economic growth rates.

This option states that transitioning to an authoritarian regime has not significantly impacted economic growth rates, which directly contradicts the author's claim that authoritarian governance can facilitate quicker economic development. It suggests that such a governance shift does not necessarily improve economic outcomes. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) An international report indicates that countries with authoritarian regimes respond more rapidly to economic crises than democracies.

This option directly supports the author's argument by providing evidence that authoritarian regimes can indeed respond more quickly to economic crises. This rapid response is aligned with the author's view that concentrated power in authoritarian regimes can lead to faster and potentially more effective decision-making, which is essential during economic crises. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) Several democracies have recently reformed their political systems to increase the efficiency of their legislative processes.

While this option indicates that democracies are capable of reforming to increase efficiency, it does not strengthen the argument for authoritarian regimes being more efficient or faster in decision-making. It

rather suggests an improvement within democratic systems, which could be seen as a counter to the author's preference for authoritarian models. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Public opinion polls in various democracies show a high level of satisfaction with the stability and predictability of their governments.

This option indicates satisfaction with the democratic process and highlights the value placed on stability and predictability, attributes often associated with democracies and not necessarily authoritarian regimes. This does not support the claim that authoritarian regimes are more effective or faster in decision-making. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

92. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "Clearly, a perilous transformation has unfolded across these countries from 2017 to 2023, marked by an increased inclination towards rule by experts."

Difficulty Level: Easy

a) The author does not consider the potential economic benefits of democratic governance.

This option points out a limitation in the author's argument, noting that there may be economic advantages inherent to democratic systems that are not acknowledged. While relevant, this is not the most direct criticism of the author's reasoning, which specifically links dissatisfaction to inefficiencies, not overlooking potential benefits. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) The author assumes that all forms of government require the same level of economic resources.

This option misinterprets the focus of the author's argument, which is not on the economic resources required by different governments but rather on their efficiency and decision-making speeds. The passage does not make any direct comparison of resource needs across governance types. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) The assumption that dissatisfaction with democracy is solely due to its inefficiency.

This option accurately identifies a critical flaw in the author's reasoning. By assuming that the main or only reason for dissatisfaction with democracies is their inefficiency, the author ignores other possible causes such as corruption, lack of transparency, or political instability, which could also contribute to dissatisfaction. Hence, Option (c) is the correct answer.

d) The failure to recognize the role of cultural factors in shaping political preferences.

While recognizing cultural factors is important, the passage focuses on the inefficiencies of democratic governance and their perceived impact on economic and decision-making processes. This option does not directly address a flaw in the reasoning about the link between governance type and decision-making speed but rather suggests a broader context that the author might have overlooked. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

93. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "As expected, respondents from countries with lower incomes and less education tend to endorse such 'strong' leaders."

Difficulty Level: Easy

a) Lower-income countries face unique challenges that influence their political preferences.

This option is directly supported by the passage, which notes a correlation between lower income and education levels and the endorsement of authoritarian regimes. It suggests that economic and educational challenges in these countries might make the promise of strong, decisive leadership more appealing, reflecting a direct response to these unique challenges. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

b) Democratic systems are universally preferred over authoritarian regimes.

This option is contradicted by the passage, which indicates a global shift towards favoring authoritarian governance. The survey results show that there is significant support for non-democratic models, demonstrating that democratic systems are not universally preferred. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) High-income countries show limited interest in authoritarian governance.

This option oversimplifies the findings. While the passage suggests that there may be less endorsement of authoritarian regimes in wealthier regions, it does not assert a complete disinterest, merely indicating a different pattern of political preferences. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Support for strong leaders is partly driven by economic development needs.

This is a reasonable inference but not directly supported by the specific data in the passage. The passage connects the preference for authoritarian regimes more to perceived inefficiencies in democracies rather than directly to economic development needs. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

94. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference Lines: "A Pew Research Center's global survey reveals the evolving state of democracies across 24 countries."

Difficulty Level: Easy

a) Political preferences are static across various populations.

This option contradicts the passage's implication that political preferences are shifting, as evidenced by the increasing endorsement of authoritarian regimes. The author clearly assumes that these preferences are dynamic and subject to change, particularly in response to perceived inefficiencies in democratic systems. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) Surveys and reports accurately reflect genuine population sentiments.

This assumption underpins the author's use of survey data to support the argument. The author relies on the Pew Research Center's survey to demonstrate a shift in political preferences, implying that the survey results are a reliable indicator of global public opinion and sentiment. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) Military rule invariably leads to poorer economic performance.

This option introduces an unrelated assumption that the passage does not make. The discussion in the passage focuses on general authoritarian regimes, not specifically on military rule, and it does not link such governance directly to economic performance. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Western countries are fundamentally more democratic than others.

While the passage mentions that there is resistance to authoritarianism in Western countries, it does not claim that these countries are inherently more democratic. This option misinterprets the comparative analysis of political systems provided in the survey results. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

95. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Reference Lines: "The diminishing support for representative democracy since 2017 becomes even more pronounced when contrasted with the robust 70% endorsement of direct democracy."

Difficulty Level: Easy

a) Implement reforms in democratic systems to make decision-making processes faster.

This option directly addresses the core issue raised in the passage—the perceived inefficiencies in democratic systems. By reforming these systems to speed up decision-making, it could potentially address the dissatisfaction highlighted in the passage and make democracies more appealing in comparison to authoritarian regimes. This course of action directly aligns with the issues and solutions discussed by the author. Hence, Option (a) is the correct answer.

b) Encourage educational programs that enhance understanding of authoritarian regimes.

While educational initiatives about different governance types could be beneficial for a well-rounded understanding, this option does not directly address the specific issue of inefficiencies in democratic systems as discussed in the passage. It would not necessarily alter the public's dissatisfaction with the pace of decision-making in democracies. Hence, Option (b) is not the correct answer.

c) Survey more countries to confirm if the dissatisfaction is indeed global.

While additional data could provide a broader understanding of global political sentiments, the passage already provides sufficient evidence to suggest widespread dissatisfaction with democratic inefficiencies. Gathering more data is not an immediate solution to the issues raised but rather a method to deepen the existing understanding. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Increase transparency and accountability in authoritarian governments.

This option, while potentially beneficial for governance quality, does not address the dissatisfaction with democratic inefficiencies highlighted in the passage. Increasing transparency in authoritarian regimes does

not remedy the specific issues with democratic systems that the passage discusses. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

96. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference Lines: "The results highlight a global shift underway, signalling a discernible erosion of trust in democratic systems."

Difficulty Level: Easy

a) Evaluating the efficiency of democratic and authoritarian governments.

While the passage does discuss efficiency, this option narrowly focuses on a comparative evaluation which is not the main thrust of the passage. The primary focus is not on a detailed analysis of each system's efficiency but on the shifting preferences as indicated by the survey. Hence, Option (a) is not the correct answer.

b) A survey showing a global preference for authoritarian governance.

This option captures the essence of the passage, which discusses a global shift towards authoritarian governance as indicated by survey results. The passage primarily highlights this trend and the associated reasons for this shift, making it the central theme. Hence, Option (b) is the correct answer.

c) The relationship between economic status, education, and political preferences.

While this is a relevant aspect discussed in the passage, it is not the primary focus. This option refers to supporting details that help explain the broader trend of shifting political preferences rather than being the central subject of the discussion. Hence, Option (c) is not the correct answer.

d) Historical analysis of the evolution from democratic to authoritarian regimes.

This option misinterprets the content of the passage, which does not provide a historical analysis but rather discusses current perceptions and preferences based on recent survey results. The focus is on contemporary trends rather than a historical overview. Hence, Option (d) is not the correct answer.

97. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Reference Lines: "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."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) This option suggests that incorporating practical activities into psychoeducational courses compromises the academic rigor necessary for understanding psychological concepts. However, the author emphasizes the importance of practical, research-based activities in enhancing mental well-being, implying these activities are integral, not detrimental, to the learning experience. The author likely values the balance between theory and application, arguing that practical activities enrich rather than diminish academic depth. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) Here, the emphasis is on the necessity of continual practice of the habits taught in courses like "Science of Happiness" for their benefits to persist. This mirrors the author's viewpoint that the long-term effectiveness of these courses is dependent on the active, sustained engagement of participants with the practices learned. It aligns with the narrative that improvement in mental well-being requires ongoing effort, making this statement congruent with the author's beliefs. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) Suggesting that positive psychology courses could replace traditional mental health treatments for mild issues may overstate the author's position. While the author likely acknowledges the value of these courses in supporting mental health, they would probably argue that they complement rather than replace traditional treatments. The author's perspective seems to be that psychoeducational courses offer valuable tools for mental well-being, not substitutes for professional mental health care. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) The focus on social activities as a means to enhance mental well-being aligns with the author's discussion on the benefits of externalizing attention towards the well-being of others. This option highlights a key theme in positive psychology that emphasizes community and relational aspects of happiness. The author likely supports the idea that engaging in social activities fosters a sense of connectedness and satisfaction, thus enhancing mental health. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

98. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference Lines: "The study revealed that the sustained improvement in mental wellbeing was exclusive to those who regularly practiced the learned happiness hacks."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) This option implies that engaging in happiness activities completely shields individuals from encountering new mental health challenges, which is an overgeneralization. The study's findings likely indicate improvement in mental well-being as a result of these activities, not a total eradication of mental health challenges. Mental health is complex and influenced by a multitude of factors; therefore, the claim that no new challenges would arise is too absolute and not supported by the nuanced understanding of mental well-being the author presents. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) The key takeaway from the study, as highlighted by the author, is that the continued practice of happiness-enhancing activities contributes significantly to sustaining improvements in mental well-being. This inference directly aligns with the study's findings that the benefits of such activities are most pronounced and enduring among those who integrate them into their regular routines. This reflects an understanding that mental well-being is an ongoing process, requiring persistent effort and engagement with positive practices. Hence, Option b) is the correct answer.

c) Suggesting that most participants discontinue the activities post-course contradicts the author's presentation of the study's findings. While it's plausible that not all participants maintain every activity, the assertion that most cease all practices likely oversimplifies the reality. The author's emphasis on the significant portion of participants continuing with at least one activity indicates a more nuanced outcome, where engagement levels vary but do not universally drop off. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) This option restricts the benefits of happiness-enhancing activities to a specific demographic, which is contrary to the author's broader perspective. The author suggests that these activities have a wide-reaching impact, beneficial across a diverse range of participants, not limited to those with pre-existing mental health issues. While individuals with mental health concerns might find particular value in these practices, the study's findings, as interpreted by the author, advocate for their universal applicability and benefit. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

99. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Reference Lines: "However, the study is not without its limitations, including potential response bias and challenges in maintaining a representative sample over extended follow-up periods."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) This option directly addresses the concern of potential bias in self-reported data, which is a limitation the author acknowledges. Given that well-being is inherently subjective, relying on participants' self-assessment to gauge the effectiveness of happiness activities introduces a degree of uncertainty regarding the true impact of these practices. This limitation is crucial for understanding the study's findings, as it suggests that while positive outcomes are reported, they may not fully capture the complexity or breadth of the activities' effects. Hence, Option a) is the correct answer.

b) While the lack of comprehensive follow-up could indeed affect the perceived longevity of the course's benefits, this concern diverges from the specific limitations discussed by the author. The primary issue highlighted is the reliability of self-reported measures, not the scope of participant follow-up. Although follow-up methodology is important for assessing long-term outcomes, the author's focus is on the inherent challenges of measuring subjective experiences of well-being. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) Critiquing the study for not considering other psychoeducational initiatives shifts the discussion away from the methodological limitations to a broader commentary on the study's scope. The author's critique centers on the accuracy and reliability of measuring the effects of the "Science of Happiness" course, rather than the comparative analysis of different psychoeducational efforts. This option introduces a different angle not directly related to the author's concerns about the study's limitations. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) Questioning the study's universal applicability raises an important point about demographic and cultural differences, but this critique is not explicitly tied to the author's discussion of the study's limitations. The author focuses on the internal validity of the study's findings, primarily concerning the accuracy of self-

reported well-being, rather than its external validity or generalizability across different populations. While cross-cultural applicability is a valid consideration, it does not reflect the specific limitations the author identifies. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

100. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Reference Lines: "Interestingly, about half of the respondents continued practicing at least one of the happiness-enhancing activities introduced during the course."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) Asserting that happiness activities are universally beneficial without exception oversimplifies the nuanced understanding of mental well-being and its determinants. The author likely recognizes that while happiness-enhancing activities can have a positive impact, their effectiveness may vary based on individual differences, contextual factors, and specific needs. This broad generalization does not reflect the careful consideration of variability and individual responses that the author's discussion implies. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option overgeneralizes the effectiveness of psychoeducational courses by equating all such courses with the "Science of Happiness," disregarding the specificity of each course's content, methodology, and outcomes. The author's focus is on the particular study of the "Science of Happiness" course, and while general principles of positive psychology may apply across different courses, the assumption that all have identical impacts is unsupported by the author's nuanced discussion. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) By discussing the study's findings and implications based on participants' self-reported improvements in well-being, the author implicitly assumes that these self-reports are a reliable reflection of participants' actual mental health states. This assumption underlies the interpretation of the study's outcomes, suggesting that the perceived benefits reported by participants correlate with genuine improvements in mental health. Recognizing the potential for bias or inaccuracy in self-reports, this assumption is critical for accepting the study's conclusions as valid. Hence, Option c) is the correct answer.

d) Suggesting that happiness activities offer superior efficacy compared to traditional mental health interventions introduces a comparison that the author does not explicitly make. While the author advocates for the benefits of happiness-enhancing activities, there is no indication that these activities are positioned as superior to conventional treatments. The discussion focuses on the value and potential of these activities within the broader context of mental well-being, not in direct competition with other interventions. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

101. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference Lines: "Initial findings showed a significant improvement in participants' mental health shortly after completing the course."

Difficulty Level: Easy

a) While reliance on self-reported data introduces potential biases and limitations in measuring the true impact of happiness activities, this critique focuses more on the study's methodology than the persuasiveness of the arguments regarding long-term benefits. The author acknowledges these limitations but still presents a compelling case for the efficacy of these activities based on the evidence provided. The critique does not fully address the strength of the argument that engaging in these activities can lead to sustained improvements in mental well-being. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option accurately captures the essence of the author's argument, emphasizing the empirical support for the benefits of happiness-enhancing activities and the importance of continued engagement for long-term well-being. The initial positive outcomes and the emphasis on sustained practice form a robust foundation for the argument that these activities can lead to enduring mental health benefits. The author presents a reasoned and evidence-based argument that effectively supports the notion of long-term improvement through active participation. Hence, Option b) is the correct answer.

c) The absence of a control group is a valid methodological concern that could impact the ability to attribute mental health gains directly to the course's influence. However, this critique does not directly address the strength of the arguments presented in the passage. The author discusses the positive

outcomes associated with the course and the role of ongoing engagement without necessarily claiming a causal relationship based solely on the presence or absence of a control group. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) The claim that the passage convincingly argues for the universal effectiveness of happiness activities, while ignoring individual differences, misrepresents the author's nuanced approach. The author suggests that the benefits of these activities are significant and supported by evidence but does not dismiss the variability in individual responses. The argument for the broad effectiveness of happiness-enhancing activities is made with an understanding of the complexity of mental well-being and the importance of personalized engagement. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

102. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Reference Lines: "This underscores the importance of ongoing engagement with positive psychology interventions for lasting mental health benefits."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) The confirmation of similar positive outcomes across multiple studies through a meta-analysis significantly strengthens the argument by providing a broader base of empirical support for the long-term benefits of happiness-enhancing activities. This finding would suggest that the benefits observed are not isolated to a single study or context but are consistently replicated, thereby reinforcing the validity of the claim that these activities can lead to sustained improvements in mental well-being. Hence, Option a) is the correct answer.

b) Reporting temporary increases in happiness immediately following the activities, with no enduring changes, would actually weaken rather than strengthen the argument for long-term benefits. This outcome would suggest that while the activities might have short-term positive effects, they do not lead to the sustained improvements that the passage argues for. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) If only a minority of individuals derive benefit from happiness-enhancing activities, this would undermine the argument's basis by indicating that the activities' effectiveness is limited and not broadly applicable. This contradicts the passage's implication that these activities have widespread potential for improving mental well-being over the long term. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) Difficulty in integrating happiness activities into daily routines highlights a practical barrier to achieving long-term benefits, suggesting that even if the activities are beneficial, their positive effects may be mitigated by challenges in sustained practice. This would weaken the argument by implying that maintaining the habits necessary for long-term benefits is problematic for most people, rather than reinforcing the feasibility and effectiveness of these practices. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

103. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Reference Lines: "The combination of physical exertion and the calming influence of nature provides a holistic experience that rejuvenates both body and mind."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) This option directly supports the author's argument by presenting real-life examples of individuals who have experienced the therapeutic and meditative benefits of rafting. By showing how rafting has led to mental clarity and stress relief, it provides tangible evidence that aligns with the claim that rafting serves as a form of therapy and meditation. The personal nature of these stories makes the argument more relatable and convincing, effectively illustrating how the physical and mental engagement required in rafting can offer a holistic benefit. Hence, Option a) is the correct answer.

b) While this option compares the popularity of rafting with other extreme sports, it fails to address the specific claim about rafting's therapeutic and meditative effects. The focus here is more on the level of engagement rather than the quality of the experience. Although understanding how rafting stacks up against other sports might be interesting, it does not validate the specific mental health benefits claimed. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) Comparing physical requirements between rafting and more accessible sports like jogging might highlight the unique challenges and exertions of rafting but does not directly support the argument about its mental health benefits. This comparison sheds light on the physical aspects rather than the psychological

or therapeutic benefits, missing the core argument about rafting's role in providing mental clarity and a meditative escape. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) Offering insights into the skills needed and the variety of rapids encountered in rafting showcases the technical and adventure aspects of the sport. However, it falls short of supporting the argument about rafting's therapeutic and meditative benefits. While understanding the skills and challenges involved in navigating different rapids is valuable, it does not speak to the specific claim about rafting aiding in mental health and stress relief. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

104. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "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."

Difficulty Level: Easy

a) This option focuses on the physical aspects and skill development opportunities in rafting, which, while part of the exhilarating experience, do not directly relate to the soothing and tranquil aspect mentioned. The exhilaration comes from overcoming these physical challenges, but this doesn't inherently convey the peacefulness that the second part of the statement aims to highlight. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option aligns perfectly with the description of rafting as both exhilarating and soothing. The tranquility and peace offered by the natural settings in which rafting occurs are exactly what the statement describes as the soothing counterpoint to the exhilaration. The calming effect of nature, combined with the meditative quality of being on the water, supports the unique dual experience rafting offers. Hence, Option b) is the correct answer.

c) Camaraderie and team-building are significant aspects of many group activities, including rafting. However, this option doesn't directly address the soothing and tranquil aspect of rafting that comes from its engagement with nature and the personal internal experience. While important, team-building doesn't capture the essence of the peace and tranquility mentioned in the statement. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) Environmental awareness and conservation are noble outcomes of engaging with outdoor sports like rafting. Yet, this focus on broader impacts and awareness does not specifically support the statement's mention of the soothing experience on a personal level. The connection to tranquility and peace is more directly related to the immediate, personal experience of rafting rather than the broader implications for environmental consciousness. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

105. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "Facing the challenges and joys of the journey together fosters a bond that transcends the duration of the rafting trip."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) Individuals preferring solo rafting could suggest an alternative appeal of rafting, focusing on solitude and a personal connection with nature. However, this does not directly weaken the argument about camaraderie in group settings. The presence of solo enthusiasts doesn't negate the potential for camaraderie among those who raft in groups. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option would actually strengthen the author's claim by highlighting the diversity and inclusivity of rafting experiences, which could enhance the sense of camaraderie among participants from different backgrounds. It suggests an enriching aspect of rafting that complements the argument rather than weakens it. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) Presenting evidence that team sports like football or basketball create stronger bonds than rafting directly challenges the author's claim about the unique camaraderie found in rafting. If statistical proof shows other sports are more effective in this regard, it undermines the assertion that rafting's camaraderie is unparalleled, making this the most effective counterargument. Hence, Option c) is the correct answer.

d) Safety training reducing fear and risk is important for participant confidence but does not directly address the nature or uniqueness of camaraderie in rafting. This option focuses on a different aspect of the

rafting experience, leaving the claim about camaraderie unchallenged. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

106. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Reference Lines: "Moreover, rafting serves as a therapeutic escape from the stresses of daily life."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) Scientific evidence demonstrating the stress-reducing benefits of water-based sports directly supports the claim about rafting's therapeutic escape. This option provides empirical backing for the notion that engaging in rafting can have significant mental health benefits, making it a compelling argument in favour of rafting's unique position as a therapeutic activity. Hence, Option a) is the correct answer.

b) Professional athletes' training preferences do not address the therapeutic benefits of rafting for the general population. This option focuses on a niche group with specific performance goals, which diverges from the broader claim about rafting's mental health benefits for the average person. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) A general preference for indoor activities over outdoor ones might suggest a societal trend but does not negate the specific benefits of rafting as a therapeutic escape. This survey data does not directly challenge the claim about rafting's unique benefits but rather points to a broader preference that may exist for convenience. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) The development of virtual reality rafting experiences speaks to technological advancements but does not strengthen the argument about the real, physical benefits of rafting. While virtual simulations can mimic the experience to some degree, they cannot replicate the full therapeutic benefits of actual, physical engagement with nature and the water. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

107. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference Lines: "Beyond the thrill, rafting is an immersive experience that connects participants with the natural world in a profound way."

Difficulty Level: Easy

a) The passage suggests a profound connection with nature as part of the rafting experience, making the inference about enhanced appreciation for and connection to the natural environment reasonable. The immersive nature of rafting in beautiful, often untouched settings fosters a deeper appreciation for the environment. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) this inference does not align with described benefits of rafting mentioned in the passage. As this cannot be inferred from the passage it is the correct answer.

c) The combination of physical exertion in navigating rapids and the serene moments enjoyed while on the water suggests a balanced experience of activity and contemplation. This accurately reflects the passage's depiction of rafting as an activity that offers both excitement and the opportunity for reflection. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) The assertion that rafting is universally recognized as the best method for building relationships is supported or implied by the passage. The passage claims that rafting can Foster camaraderie among participants. Hence this can be inferred from the passage and is not the correct answer.

108. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference Lines: "Rafting epitomises the essence of extreme sports, offering a multifaceted experience that is both exhilarating and soothing."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) The passage implies that rafting involves rigorous physical activity that can enhance one's fitness. The discussion of navigating rapids and the physical challenges involved supports the idea that rafting contributes to physical health, fitting within the multifaceted experience described by the author. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) While fostering global awareness and multicultural interactions could be an indirect benefit of traveling for rafting, the passage does not explicitly mention these aspects as part of the rafting experience. This

makes it an aspect not included in the author's portrayal, correctly identifying it as not part of the essence of extreme sports as described. Hence, Option b) is the correct answer.

c) A deeper connection with the natural world is explicitly mentioned as a benefit of rafting, aligning with the passage's emphasis on the immersive and profound experience that rafting offers. This connection is part of the multifaceted appeal of rafting, supporting the author's conclusion about its essence. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) The camaraderie experienced among rafting participants is highlighted as a significant aspect of the experience, fitting within the author's depiction of rafting's multifaceted nature. This aspect emphasizes the social and collaborative benefits of rafting, aligning with the portrayal of the sport's comprehensive appeal. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

Quantitative Techniques

109. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Total number of males in PNB Bank is = 585

Number of married males in PNB is = $\frac{8}{13} \times 585 = 8 \times 45 = 360$

Number of unmarried males in PNB is = $\frac{5}{13} \times 585 = 225$

Total number of female in PNB Bank is = 315

Number of married females in PNB Bank is = $\frac{4}{7} \times 315 = 180$

Number of unmarried females in PNB Bank is = $\frac{3}{7} \times 315 = 135$

Total number of married males and females in PNB Bank is = $360 + 180 = 540$

Common Explanation (Q109 to 114):

Let the total employee in SBI Bank be = $100x$

Number of female in SBI Bank are = $100x \times 28\% = 28x$

Number of male in SBI Bank are = $100x - 28x = 72x$

Now the difference between the number of male and number of female are = $72x - 28x = 220$

$44x = 220$

$x = 5$

Let the total number of employee in PNB Bank are = $100y$

Number of male employee in PNB Bank are = $100y \times 65\% = 65y$

Number of female employee in PNB Bank are = $100y - 65y = 35y$

Difference between the number of male and number of female employee in PNB Bank are = $220 + 50 = 270$

$65y - 35y = 270$

$30y = 270$

$y = 9$

The total number of employee in HDFC Bank are = 500

Number of female employee in HDFC Bank = $500 \times 18\% = 90$

Number of male employee in HDFC Bank = $500 - 90 = 410$

Difference between the number of male and female in HDFC Bank is = $410 - 90 = 320$

Let the total number of employee in BOB Bank are = $100z$

Number of female employee in BOB Bank = $100z \times 48\% = 48z$

Number of male employee in BOB Bank = $100z - 48z = 52z$

Difference between the number of male and female employee in BOB Bank are = $66\frac{2}{3}\%$ of 270

$= \frac{2}{3} \times 270 = 180$

Now $52z - 48z = 180$

$4z = 180$

$z = 45$

Bank	Total	Male	Female	Difference between male and female employees
SBI	500	360	140	220
PNB	900	585	315	270
HDFC	500	410	90	320
BOB	4500	2340	2160	180

110. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Number of males in BOB Bank is = 2340

Number of female employees in PNB Bank is = 315

Required Ratio = $\frac{2340}{315} = \frac{52}{7} = 52:7$

111. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Total Number of males in HDFC Bank are = 410
 Number of males in HDFC Bank who is present on a day is = $410 \times 70\% = 287$
 Total number of females in HDFC Bank are = 90
 Number of females in HDFC Bank who is present on a day is = $90 \times 55.55\%$
 $= 90 \times \frac{5}{9} = 50$
 Total Number of employees who is present on a day is = $287 + 50 = 337$
 Percentage of employees who is present on a day is = $\frac{337}{500} \times 100\% = 67.4\%$

112. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Total number of employees in BOB Bank are = 4500
 Average number of females in SBI and BOB Bank are = $\frac{140+2160}{2} = \frac{2300}{2} = 1150$
 Required difference = $4500 - 1150 = 3350$

113. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Number of males in SBI Bank and PNB Bank together are = $360 + 585 = 945$
 Number of female in SBI Bank and PNB Bank together are = $140 + 315 = 455$
 Required % = $\frac{945-455}{455} \times 100\%$
 $= \frac{490}{455} \times 100\%$
 $= 107.69\%$
 Approx. = 108%

114. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Total number of males in all the Bank together are = $360 + 585 + 410 + 2340 = 3695$
 Total number of females in all the bank together are = $140 + 315 + 90 + 2160 = 2705$
 Required difference = $3695 - 2705 = 990$

115. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Sum of total cycles parked in 2nd stand of Park A and Park B is = $200 + 200 = 400$
 Sum of total cycles parked in 1st stand of park C and park D is = $800 + 900 = 1700$
 Difference = $1700 - 400 = 1300$

Common Explanation (Q115 to Q120):

In park A average number of cycles parked in all three stand of park A = 300
 Total number of cycles parked in all three stands of park A is = $300 \times 3 = 900$
 Sum of the cycles parked in the 1st stand and 2nd stand in park A = 600
 Difference between the cycle parked in 1st stand and 2nd stand is = 22.22% of 900

$$= \frac{2}{9} \times 900 = 200$$

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand} + 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ stand} = 600$$

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand} - 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ stand} = 200$$

$$\hline 2 \times (1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand}) = 800$$

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand} = 400$$

$$2^{\text{nd}} \text{ stand} = 600 - 400 = 200$$

$$3^{\text{rd}} \text{ stand} = 900 - 600 = 300$$

In park B

Total number of cycles parked in all three stand is = $3 \times 400 = 1200$

Sum of cycles parked in 1st stand and 2nd stand = 133.33% of A

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand} + 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ stand} = \frac{4}{3} \times 600 = 800$$

Difference of cycle parked in 1st stand and 2nd stand = 400 C (Ratio given in above passage)

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand} + 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ stand} = 800$$

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand} - 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ stand} = 400$$

$$2 (1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand}) = 1200$$

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand} = 600$$

$$2^{\text{nd}} \text{ stand} = 800 - 600 = 200$$

$$3^{\text{rd}} \text{ stand} = 1200 - 800 = 400$$

In Park C

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total number of cycles parked in all three stands is} &= 3 \times 400 \times 150\% \\ &= 3 \times 600 = 1800 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sum of cycles parked in } 1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand and } 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ stand} &= 162.5\% \text{ of } B \\ &= \frac{13}{8} \times 800 = 1300 \end{aligned}$$

Difference between the cycle parked in 1^{st} stand and 2^{nd} stand is = 300 (ratio given in above passage)

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand} + 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ stand} = 1300$$

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand} - 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ stand} = 300$$

$$2(1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand}) = 1600$$

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand} = 800$$

$$2^{\text{nd}} \text{ stand} = 1300 - 800 = 500$$

$$3^{\text{rd}} \text{ stand} = 1800 - 1300 = 500$$

In park D

$$\text{Total number of cycles park in all three stand is} = 3 \times 600 = 1800$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sum of cycles parked in } 1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand and } 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ stand} &= 212.5\% \text{ of } B \\ &= \frac{17}{8} \times 800 = 1700 \end{aligned}$$

Difference of cycles parked in 1^{st} stand and 2^{nd} stand = 100

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand} + 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ stand} = 1700$$

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand} - 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ stand} = 100$$

$$2 (1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand}) = 1800$$

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand} = 900$$

$$2^{\text{nd}} \text{ stand} = 1700 - 900 = 800$$

$$3^{\text{rd}} \text{ stand} = 1800 - 1700 = 100$$

In park E

$$\text{Total number of cycles park in all three stand is} = 3 \times 400 \times 75\% = 3 \times 400 \times \frac{3}{4} = 900$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sum of cycles park in } 1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand and } 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ stand} &= 116.67\% \text{ of } A \\ &= \frac{7}{6} \times 600 = 700 \end{aligned}$$

Difference of cycles park in 1^{st} stand and 2^{nd} stand = 100 (Ratio given in above passage)

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand} + 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ stand} = 700$$

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand} - 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ stand} = 100$$

$$2 (1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand}) = 800$$

$$1^{\text{st}} \text{ stand} = 400$$

$$2^{\text{nd}} \text{ stand} = 700 - 400 = 300$$

$$3^{\text{rd}} \text{ stand} = 900 - 700 = 200$$

Park	Total	1 st stand	2 nd stand	3 rd stand
A	900	400	200	300
B	1200	600	200	400
C	1800	800	500	500
D	1800	900	800	100
E	900	400	300	200

116. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Total cycles parked in 3rd stand of park D = 100

Number of cycles parked in 1st stand of park A = 400

$$\text{Required percent} = \frac{100}{400} \times 100\% = 25\%$$

117. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Sum of the cycles parked in 1st stand of the parks is

$$= 400 + 600 + 800 + 900 + 400 = 3100$$

$$\text{Average} = \frac{3100}{5} = 620$$

118. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Average Number of cycles parked in 2nd stands in park A and Park E together = $\frac{200+300}{2} = 250$

Average number of cycles parked in 3rd stands in park B and Park C together = $\frac{400+500}{2} = 450$

$$\text{Required difference} = 450 - 250 = 200$$

119. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Sum of the number of cycles parked in 1st stand and 2nd stand in park B and Park C together

$$= 600 + 800 + 200 + 500 = 2100$$

Sum of the number of cycles parked in 2nd stand and 3rd stand in park D and Park E together

$$= 800 + 300 + 100 + 200 = 1400$$

$$\text{Required ratio} = \frac{2100}{1400} = \frac{3}{2}$$

120. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Total number of cycles parked in all three stands of all the parks

$$= 900 + 1200 + 1800 + 1800 + 900 = 6600$$
