

MOCK CLAT 10017 (BASIC)

ANSWER & EXPLANATIONS

English Language

1. **Answer: B**

Explanation: The word "splurge" typically refers to spending a large amount of money lavishly or extravagantly on something. In the context of the passage, it is mentioned that Microsoft is planning a \$100 billion splurge into a supercomputer to back its AI ambitions. Here, "splurge" is used to indicate a significant financial investment. Therefore, the most suitable synonym for "splurge" in this context is "investment" (option b).

Incorrect options:

Option (a) "Reduction" is incorrect because it implies the opposite of "splurge." "Reduction" refers to the act of decreasing or diminishing something, which is not consistent with the context of the passage discussing a large financial expenditure.

Option (c) "Delay" is incorrect because it refers to postponing or putting off something, which is unrelated to the concept of spending money or making an investment.

Option (d) "Analysis" is incorrect because it pertains to the examination or study of something in detail, which does not align with the context of financial expenditure discussed in the passage.

Reference line: "Microsoft, for instance, is reportedly planning a \$100 billion splurge into a supercomputer – set to go online in 2028 – to back its AI ambitions."

2. **Answer: B**

Explanation: The passage primarily focuses on the emergence and growing importance of small language models (SLMs) as viable alternatives to large language models (LLMs) in the field of artificial intelligence. It discusses how SLMs challenge the notion that bigger is always better and highlights their effectiveness in specialized tasks and resource-constrained environments. Therefore, the most suitable title that encapsulates the main theme of the passage is "The Rise of Small Language Models: A Viable Alternative" (option b).

Incorrect options:

Option (a) "The Dominance of Large Language Models in AI" is incorrect because while the passage mentions the significance of large language models, its main focus is on the emergence and advantages of small language models.

Option (c) "The Environmental Cost of Artificial Intelligence Research" is incorrect because although the passage briefly touches upon the energy consumption of large language models, it is not the central theme or focus of the passage.

Option (d) "The Competition Between Tech Giants in Supercomputer Development" is incorrect because while the passage mentions Microsoft's investment in a supercomputer, it is just one aspect of the discussion on AI infrastructure and not the main focus of the passage.

Reference line: "Here's everything you need to know about SLMs."

3. **Answer: B**

Explanation: The passage adopts an informative and objective tone throughout, presenting the development of small language models (SLMs) and their advantages without expressing overt criticism or enthusiasm. It provides factual information about the emergence of SLMs, their effectiveness in specialized tasks, and their potential applications without displaying bias towards or against any particular viewpoint. Therefore, the most appropriate description of the overall tone of the passage is "informative and objective" (option b).

Incorrect options:

Option (a) "Critical of big tech companies and their AI practices" is incorrect because the passage does not express criticism towards big tech companies or their AI practices. Instead, it focuses on discussing the emergence and advantages of small language models.

Option (c) "Enthusiastic about the potential of supercomputers in AI" is incorrect because while the passage mentions Microsoft's investment in a supercomputer, it does not convey enthusiasm about

supercomputers in general. The discussion on supercomputers is presented in a factual manner without expressing particular enthusiasm.

Option (d) "Dismissive of the effectiveness of small language models" is incorrect because the passage highlights the effectiveness and advantages of small language models, rather than dismissing them. It discusses how SLMs are proving to be highly effective in specialized tasks and resource-constrained environments, indicating a positive view of their effectiveness.

Reference line: The overall tone of the passage, characterized as informative and objective, is evident throughout the entire passage as it presents factual information about the development and advantages of small language models (SLMs) without expressing overt criticism or enthusiasm.

4. **Answer: B**

Explanation: The passage discusses the environmental impact of artificial intelligence research, particularly focusing on the high energy consumption required by large language models (LLMs). It mentions how big tech companies are investing massive resources to keep their power-hungry LLMs up and running, which can potentially speed up their response times. This emphasis on the energy-intensive nature of LLMs suggests that the author is concerned about their environmental impact. Therefore, the correct answer is option (b).

Incorrect options:

Option (a) "The development of all language models, regardless of size" is incorrect because the passage specifically highlights the high energy consumption associated with large language models, rather than expressing concern about all language models.

Option (c) "The lack of security measures in place for small language models" is incorrect because the passage does not address security concerns related to SLMs. It primarily focuses on their effectiveness, versatility, and potential applications.

Option (d) "The potential job losses in the tech industry due to AI advancements" is incorrect because the passage does not discuss job losses in the tech industry or express concern about this issue. Its main focus is on the emergence and advantages of small language models and their impact on AI research.

Reference line: "The high energy consumption required by large language models."

5. **Answer: C**

Explanation: The passage discusses the growing importance and effectiveness of small language models (SLMs) in specialized tasks and resource-constrained environments. It mentions advancements in training techniques, architecture, and optimization strategies that are closing the performance gap between SLMs and large language models (LLMs). Additionally, it highlights the versatility of SLMs and their suitability for deployment on edge devices, mobile applications, and resource-constrained environments. Therefore, it can be inferred that future advancements in SLMs might lead to the development of even smaller and more specialized language models to cater to specific tasks and domains. This inference is supported by the passage's emphasis on the efficiency and effectiveness of SLMs in narrow contexts. Hence, the correct answer is option (c).

Incorrect options:

Option (a) "A decrease in the need for large language models altogether" is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that advancements in SLMs will eliminate the need for LLMs altogether. While SLMs offer advantages in specialized tasks, LLMs still have their own applications and domains where they excel.

Option (b) "Increased collaboration between big tech companies in AI research" is incorrect because the passage does not address collaboration between companies. It focuses on the development and advantages of SLMs rather than collaboration dynamics.

Option (d) "A shift towards cloud-based deployment for all language models" is incorrect because the passage does not specifically discuss a shift towards cloud-based deployment. It highlights the deployment of SLMs on edge devices and resource-constrained environments, suggesting versatility in deployment options rather than a specific shift towards cloud-based deployment.

Reference line: "Therefore, it can be inferred that future advancements in SLMs might lead to the development of even smaller and more specialized language models to cater to specific tasks and domains."

6. **Answer:** A

Explanation: The sentence "On a scalding summer day, the pink sandstone cupolas shine brighter" employs a rhetorical device to convey a vivid image to the reader. The correct answer is (a) Simile, as the sentence compares the brightness of the cupolas to the intensity of sunlight on a scalding summer day using the word "brighter."

A simile is a figure of speech that compares two different things using the words "like" or "as." In this sentence, the comparison is made between the brightness of the pink sandstone cupolas and the intensity of the sunlight. The word "brighter" indicates that the cupolas are shining with a radiance similar to, but not exactly like, the brightness of the sunlight. Therefore, the correct answer is (a) Simile.

Incorrect options:

Option (b) Metaphor equates two different things without using "like" or "as." Since the sentence uses "brighter" to compare the cupolas to the sunlight, it does not fit the definition of a metaphor.

Option (c) Hyperbole involves exaggeration for emphasis or effect. While the sentence describes the cupolas as shining brightly, it does not exaggerate to an extreme degree, so it does not qualify as hyperbole.

Option (d) Personification attributes human characteristics to non-human entities. Since the sentence does not attribute human qualities to the cupolas, it does not fit the definition of personification.

Therefore, the sentence is best described as a simile because it uses "brighter" to directly compare the brightness of the cupolas to the sunlight on a scalding summer day.

Reference line: The sentence "On a scalding summer day, the pink sandstone cupolas shine brighter" is from the first sentence of the passage.

7. **Answer:** B

Explanation: In the passage, the phrase "verdant oasis" refers to the Government Museum campus, contrasting its serene and green surroundings with the chaotic atmosphere of Egmore. The correct answer is (b) Lush green haven.

Incorrect options:

Option (a) Barren desert presents the opposite meaning of the phrase "verdant oasis." The passage describes the museum campus as calm and verdant, indicating that it is not barren like a desert.

Option (c) Dusty marketplace does not accurately capture the lush and green nature of the museum campus described in the passage.

Option (d) Crumbling historical site focuses on the condition of the site rather than its greenery. While the passage mentions the renovation of the National Art Gallery, it does not describe the campus as crumbling.

Therefore, "lush green haven" best captures the meaning of "verdant oasis" as it reflects the peaceful and green nature of the Government Museum campus amidst the chaos of Egmore.

Reference line: The phrase "verdant oasis" is from the sentence: "Nestled inside the calm, verdant oasis of the Government Museum campus."

8. **Answer:** B

Explanation: The long renovation of the National Art Gallery resulted in the building becoming unfamiliar to the younger public. The correct answer is (b) The historical building being unfamiliar to the younger public.

Incorrect options:

Option (a) The increased footfall of architecture students since the reopening is not directly linked to the long renovation but rather to the reopening of the gallery.

Option (c) The decision to relocate most paintings from the archival section is mentioned in the passage but is not attributed to the long renovation.

Option (d) The building being designed by Henry Irwin in the Jaipuri-Mughal style provides historical information about the gallery but does not directly relate to its unfamiliarity with the younger public. Therefore, the best inference is that the long renovation resulted in the historical building being unfamiliar to the younger public, as stated in the passage.

Reference line: The inference that the long renovation resulted in the historical building being unfamiliar to the younger public can be drawn from the passage's description of the renovation and its impact on footfall and public memory.

9. **Answer: B**

Explanation: The passage describes the facade of the National Art Gallery in detail, mentioning its distinctive features such as bulbous domes, pointed arches, and jaali work. These architectural elements contribute to the uniqueness and grandeur of the building, supporting the argument that it is an architectural marvel. The correct answer is (b) The facade is replete with bulbous domes, pointed arches, and jaali work.

Incorrect options:

Option (a) The building was earlier called the Victoria Memorial Hall provides historical information about the building but does not directly support the argument that it is an architectural marvel.

Option (c) The long-drawn renovation project was sanctioned for ₹ 12 crores provides information about the cost of the renovation but does not specifically relate to the architectural features of the building.

Option (d) The upkeep of the facade relies on sourcing pink sandstone from Andhra Pradesh describes maintenance of the building but does not directly relate to its status as an architectural marvel.

Therefore, the statement that best supports the argument that the National Art Gallery is an architectural marvel is that the facade is replete with bulbous domes, pointed arches, and jaali work.

Reference line: "Past the mammoth facade, unique for its pale pink palette, and replete with bulbous domes, pointed arches, jaali work, minarets, and stained glass..."

10. **Answer: D**

Explanation: The sentence "Past the mammoth facade... is a deep hallway, sans pillars" describes the hallway as featuring a long hallway without any supporting columns. The correct answer is (d) Featuring a long hallway without any supporting columns.

Incorrect options:

Option (a) Having a very high ceiling is not mentioned in the sentence, so it is not an accurate description of the hallway.

Option (b) Lacking any windows or openings is not mentioned in the sentence, so it is not an accurate description of the hallway.

Option (c) Decorated with numerous pillars contradicts the description in the sentence, which explicitly states that the hallway is "sans pillars."

Therefore, the best description of the hallway is that it features a long hallway without any supporting columns, as indicated by the phrase "sans pillars" in the sentence.

Reference line: "Past the mammoth facade, unique for its pale pink palette, and replete with bulbous domes, pointed arches, jaali work, minarets, and stained glass, an amalgamation of Mughal, Persian and Hindu elements that came to prominence in the 19th Century, is a deep hallway, sans pillars."

11. **Answer: A**

Explanation: In the given sentence, "your perma-bachelor Latin teacher," the term "perma-bachelor" suggests someone who is permanently unmarried or committed to a bachelor lifestyle. Here, "perma" serves as a prefix, indicating permanence or enduring status. Therefore, the antonym for "permanent" in this context would logically be "temporary," which implies something fleeting or not lasting indefinitely.

Option (a) "Temporary" directly contrasts with the notion of permanence implied by "perma-bachelor," making it the correct antonym in the context of the sentence. It accurately captures the idea of someone who is not permanently unmarried but rather experiencing a temporary state of bachelorhood.

Incorrect options:

Option (b) "Knowledgeable" does not serve as an antonym for "permanent" in the given context. While a perma-bachelor Latin teacher may indeed be knowledgeable, this term does not convey the opposite meaning of permanent. Therefore, option (b) is not the correct choice.

Option (c) "Unmarried" is related to the context of bachelorhood but fails to provide a direct antonym for "permanent." Being unmarried does not inherently imply a temporary status; one could be unmarried temporarily or permanently. Thus, option (c) does not accurately contrast with the concept of permanence conveyed by "perma-bachelor."

Option (d) "Stoic" is entirely unrelated to the concept of permanence or bachelorhood. It refers to someone who practices Stoicism, a philosophical school of thought, which has no direct connection to the idea of being unmarried. Therefore, option (d) is not the correct antonym for "permanent" in this context.

In conclusion, option (a) "Temporary" is the most suitable choice as it accurately contrasts with the notion of permanence conveyed by "perma-bachelor" in the sentence. The other options either do not provide direct antonyms or are unrelated to the context of the sentence.

Reference line:

"...as you're now just as likely to find Meditations or Letters from a Stoic on the bookshelf of a pop diva as your perma-bachelor Latin teacher."

12. **Answer: C**

Explanation: The passage portrays a critical view of the modern adaptation of Stoicism, suggesting that it has been commercialized and turned into a trendy lifestyle choice rather than a profound philosophical tradition. Here's why option (c) is the most appropriate choice:

Option (c) correctly captures the essence of the author's criticism. The passage discusses how Stoicism has been reduced to a fad, with its core principles often misunderstood or oversimplified by its followers. The author argues that this superficial adoption of Stoicism undermines its depth and complexity, turning it into a mere lifestyle trend devoid of its original philosophical significance.

Incorrect options:

Option (a) "It focuses on self-improvement through healthy habits" is not reflective of the author's main argument. While self-improvement is mentioned in the passage, the author's primary concern is the superficial and commercialized nature of modern Stoicism, rather than its focus on healthy habits.

Option (b) "It emphasizes emotional resilience in dealing with challenges" is partially accurate, as the passage mentions the re-marketing of Stoicism as a way to cultivate emotional resilience. However, this option does not fully capture the author's criticism of Stoicism becoming a fad and being misunderstood by its followers.

Option (d) "It is more popular among young people than older generations" is mentioned in the passage but does not address the author's critical view of modern Stoicism. While the passage acknowledges Stoicism's popularity, the author's concern lies in its misinterpretation and commercialization rather than its demographic appeal.

Overall, option (c) best aligns with the author's critical perspective on the modern adaptation of Stoicism, making it the correct answer.

Reference line: "...where stoicism in its original form taught emotional resilience, this has been re-marketed as 'ignoring things makes you cool'."

13. **Answer: B**

Explanation: The passage explicitly mentions Ryan Holiday's role in popularizing Stoicism through his books and podcasts, making option (b) the most suitable choice. Here's why option (b) is the correct answer:

Option (b) accurately reflects the information provided in the passage. The author credits Ryan Holiday for revitalizing Stoicism through his books and podcasts, citing his significant contribution to its resurgence in modern culture. This statement directly supports the idea that Stoicism has become trendy due to influential figures like Ryan Holiday.

Incorrect options:

Option (a) "The philosophy is mentioned in the writings of Marcus Aurelius" is true, but it does not directly address the passage's discussion of Stoicism's modern popularity. While Marcus Aurelius is associated with Stoicism, his writings alone do not explain its contemporary resurgence.

Option (c) "The core philosophy of Stoicism is very simple and universally appealing" is mentioned in the passage but does not explain why Stoicism has become trendy. While the simplicity and appeal of Stoicism may contribute to its popularity, this option does not address the specific role of Ryan Holiday's books and podcasts in popularizing it.

Option (d) "Stoicism emphasizes the importance of emotional resilience" is true but does not explain Stoicism's modern popularity or its association with figures like Ryan Holiday. While emotional resilience may be a component of Stoicism's appeal, it does not directly contribute to its resurgence in modern culture.

Overall, option (b) provides the most direct and relevant explanation for Stoicism's popularity in the passage, making it the correct answer.

Reference line: "The philosophy truly got its modern mojo back in the books of American marketer and author Ryan Holiday. Three million book sales and a top podcast later..."

14. **Answer: A**

Explanation: The passage presents a critical perspective on the modern interpretation of Stoicism, arguing that it has been oversimplified and commodified, leading to a misunderstanding of its core principles. Here's why option (a) is the most appropriate choice:

Option (a) accurately captures the author's main argument. The passage suggests that the modern adaptation of Stoicism has been reduced to a simplistic and superficial lifestyle trend, with its followers failing to grasp its profound philosophical underpinnings. The author implies that Stoicism is a complex philosophy that requires nuanced understanding and cannot be fully appreciated through its current popularized form.

Incorrect options:

Option (b) "Its core principles are still relevant and can be helpful for self-improvement" is partially true, as the passage acknowledges the enduring relevance of Stoicism's core tenets. However, this option does not address the author's main criticism of the modern interpretation of Stoicism as shallow and misunderstood.

Option (c) "It originated in ancient Greece and is not applicable to modern problems" is contradicted by the passage, which discusses Stoicism's resurgence in contemporary culture. While Stoicism originated in ancient Greece, the passage highlights its relevance and popularity in modern contexts, indicating that it is indeed applicable to contemporary issues.

Option (d) "It has become more popular among pop stars than academics" is mentioned in the passage but does not directly address the author's critical view of modern Stoicism. While the passage acknowledges Stoicism's popularity across different demographics, its emphasis is on the superficial adoption and commercialization of Stoicism rather than its specific audience.

Overall, option (a) best encapsulates the author's argument about the misunderstood complexity of Stoicism in the modern world, making it the correct answer

Reference line: "The new adherents wear their stoicism like those who've just embarked on a new diet... This indiscriminate application of a nuanced and complex philosophy has ended up with its followers' outlook being practically indistinguishable from the millennial cohort who tried to seem edgy by proclaiming themselves nihilists."

15. **Answer: C**

Explanation: The overall tone of the passage can be characterized as playful and critical, as the author employs a blend of humor and skepticism to discuss the modern resurgence of Stoicism. Here's why option (c) is the most suitable choice:

Option (c) accurately reflects the tone of the passage. The author uses playful language and humorous examples to critique the superficial adoption of Stoicism as a trendy lifestyle choice. While acknowledging

Stoicism's enduring appeal, the author maintains a critical stance toward its modern interpretation, highlighting its commercialization and misinterpretation by followers.

Incorrect options:

Option (a) "Solemn and respectful towards the philosophy of Stoicism" does not accurately reflect the tone of the passage. While the author acknowledges the philosophical depth of Stoicism, the overall tone is not solemn or reverential. Instead, it adopts a more skeptical and critical stance toward its modern adaptation.

Option (b) "Enthusiastic and supportive of the revival of Stoic principles" is contradicted by the passage, which critiques the superficial adoption and commercialization of Stoicism. While the author acknowledges the resurgence of Stoicism, the tone is not entirely enthusiastic or supportive, as it raises concerns about its modern interpretation.

Option (d) "Objective and informative in presenting the history of Stoicism" does not capture the tone of the passage accurately. While the passage provides information about the history of Stoicism, the author's tone is not purely objective. Instead, it includes subjective commentary and criticism of its modern adaptation.

Overall, option (c) best represents the playful and critical tone of the passage, as it effectively captures the author's blend of humor and skepticism in discussing the resurgence of Stoicism in contemporary culture.

Reference line: "The truth is though, as easy as it is to be a detractor, the lives of many of those who adopt Stoicism Lite™ do improve... Stoicism is, after all, one of the philosophies that emphasizes the passing on of acquired wisdom to an unworldly youth, and where the wisdom's value lies in its effect rather than just its source."

16. **Answer:** B

Explanation: In the passage, the term "porous" is used to describe the nature of soil surfaces. It states, "Every type of human development activity...is affected by the porous nature of soils." This indicates that soil has small holes or gaps that enable the passage of air, water, contaminants, and heat. Therefore, option (b) is the most suitable choice as it accurately reflects the concept conveyed in the passage.

Incorrect options:

Option (a) ("Solid and impermeable") is incorrect because it describes the opposite of what is stated in the passage. Soil is depicted as porous, not solid and impermeable.

Option (c) ("Smooth and even") is also incorrect because it does not align with the characteristics of soil described in the passage. Soil is depicted as having tiny holes, which implies an uneven surface.

Option (d) ("Covered in vegetation") is irrelevant to the context of the sentence, as it does not describe the nature of soil but rather its surface covering. Therefore, it is not the correct interpretation of the term "porous" in this context.

Reference line: "Every type of human development activity including commodity extraction, building roads and urban facilities, agricultural practices and even the containment of mining and municipal waste is affected by the porous nature of soils."

17. **Answer:** B

Explanation: The central theme of the passage revolves around the significance of scientific knowledge in achieving sustainable development goals. It emphasizes the need for multidisciplinary, inclusive, and scientifically robust approaches to address challenges related to sustainability. The passage states, "Science is identified as the vehicle for that change," highlighting the pivotal role of scientific understanding in driving meaningful recovery and progress towards sustainability. Therefore, option (b) best encapsulates the main idea conveyed in the passage.

Incorrect options:

Option (a) ("The negative impact of climate change on land") is not the central theme of the passage, although it is mentioned as one of the factors contributing to setbacks in achieving sustainable development goals. The primary focus of the passage is on the role of science in addressing these challenges, rather than solely on the negative impacts of climate change.

Option (c) ("The need for global cooperation to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals") is mentioned briefly in the passage, but it is not the central theme. While global cooperation is important, the passage primarily emphasizes the role of science in driving sustainable development.

Option (d) ("The challenges of managing and protecting soil for future generations") is a specific aspect discussed in the passage but does not encompass the broader theme of the importance of scientific understanding for sustainable development.

Reference line: The passage discusses the setbacks in achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals due to various factors, highlighting the importance of scientific understanding for sustainable development. While there isn't a specific reference line that directly corresponds to the options provided in Question 2, the overall theme of the passage supports the selection of option (b).

18. **Answer: A**

Explanation: The passage suggests that the UN report on Sustainable Development Goals criticizes the approach of focusing solely on individual goals without considering their broader impact. It states, "aspects of sustainability...should be considered as a whole to bring about meaningful recovery." This indicates a critique of the fragmented approach to sustainability and the need for a more integrated and holistic perspective. Therefore, option (a) aligns most closely with the inference drawn from the passage.

Incorrect options:

Option (b) ("The lack of funding allocated for scientific research on sustainability") is not explicitly mentioned in the passage as a critique of the UN report. While the passage emphasizes the importance of science, it does not specifically address funding issues.

Option (c) ("The scientific community's failure to produce relevant solutions") is not supported by the passage. The focus is on the importance of multidisciplinary and inclusive scientific approaches rather than on any perceived failure of the scientific community.

Option (d) ("The public's distrust in scientific findings on environmental issues") is not mentioned as a critique in the passage. The emphasis is on the need for robust and trusted scientific knowledge rather than on public perception of science.

Reference line: The passage mentions the UN report's conclusion that aspects of sustainability should be considered together and emphasizes the importance of science as a vehicle for change.

19. **Answer: C**

Explanation: In the passage, the sentence "The grounds surface — excluding many manufactured surfaces like concrete — is like a membrane that allows the migration and retention of air, water, contaminants and heat" describes soil as a vital layer facilitating the exchange of essential elements. It emphasizes the role of soil in allowing the migration and retention of air, water, contaminants, and heat, which are crucial for sustaining life and supporting various processes. Therefore, option (c) best captures the significance of soil as depicted in the passage.

Incorrect options:

Option (a) ("A barrier that blocks the movement of air, water, and heat") is incorrect because it contradicts the description of soil provided in the passage. Soil is depicted as a membrane that allows for the movement and retention of air, water, contaminants, and heat, rather than as a barrier that blocks their movement.

Option (b) ("A protective layer that filters pollutants from the environment") is not explicitly mentioned in the passage. While soil may play a role in filtering pollutants to some extent, the passage primarily emphasizes its function in facilitating the exchange of essential elements.

Option (d) ("A source of contamination for air and water resources") is incorrect because it misinterprets the role of soil described in the passage. Soil is depicted as facilitating the migration and retention of essential elements, rather than as a source of contamination.

Reference line: "The grounds surface — excluding many manufactured surfaces like concrete — is like a membrane that allows the migration and retention of air, water, contaminants and heat."

20. **Answer: B**

Explanation: The author's tone in the passage is objective and informative, as they present the importance of soil management and scientific understanding for sustainable development. The passage provides factual information about the role of soil in various processes, the challenges associated with

managing soil, and the significance of scientific knowledge in addressing these challenges. There is no indication of anger, frustration, hopefulness, or sarcasm in the tone of the passage. Instead, the author adopts a neutral and educational stance, focusing on presenting relevant information about soil management and sustainability.

Incorrect options:

Option (a) ("Angry and frustrated by the lack of progress on sustainability") is incorrect because there is no overt expression of anger or frustration in the passage. While the passage acknowledges setbacks in achieving sustainable development goals, it does not convey a tone of anger or frustration towards this situation.

Option (c) ("Hopeful and optimistic about the potential of scientific solutions") is incorrect because the passage does not express overt hopefulness or optimism. While it emphasizes the importance of science in addressing sustainability challenges, it does so in an objective and informative manner rather than expressing explicit optimism.

Option (d) ("Sarcastic and critical of the UN's approach to development goals") is incorrect because there is no evidence of sarcasm or overt criticism directed towards the UN's approach in the passage. While the passage acknowledges the setbacks and challenges in achieving sustainable development goals, it does so in a factual and neutral manner, without expressing sarcasm or criticism towards any specific entity.

Overall, the tone of the passage is characterized by objectivity, informativeness, and a focus on presenting relevant information about soil management and sustainability.

Reference line: The entire passage discusses the importance of soil management and scientific understanding for sustainable development

21. **Answer: B**

Explanation: The simile "Filth had laid siege to the Ayemenem House like a medieval army advancing on an enemy castle" serves to vividly illustrate the extent and severity of the dirt and filth within the Ayemenem House. By likening the filth to a medieval army besieging an enemy castle, the author effectively conveys the relentless and pervasive nature of the dirt, as well as the overwhelming sense of invasion it brings. The comparison evokes imagery of a determined and unstoppable force spreading throughout the house, infiltrating every crevice and corner, much like an advancing army laying siege to a fortress. This simile not only emphasizes the magnitude of the problem but also sets the tone for the subsequent description of the deplorable conditions within the house.

Incorrect options:

Option (a) To emphasize the beauty and grandeur of the Ayemenem House is incorrect because the simile is used to describe the filth, not the beauty or grandeur of the house itself. The comparison serves to highlight the severity of the dirt, rather than any positive attributes of the house.

Option (c) To create a sense of mystery surrounding the source of the filth is incorrect because the simile is used to describe the extent of the filth, not its source. The comparison emphasizes the overwhelming nature of the dirt, rather than leaving its origin shrouded in mystery.

Option (d) To compare the Ayemenem House to a historical landmark is incorrect because the simile compares the filth to a medieval army, not the house itself. The comparison serves to emphasize the pervasive and invasive nature of the dirt, rather than making a direct comparison to a historical landmark.

Reference line: "Filth had laid siege to the Ayemenem House like a medieval army advancing on an enemy castle."

22. **Answer: A**

Explanation: The word "scrabbled" in the sentence "mistress and servant both scrabbled unseeingly in the same bowl of nuts" implies a hurried and frantic search for nuts in the bowl. It suggests a sense of urgency and haste, as if both Baby Kochamma and Kochu Maria were searching for nuts without paying much attention or care. Therefore, the antonym for "scrabbled" would be a word that conveys a more careful and diligent search, which is "searched diligently."

Incorrect options:

Option (b) Shared generously is incorrect because "scrabbled" does not imply sharing but rather a hurried search or scramble for nuts.

Option (c) Reached casually is incorrect because "scrabbled" implies a more frantic and hurried action than reaching casually. It suggests a sense of urgency and desperation, rather than a casual or leisurely search.

Option (d) Consumed enthusiastically is incorrect because "scrabbled" refers to the action of searching or scrambling for nuts, not consuming them. It describes the manner in which Baby Kochamma and Kochu Maria searched for nuts in the bowl, rather than how they consumed them.

Reference line: "mistress and servant both scrabbled unseeingly in the same bowl of nuts."

23. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Throughout the passage, it is evident that Baby Kochamma is completely oblivious to the extent of the filth and squalor present in the Ayemenem House. Despite the detailed description of the filthy conditions within the house, Baby Kochamma is portrayed as someone who has become desensitized and indifferent to the dirt and grime surrounding her. This is evident from her reclining on the chaise longue with crushed peanut shells stuffed into its crevices, as well as her participation in the television show without any concern for the filthy surroundings. Therefore, it can be inferred that Baby Kochamma is oblivious to the extent of the filth in the house.

Incorrect options:

Option (a) Takes pride in the cleanliness of her home is incorrect because the passage suggests the opposite – that Baby Kochamma has stopped noticing the filth and has become indifferent to it. There is no indication that she takes pride in the cleanliness of her home.

Option (c) Actively resists Kochu Maria's attempts to clean is incorrect because there is no indication in the passage that Baby Kochamma actively resists cleaning efforts or interferes with Kochu Maria's attempts to clean. She appears to be apathetic rather than resistant.

Option (d) Secretly enjoys the company of the cockroaches is incorrect because there is no evidence in the passage to suggest that Baby Kochamma enjoys the presence of cockroaches or any other pests in the house. She appears to be indifferent to the filthy conditions rather than actively enjoying them.

Reference line: "Baby Kochamma had stopped noticing these things long ago."

24. **Answer: B**

Explanation: The sentence "Being interrupted by Phil Donahue was of course entirely different from being interrupted by a subway rumble" implies that the busker perceived being interrupted by Phil Donahue in a positive light compared to the interruptions caused by subway rumble. The use of the phrase "of course entirely different" suggests a stark contrast between the two types of interruptions. While the subway rumble is disruptive and unavoidable, being interrupted by Phil Donahue is portrayed as a pleasant and honorable experience. The passage describes it as "a pleasure" and "an honor," indicating that the busker viewed it positively. Therefore, the correct answer is that the busker viewed being stopped by Donahue as a positive experience.

Incorrect options:

Option (a) Both interruptions were equally frustrating for the busker is incorrect because the passage clearly indicates that being interrupted by Phil Donahue was a positive experience for the busker, unlike the disruptions caused by the subway rumble.

Option (c) The audience's applause made the subway interruptions bearable is incorrect because the passage does not mention the audience's applause affecting the busker's perception of the interruptions. The focus is on the difference between interruptions caused by subway rumble and being stopped by Phil Donahue.

Option (d) The busker's dream was to be featured on a show despite interruptions is incorrect because while the busker may have dreamed of being featured on a show, the passage does not provide evidence to support the idea that he desired interruptions. Instead, it portrays being stopped by Phil Donahue as a positive experience for the busker.

Reference line: "Being interrupted by Phil Donahue was of course entirely different from being interrupted by a subway rumble."

Current Affairs and General Knowledge

25. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Option D is the correct answer.

Article 270 of the Constitution outlines the distribution of net tax proceeds between the Union government and the States.

The Finance Commission (FC), constituted every five years, provides recommendations for the vertical distribution of funds from the central government's divisible pool of taxes (excluding cess and surcharge).

Additionally, it offers a formula for the horizontal allocation of these funds among individual states.

Apart from the share of taxes, States are also provided grants-in-aid as per the recommendation of the FC.

26. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer.

The 16th Finance Commission, chaired by Dr Arvind Panagariya, has been tasked with making recommendations for the period 2026-31.

27. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option B is the correct answer.

Currently, the share of States from the divisible pool (vertical devolution) stands at 41% as per the recommendation of the 15th FC.

28. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Option A is the correct answer.

Population: Represents the population count based on the 2011 Census. Previously, until the 14th Finance Commission, population from the 1971 Census was considered, but this practice was discontinued in the 15th Finance Commission.

29. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option B is the correct answer.

Key Recommendations of 15th Finance Commission:

- **Share of States in Central Taxes:** The Commission proposed maintaining the states' share in central taxes at 41% for the 2021-26 period, a slight reduction from the 42% allocated during 2015-20 by the 14th Finance Commission.
- **This 1% adjustment aims to accommodate the newly formed union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh from the central resources.**
- **Fiscal Deficit and Debt Levels:** The Commission recommended that the Centre aims to limit its fiscal deficit to 4% of GDP by 2025-26.
- **For states, it advised specific fiscal deficit limits as a percentage of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for different years within the 2021-26 period.**
- **States not fully utilizing the sanctioned borrowing limits in the initial four years (2021-25) can access the remaining amount in subsequent years.**
- **Other Recommendations:**
- **Defense and Internal Security Funding:** The report suggests establishing a Modernisation Fund for Defence and Internal Security (MFDIS), non-lapsable and funded primarily through the Consolidated Fund of India and other sources.
- **Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS):** Recommendations include setting a threshold for annual CSS allocations, third-party evaluations, transparent funding patterns, and stable financial allocations to phase out redundant schemes.

30. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Option D is the correct answer.

Chaturanga: Conflict, Contest, Cooperate, Create.

The participants engaged with each other over six “thematic pillars”. These include:

Tech Frontiers: Regulations & Realities
Peace with the Planet: Invest & Innovate
War & Peace: Armouries & Asymmetries
Decolonising Multilateralism: Institutions & Inclusion
SThe Post 2030 Agenda: People & Progress
Defending Democracy: Society & Sovereignty.

31. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Option D is the correct answer.

The greater part of the conversations focused on global conflicts. The heavy presence of European dignitaries turned the spotlight on the Russian war in Ukraine.

Panels on military and naval strategy concentrated on the need to handle an aggressive China, including discussions on “grey warfare.”

European Ministers urged India to reconsider trade and ties with Russia and to press the case for Ukraine’s sovereignty ahead of the second anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine that falls on 24th February.

In particular, they urged India to join a “Peace Conference” in Switzerland, set to be held shortly, at the request of Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky.

32. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Option A is the correct answer.

Greece’s Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis joined the inauguration session as the chief guest.

33. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Option D is the correct answer.

Delhi-based think tank Observer Research Foundation (ORF), in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, hosts the conference. “The Dialogue is structured as a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral discussion, involving heads of state, cabinet ministers and local government officials, who are joined by thought leaders from the private sector, media and academia,” according to the website of Raisina Dialogue.

34. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Option B is the correct answer.

At the sidelines of the G20 Summit held in New Delhi in September 2023, an MoU was signed to develop a rail and shipping corridor connecting India to Europe via the Middle East between India, United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, France, Germany, Italy, and the European Union.

The proposed IMEC will involve: Rail connectivity, Shipping lines, High-speed data cables, and Energy pipelines.

These will complement the existing maritime and road networks that will enhance movement of trade and services “to transit to, from, and between India, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, and Europe.”

35. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer.

100% FDI Allowed: Under the amended policy, 100% FDI is permitted in the space sector, aiming to attract potential investors to Indian space companies.

Liberalised Entry Routes: The entry routes for various space activities are as follows:

Up to 74% under Automatic Route: Satellites-Manufacturing & Operation, Satellite Data Products, Ground Segment & User Segment.

Beyond 74%, the government route applies.

Up to 49% under Automatic Route: Launch Vehicles, associated systems or subsystems, Creation of Spaceports.

Beyond 49%, the government route applies.

Up to 100% under Automatic Route: Manufacturing of components and systems/sub-systems for satellites, ground segment, and user segment.

36. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Option B is the correct answer.

TeLEOS-2 (2023): Singaporean Earth observation satellite. It is an Earth Observation Satellite (EOS) and will be the primary satellite being carried by the rocket.

In 2015, ISRO launched TeLEOS-1, which was launched into a low Earth orbit for remote sensing applications. ISRO has so far launched nine satellites belonging to Singapore.

TeLEOS-2 carries a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) payload capable of imaging at 1m full-polarimetric resolution. It will be able to provide all-weather day and night coverage.

SAR is a type of active radar imaging technology that uses the motion of the radar antenna to create a high-resolution 3D image of the target area.

37. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Option D is the correct answer.

In India, FDI is defined as an investment made by a person who is not a resident of India. This can be in the form of:

An investment in an unlisted Indian company

An investment in 10% or more of the post-issue paid-up equity capital of a listed Indian company.

Total FDI inflows in India in FY 22-23 is USD 70.97 billion.

According to the Reserve Bank of India, The United States was the largest source of FDI in India in 2022-23.

It was followed by Mauritius, the United Kingdom and Singapore.

Also, during 2022-23, market value of FDI in India increased by 6.9% in rupee terms, primarily due to the rise in FDI in unlisted companies.

38. **Answer: D**

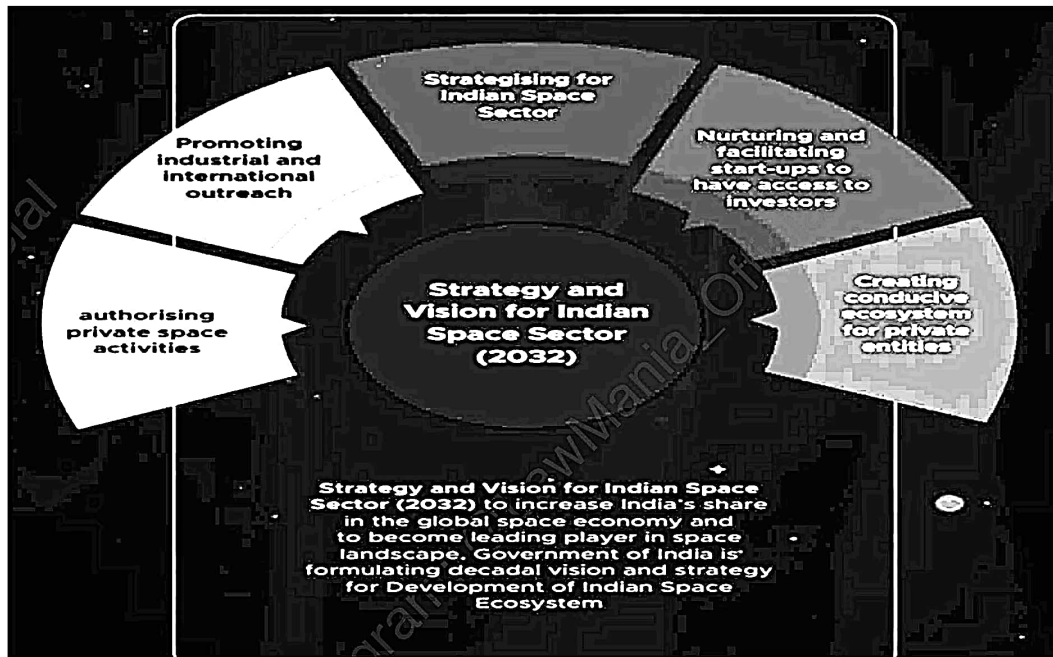
Explanation: Option D is the correct answer.

The First Satellite Communication Policy: It was introduced in 1997, with guidelines for foreign direct investment (FDI) in the satellite industry that were further liberalised but never generated much enthusiasm.

Remote Sensing Data Policy: It was introduced in 2001, which was amended in 2011; in 2016, it was replaced by a National Geospatial Policy that has been further liberalised in 2022.

Draft Space Activities Bill: It was brought out in 2017, which went through a long consultative process and lapsed in 2019 with the outgoing Lok Sabha.

The government was expected to introduce a new Bill by 2021, but it appears to have contented itself with the new policy statement released by ISRO.



39. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Option B is the correct answer.

Industry Collaboration and Commercialisation: Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) mandated to promote, handhold, guide, and authorise space activities autonomously.

NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) is tasked with commercialising space technologies and platforms, manufacturing, leasing, or procuring space components, and servicing space-based needs on commercial principles.

40. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Option A is the correct answer.

This unveiling coincides with the 5th anniversary of the Balakot airstrike, also known as 'Operation Bandar,' a landmark operation by the Indian Air Force that showcased India's strategic assertiveness in countering external threats. The occasion coincided with the fifth anniversary of the Balakot airstrike 'Operation Bandar', a historic testament to India's strategic assertiveness in countering external threats.

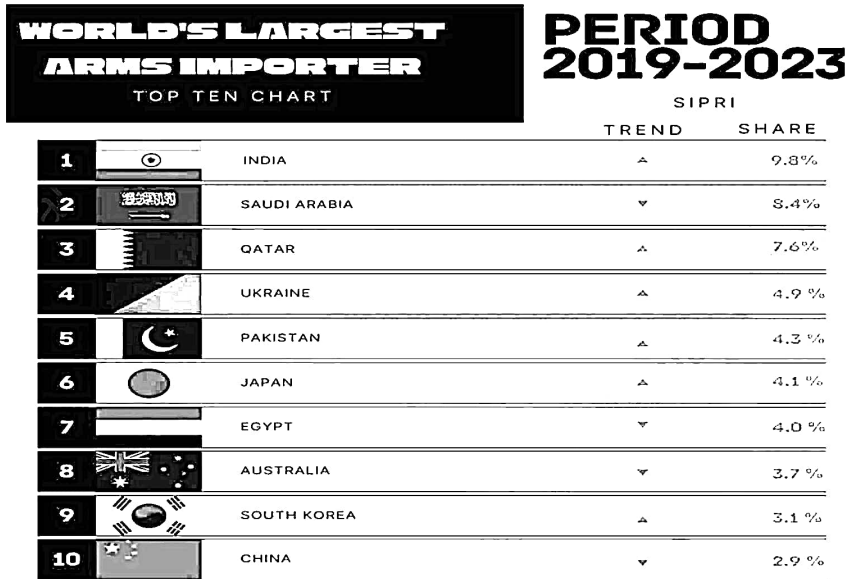
41. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer.

Spanning across 500 acres, the facility located in Kanpur is slated to emerge as one of the largest integrated ammunition manufacturing complexes in South Asia. It is geared to produce top-tier small, medium, and large calibre ammunition catering to the needs of the armed forces, paramilitary forces, and police. Operations have already commenced with the production of small calibre ammunition, with an initial output of 150 million rounds, estimated to cover 25 per cent of India's annual requirement.

42. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer.



43. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer.

Adani Defence & Aerospace, the nation's leading private sector defence manufacturer, has unveiled two ground-breaking facilities dedicated to the production of ammunition and missiles. The inauguration of these cutting-edge complexes marks a historic milestone, being the first of their kind in India's private sector. The move is poised to substantially enhance the nation's self-reliance and technological prowess in defence. According to the release, Adani Defence & Aerospace, the flagship defence entity of Adani Group, is not only committed to bolstering India's defence capabilities but also focuses on developing unique capabilities across various domains such as unmanned systems, counter-drone technologies, and cyber defence.

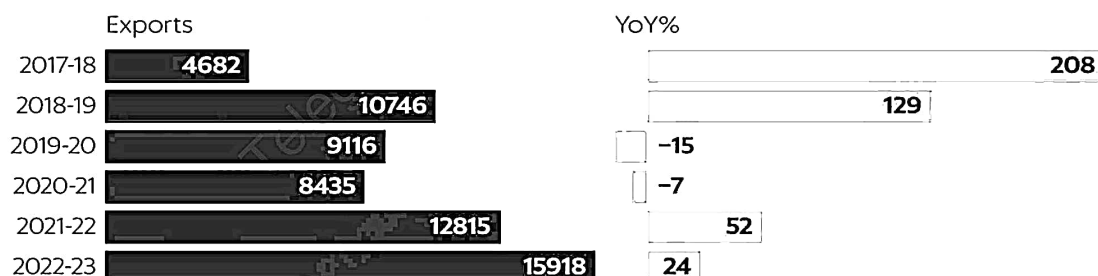
44. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Option B is the correct answer.

Defence Exports reached a historic high of Rs 21,083 Crore (approx USD 2.63 billion) in FY 2023-24, marking a 32.5% increase from Previous Fiscal Year, with recent data showing a 31-fold Growth over the Past Decade compared to FY 2013-14.

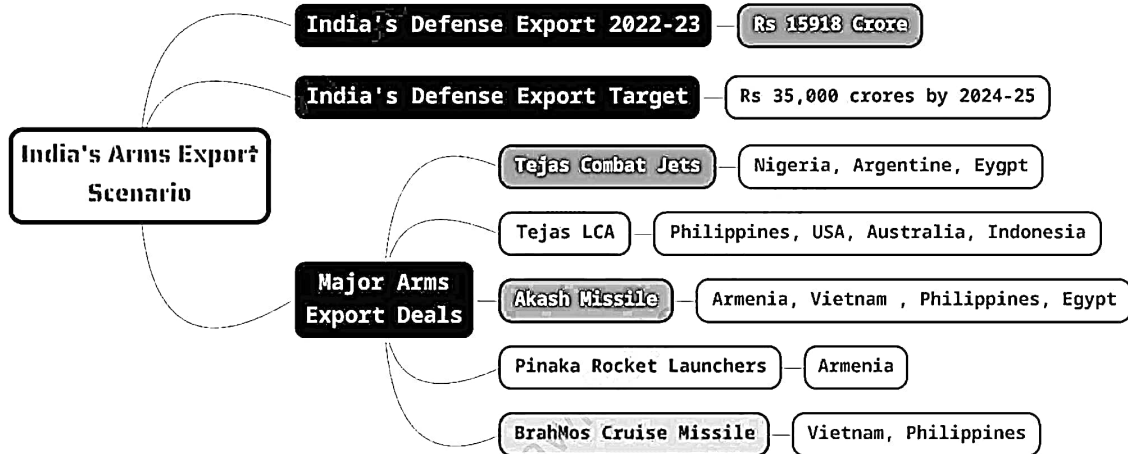
India's defence exports rose 24% in FY23, and tenfold in six years

India's defence exports (in Rs crore) and year-on-year change (%)



Includes only export by defence public sector undertakings.

Source: Ministry of Defence



45. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Option D is the correct answer.

This has prompted calls for more stringent regulations including enhancing the African regulatory framework ahead of the 6th session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 6) meeting in Nairobi next week.

46. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Option D is the correct answer.

UNEA-6 will be held in Nairobi from 26th February to 1st March 2024 under the theme of “effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle the triple planetary crisis: climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.”

47. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer.

United Nations Environment Assembly-

It is the governing body of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). It is the world’s highest-level decision-making body on the environment.

The Assembly is made up of the 193 UN Member States and convenes every two years to advance global environmental governance.

It was created in June 2012, during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, also referred to as RIO+20.

48. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer.

Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment): Introduced by India at UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow, Mission LiFE aims to instigate individual and community-level actions to protect and preserve the environment.

49. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option B is the correct answer.

Hungary's parliament voted to approve Sweden's bid to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), making it the 32nd nation to join the alliance.

NATO, a vital transatlantic military and political alliance, ensures collective security for its member countries. Established in 1949 by 12 founding nations, with a majority from Europe and North America, it remains a cornerstone of international stability.

NATO is headquartered at Boulevard Leopold III in Brussels, Belgium.

50. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer.

“NATO plus” refers to a security arrangement of NATO and the five treaty allies of the U.S. — Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Israel, and South Korea as members — to enhance “global defence cooperation” and win the “strategic competition with the Chinese Communist Party”.

NATO Plus is not an officially recognised or established concept within NATO.

51. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer.

NATO, a vital transatlantic military and political alliance, ensures collective security for its member countries. Established in 1949 by 12 founding nations, with a majority from Europe and North America, it remains a cornerstone of international stability. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April, 1949, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.

52. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer.

Hungary’s parliament overwhelmingly approved Sweden’s bid to join NATO on Monday, clearing the way for the Nordic nation’s accession to the alliance after nearly two years of intense negotiations and dealing a geopolitical blow to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Getting approval from the Hungarian parliament was the final hurdle for Stockholm joining NATO. Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson visited Budapest on Friday to discuss defense and security cooperation with his Hungarian counterpart, Viktor Orban. The two sides appeared to reconcile, agreeing on a deal that would see Hungary acquire four new Swedish-made Gripen fighter jets.

Of the 194 members of parliament who voted, just six rejected Sweden’s accession.

Legal Reasoning

53. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Option B is the correct answer as it acknowledges that there is no arbitration clause and suggests that the court, as the legal forum, should handle and resolve the dispute. Option A is incorrect as it assumes the presence of an arbitration clause in the contract. Since there is no indication of an arbitration clause in the given scenario, this is not the most suitable option. Option C is incorrect. Although like arbitration, conciliation is an alternative dispute resolution method. However, the specific circumstances of the case may not necessarily warrant the establishment of a conciliation tribunal. Option D is incorrect as it goes beyond the ambit of passage and hinders the rights of the parties to seek justice through the judiciary.

54. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Option C is correct because it is clearly written in the passage that “The parties have been given maximum freedom not only to choose their arbitrators but also to determine the odd number of arbitrators constituting the arbitral tribunal.” The arbitrators must be odd and not even, here the numbers of arbitrators are even (both by each party). Option A is incorrect because parties do have the power to appoint the arbitrators. Option B is incorrect in the same reasoning as Option A because parties also have the power to appoint arbitrators. Option D is incorrect as Option as the appointment of arbitrators is illegal because they are even in number.

55. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer as it is given in the passage, “there is no right to challenge an award if the composition of the arbitration tribunal or arbitration procedure is in accordance with the agreement of the parties even though such composition or procedure is contrary to Part I of the 1996 Act.” Although the appointment of arbitrators is illegal because they are even in number that does not make the award illegal as given in the passage. Option A is incorrect as on the same reasoning as Option C. Option B is incorrect because The High Court does have the authority to set aside an arbitral award under certain grounds as per the Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1996. Option D is incorrect because the High Court, with territorial jurisdiction, has the authority to set aside arbitral awards based on the grounds specified in the Act. The Supreme Court comes into play in certain situations, but it is not the only authority to set aside awards.

56. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Depending on the contractual terms, legal principles, and the relationship between the companies, Pumaco may seek payment from Phillipe Ltd in term of the recent judgment, where non-signatories, by virtue of their relationship with the signatory parties and their commercial involvement in the subject matter, are not total strangers to the arbitration agreement can be bound by the award of the tribunal. So, option C is correct. Option A is incorrect as there might be other avenues for recovery from different parties such as Phillipe Ltd. Option B is incorrect. While Jagua's bankruptcy complicates matters, it does not necessarily mean Pumaco will not get payment. Option D is incorrect as the same reasoning as Option C, where non-signatories can also be bound by the award.

57. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Option A is correct in terms of the recent judgment, where non-signatories, by virtue of their relationship with the signatory parties and their commercial involvement in the subject matter, are not total strangers to the arbitration agreement and can be bound by the award of the tribunal. Option B is incorrect in the same reasoning as Option A. Option C is incorrect as filing the case separately is not the only course of action left, arbitration is also a method of resolving disputes. Option D is incorrect because the said option is beyond the data given in the passage, which includes the concept of mediation which is not provided in the passage.

58. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Option D is the correct option. The incident is trivial, and Section 498A is not applicable in such cases. The comment made by Radu about the watery Dal is a trivial and subjective matter related to food, and it does not fall under the scope of cruelty as envisaged by Section 498A. Option A is incorrect because Section 498A is not concerned with trivial matters related to the taste or consistency of food. Option B is incorrect because Section 498A can apply to both the husband and his relatives if they subject the married woman to cruelty. Option C is incorrect as the incident described does not constitute cruelty under Section 498A.

59. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Option C is the correct option. Making derogatory comments against Sheila, despite being warned not to do so, may be considered a form of cruelty under Section 498A. Making derogatory comments about a woman, especially if it is persistent and affects her mental well-being, falls within the ambit of cruelty as per Section 498A. Option A is incorrect as liability under Section 498A is not dependent on the support of the husband. Each accused is considered individually based on their actions. Option B is incorrect. Section 498A can apply to both the husband and his relatives if they subject the married woman to cruelty. Option D is incorrect if the acts were persistent and affecting Sheila's well-being, being considered as cruelty under Section 498A.

60. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option B is correct because adultery, by itself, is no longer a criminal offense. However, it can be classified as distress under Section 498A as Siya here is affected by the action of her husband and option B is the best of four given. Option A is incorrect as under Section 498A, mental or emotional cruelty can be an independent ground for action, irrespective of the existing relationship dynamics which is very objective and differs from party to party. Option C is incorrect as Section 498A pertains to cruelty by the husband or his relatives towards the wife. Siya filing a case under this section would not constitute a violation of the section itself. Option D is incorrect. Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) encompasses mental or emotional cruelty as well, not just physical torture.

61. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Option D is correct as it is written in the passage that the husband was required to take his wife to his home and maintain her with dignity and honour is declared illegal. Thus, in the present case, the condition of Kareena's parent for the bail is illegal. Option A is incorrect on the same reasoning as Option D. Option B is incorrect. The prevalence of a particular behaviour does not make it legal. Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code addresses cruelty by husbands or their relatives towards wives, and such actions are punishable under the law, regardless of local customs. Option C is incorrect as any form of cruelty, whether single-time or repeated, can be considered under Section 498A.

62. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Option C is the correct answer. Mrs. Verma will be held liable under Section 498A if her continuous interference and criticism have caused emotional distress to Pooja. Option A is incorrect as the liability under Section 498A is not solely determined by the nature of concerns but rather by whether the actions cause cruelty, which may include mental or emotional distress. Option B is incorrect as liability under Section 498A is not dependent on the support of the husband. Each accused is considered individually based on their actions. Option D is incorrect. Section 498A can apply to both the husband and his relatives if they subject the married woman to cruelty.

63. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Option D is correct because of the private setting in which the tests were conducted. As long as the medical examinations were performed in a confidential and professional manner, respecting Farah's privacy, it aligns with the principles of medical ethics and does not violate her right to privacy under Article 21. Option A is incorrect as it suggests that the mere act of inspecting private areas constitutes a

violation of privacy. However, in a medical context, especially during pregnancy, such examinations are required. Option B is incorrect. There can be reasonable restrictions in certain contexts, such as healthcare, where interventions are necessary for the well-being of the individual. Option C is incorrect as it brings gender into the equation. It's crucial to focus on the professional qualifications and ethical conduct of the healthcare provider rather than their gender.

64. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Option C is correct as it recognizes that the right to privacy is not absolute. In the interest of national security and public safety, certain reasonable restrictions can be imposed on individual rights, including frisking at airports. Option A is incorrect as it is immaterial on the educational or matrimonial qualifications for considering any fundamental rights, Option B is incorrect as the gender of the checking official is immaterial and not given in the passage. Option D is incorrect as Varsha's decision to leave India due to her marriage without parental permission is not directly related to airport security procedures and the right to privacy under the constitution.

65. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Option A is correct as it reflects the idea that individuals have a right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution. Even if Raghav consented to the dental treatment, the use of his pictures for advertising without explicit consent for that specific purpose could be considered a violation of his privacy. Option B is incorrect. While Raghav may have consented to the dental treatment, consent for the treatment itself may not extend to the use of his pictures for unrelated purposes, such as advertising. Option C is incorrect as the personal relationship between Raghav and Dr. Singh does not automatically justify the use of Raghav's pictures for advertising without his explicit consent for that purpose. Option D is incorrect as it talks about trust which is an emotional concept and not about the right to privacy.

66. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Option A is correct as it highlights the right to bodily autonomy and privacy that customers have, especially in sensitive areas like trial rooms. Installing CCTV cameras in such private spaces without the explicit consent of customers may be considered a violation of their rights. Option B is incorrect as installing CCTV cameras in response to the actions of a few could be seen as a disproportionate response affecting the privacy of all customers. Option C is incorrect as the commonality of practice does not necessarily make it legal or ethical, especially if it infringes on the privacy rights of individuals. Option D is incorrect. While security is a valid concern, the means employed to address it should be proportionate and respect the privacy rights of customers.

67. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Option D is correct as it directly addresses the privacy concerns, pointing out that Rahman's privacy may have been violated due to the unauthorized sharing of personal details without consent. Option A is incorrect as right to privacy is reasonable and not absolute, still unauthorized sharing of personal information without consent can be a violation of privacy. Option B is incorrect as it goes beyond the passage to give information on defamation. Option C is incorrect as in the passage neither the CEO's responsibility nor a jail term of 5 years is provided.

68. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Option D is correct because the question mainly focuses on the acceptability of the writ petition and the writ petition can only be accepted by the Supreme Court and High Court through Articles 32 and 226 respectively. Option A is incorrect as it dives into the objectivity of the case and maybe the decision of the case but not the reason for the acceptance of the writ petition. Option B is incorrect because the health condition is not mentioned in the passage. Option C is incorrect because close relatives or others with a legitimate interest can file on behalf of the detainee.

69. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option B is the correct choice. Tanya has the right to seek a remedy under Articles 32 and 226 of the Constitution, which provide for the right to move the Supreme Court and High Courts, respectively, for the enforcement of fundamental rights. Option A is incorrect as it is not a legally sound approach, as individuals have the right to seek legal remedies, and compliance with unlawful demands does not address the violation of fundamental rights. Option C is incorrect. Offering a bribe is not a legal or ethical solution to address the situation. It goes against the principles of justice and the rule of law. Option D is incorrect because Options B and C are incorrect.

70. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option B is correct because Siddharth was accused of a crime, and his detention for 15 hours may not be considered unreasonable or illegal. Writs of habeas corpus are generally accepted when there is an unlawful or prolonged detention, and the duration of Siddharth's custody in this scenario does not appear to be excessive. Option A is incorrect as the crime was committed by him. Option C is incorrect as the question does not provide information about Siddharth not following procedural rules. Even if he did not follow certain procedures, the primary consideration is whether his detention was unlawful or unreasonable, given the circumstances. Option D is incorrect. There is no information provided about Siddharth being tortured, so it cannot be a basis for the acceptance of the writ.

71. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Option B is the correct answer because the district court of Indore may not have jurisdiction to entertain a writ petition of habeas corpus. Writs of habeas corpus are filed in higher courts, such as the High Court or the Supreme Court, which have the authority to issue such writs. District courts usually do not have jurisdiction over habeas corpus petitions. Option A is incorrect as filing the writ petition in Hindi would not typically be a ground for rejection. The main issue is the jurisdiction of the court. Option C is incorrect as Option A is incorrect. Option D is incorrect as the term "only on the basis of accusations of Suhani" is there that is to mislead the objectives.

72. **Answer:** D

Explanation: The writ of Habeas Corpus is a legal remedy that allows individuals who are detained or imprisoned to challenge the legality of their detention. It requires the authorities to produce the person in court and provide valid reasons for their detention. The writ aims to protect the fundamental rights of individuals by ensuring that they are not unlawfully or arbitrarily detained, and it provides a mechanism to challenge any violation of their rights. While the primary focus is on challenging the legality of detention, in some cases, it may also be used to inquire into whether the person has been detained for an act forbidden by law. So, the correct answer is D.

73. **Answer:** B

Explanation: The correct choice is B. Option A is incorrect as it suggests automatic acquisition of citizenship by birthplace, which contradicts the passage's criteria. Option B is correct, as naturalization requires specific eligibility criteria which is fulfilled by Ramesh. Option C is inaccurate as jus soli is not applicable in Ramesh's case, as he was born in Srilanka.

74. **Answer:** B

Explanation: The correct choice is B. According to the passage, Maria, as a tourist, would need a Tourist visa to enter India, and she can stay for a maximum of 180 days without additional registration. Option A is incorrect, as a business visa is not suitable for a tourist visit. Option C is inaccurate, as entry without a visa is not applicable to tourists. Option D is also incorrect, as a Protected Area Permit is not required for regular tourism but for specific restricted zones.

75. **Answer:** A

Explanation: The correct choice is A. The passage mentions that foreigners staying in India for more than 180 days on a work visa, among others, must register with the Indian Missions/FRRO/FRO within 14 days of arrival. Option B is incorrect, as registration is necessary for foreigners staying beyond the specified duration. Option C is inaccurate, as a Protected Area Permit is not relevant to James' situation. Option D is also incorrect, as registration is essential for foreign nationals as per the passage's guidelines.

76. **Answer:** A

Explanation: The correct choice is A. As per the passage, for a short-term business visit like Lila's, she would need a business visa, and she can stay for a duration of up to 180 days without additional registration. Option B is incorrect, as a Tourist visa is not suitable for business purposes. Option C is inaccurate, as entry without a visa is not applicable for business visits. Option D is also incorrect, as a Protected Area Permit is not relevant to regular business visits.

77. **Answer:** D

Explanation: When an agent is not appointed directly but his appointment as agent and creation of agency can be inferred from the circumstances, it is implied agency. In this case, the agency is implied because Anthony had a part share in business and also, Amar did not say anything against the deal between Akbar and Anthony, this also implies that Amar was not against the idea of Anthony being his agent. Thus, this is an implied agency and option D is correct. Option A is incorrect because Anthony was Amar's agent through implication. Option B is incorrect because as Anthony is Amar's implied agent and the principal is liable for the contracts entered into by the agent. Option C is incorrect because it cannot be inferred from the given facts.

78. **Answer:** C

Explanation: The passage mentions that to create an agency, the agent must have attained the age of majority and must be of sound mind because the agent is answerable to the principal. In this case, the agency could not have been created because the son was a minor at the time of the contract. Thus, Suraj's son was not his agent and option C is correct. Option A is incorrect because Suraj's son did not have such capacity, being a minor. Option B is incorrect because the agency by way of implication cannot be inferred from the facts. Option D is incorrect because this is not the correct reasoning for the asked question.

79. **Answer:** B

Explanation: It is provided in the passage that in carrying out the work of the principal, the agent can take any legal action. That is, the agent can do any lawful thing necessary to carry out the work of the principal. Therefore, in carrying out Jiya Lal's work, i.e., the selling of wheat sacks, his agent Brijesh have the authority to take any lawful course to complete this work. Thus, Brijesh had the authority to sell those sacks at a lower price and no liability can be imposed on the buyer for purchasing the commodity at this price. Hence, option B is correct. Option C is incorrect because of the same reasoning, Brijesh had the authority to sell the sacks by any lawful means. Option A is incorrect because the buyer paid the agreed price and hence, he is not liable. Option D is incorrect because Brijesh did not breach the contract.

80. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Agency is created when some kind of authority is delegated to the agent and the agent performs the given function in an independent manner. In the present case, Vishal is an employee of the bank and this does not imply any kind of authority being delegated to him on the bank's behalf. Thus, option c is correct because Vishal did not have the authority in his capacity as an employee to enter into contracts on bank's behalf. Option A is incorrect because all employees are not agents. Option B is incorrect because he did not have such authority as explained above. Option D is incorrect because there is no such rule, the bank can appoint any of his employees as agents by delegating authority.

81. **Answer: D**

Explanation: Option A is incorrect because direct appointment is not the only way to create an agency. Agency can be created through implication or estoppel as well. Option B is incorrect because the agent has to be a person who has attained the age of 18 years and not a minor in any case. Option C is incorrect because the agent can take any 'lawful' action to carry out the work of the principal. The action of the agent and the work of the principal, both have to be lawful. As none of the given options are correct, option D is the answer.

82. **Answer: A**

Explanation: An agency by way of ratification is created when the act of a person acting on someone's behalf is later ratified. In this case also, the act of Birla was ratified by Tata and Ambani by making Birla a partner in the firm. This created an agency and hence, Tata and Ambani are liable for the contract entered into by Birla. Thus, option A is correct. Option B is incorrect because Birla became an agent by way of ratification. Option C is incorrect because the contract was ratified by the original partners. Option D is incorrect because Birla became their agent when he was made a partner in their firm.

83. **Answer: B**

Explanation: It is a requirement for a valid contract of agency that the agent should be a major and a person of sound mind. A person with an unsound mind cannot become an agent since he is answerable to the principal. Thus, it was not a valid agency in this case and option B is correct. Option A is incorrect because the contract was made on behalf of Sonu, but Monu did not have the capacity to act as an agent. Option C is incorrect because Monu was not a valid agent. Option D is incorrect because it is a vague reasoning.

84. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Option B is an incorrect statement because a principal delegates some kind of authority towards the agent. The delegation of authority actually creates the agency as the principal gives the authority to his agent to enter into a contract on his behalf. Option A is a correct statement because an agent, as opposed to a servant, carries out the work of the principal in an independent manner. Option C is a correct statement because expressed authority is one which is provided by words, written or spoken. The partners in a partnership firm have a principal-agent relationship with one another and the partnership deed is a written document giving them the authority to contract on the firm's behalf.

Logical Reasoning

85. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference Lines: "The arduous task of collecting minor forest produce, coupled with an unstable market and exploitation by middlemen, has made this traditional way of life less appealing."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) The premise that the transition reflects an interest in modern jobs rather than a distancing from cultural roots overlooks the core issue presented in the passage. It suggests a voluntary and positive orientation towards modernization, neglecting the narrative of external economic challenges and exploitation that drives the tribe away from traditional activities. The passage emphasizes the tribe's struggle and forced adaptation to new livelihoods due to adverse conditions, not a mere preference for modern jobs. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option accurately captures the essence of the tribe's transition from traditional to non-traditional livelihoods. It recognizes the external pressures—such as the instability of the market for forest produce and exploitation by middlemen—that compel the tribe to seek alternative sources of income. This shift is not a deliberate move away from cultural roots but a necessary response to ensure economic survival and escape exploitative practices. The passage suggests that the tribe's traditional way of life has become untenable, making this shift a matter of survival rather than choice. Hence, Option b) is the correct answer.

c) While the passage does mention urban influence, it stops short of attributing the tribe's shift in livelihood directly to government policies aimed at urban integration. This option oversimplifies the narrative by implying a direct causation that the passage does not explicitly support. Although government policies may influence tribal lifestyles, the passage focuses more on the immediate economic challenges and exploitation faced by the tribe rather than on policy-driven urban integration. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) Mention of Malayalam language in the passage might suggest adaptability or strategic moves by the tribe in seeking job opportunities where language familiarity could be advantageous. However, this aspect is not presented as the primary or a significant reason for the shift in livelihoods. The core of the transition lies in economic necessity and the challenges faced in traditional forest activities, not in the strategic use of linguistic skills for better job prospects. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

86. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference Lines: "This scenario underscores a critical need for targeted government intervention and support to address social issues affecting these communities, beyond mere legal and land rights."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Inference about the Phani Yerava tribe's shift to non-traditional livelihoods:

a) The premise that the transition reflects an interest in modern jobs rather than a distancing from cultural roots overlooks the core issue presented in the passage. It suggests a voluntary and positive orientation towards modernization, neglecting the narrative of external economic challenges and exploitation that drives the tribe away from traditional activities. The passage emphasizes the tribe's struggle and forced adaptation to new livelihoods due to adverse conditions, not a mere preference for modern jobs. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) This option accurately captures the essence of the tribe's transition from traditional to non-traditional livelihoods. It recognizes the external pressures—such as the instability of the market for forest produce and exploitation by middlemen—that compel the tribe to seek alternative sources of income. This shift is not a deliberate move away from cultural roots but a necessary response to ensure economic survival and escape exploitative practices. The passage suggests that the tribe's traditional way of life has become untenable, making this shift a matter of survival rather than choice. Hence, Option b) is the correct answer.

c) While the passage does mention urban influence, it stops short of attributing the tribe's shift in livelihood directly to government policies aimed at urban integration. This option oversimplifies the narrative by implying a direct causation that the passage does not explicitly support. Although government policies may influence tribal lifestyles, the passage focuses more on the immediate economic challenges and exploitation faced by the tribe rather than on policy-driven urban integration. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) Mention of linguistic abilities in the passage might suggest adaptability or strategic moves by the tribe in seeking job opportunities where language familiarity could be advantageous. However, this aspect is not presented as the primary or a significant reason for the shift in livelihoods. The core of the transition lies in economic necessity and the challenges faced in traditional forest activities, not in the strategic use of linguistic skills for better job prospects. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

87. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "Efforts are underway to address this addiction, with social welfare officials expressing concern and initiating de-addiction programs."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) The indication that tribes with land rights have higher incomes might suggest economic benefits from legal entitlements, but it does not directly address the broader socio-economic issues such as addiction, which the passage identifies as critical. While legal entitlements can contribute to economic stability, they do not necessarily resolve social welfare issues that require targeted interventions. This option, therefore, provides only a partial perspective on the tribe's challenges, failing to address the comprehensive needs highlighted in the passage. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) Demonstrating that social welfare programs can significantly lower alcohol addiction directly supports the passage's argument for targeted government interventions. By showing a tangible impact on a specific social issue identified as critical to the tribe's socio-economic well-being, this option reinforces the necessity of a multifaceted approach to government support. It highlights the effectiveness of addressing social challenges directly through targeted programs, thereby strengthening the passage's call for comprehensive interventions beyond legal rights. Hence, Option b) is the correct answer.

c) A survey finding that tribal members prefer traditional livelihoods over wage labor emphasizes cultural attachment to forest work but does not address the effectiveness of targeted socio-economic interventions. While cultural preferences are important, the passage focuses on the need for interventions that address immediate socio-economic and social welfare issues, including addiction. This option does not strengthen the argument for targeted interventions, as it does not link these preferences to the socio-economic improvements that such interventions aim to achieve. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) Improvements in education and healthcare are undoubtedly important for tribal communities, but the specific issue of alcohol addiction, which the passage identifies as a pressing concern, requires targeted social welfare interventions. This option suggests progress in vital areas but does not directly support the passage's argument that addressing addiction through targeted interventions is critical. While educational and healthcare improvements are part of a holistic approach to tribal welfare, they do not specifically strengthen the argument regarding the need for targeted interventions to address addiction. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

88. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "A pressing concern, however, is the widespread issue of alcohol addiction within the community."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) Implementing a community-based monitoring system to assess the effectiveness of de-addiction programs directly targets one of the major concerns highlighted in the passage: alcohol addiction within the

tribe. This approach acknowledges the importance of community involvement in addressing the issue and seeks to ensure that interventions are effective and responsive to the community's needs. By focusing on a critical area of concern and proposing a sustainable, community-engaged solution, this option offers a targeted approach to improving the tribe's socio-economic conditions. Hence, Option a) is the correct answer.

b) Encouraging the tribe to return to traditional forest-based livelihoods by improving market access addresses economic aspects but overlooks the immediate social issue of alcohol addiction. While economic empowerment through traditional livelihoods is important, the passage indicates that addiction is a pressing concern impacting the community's well-being. This option fails to directly address this concern, making it less appropriate in the context of the passage's emphasis on addressing socio-economic challenges holistically. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) Offering financial incentives for giving up alcohol and improving school attendance might provide temporary motivation but does not address the underlying causes of addiction or ensure long-term commitment to education. This approach risks oversimplifying complex social issues and does not offer a sustainable solution to the challenges highlighted in the passage. It fails to consider the need for comprehensive support and targeted interventions that address the root causes of addiction and educational disparities. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) Focusing exclusively on legal assistance for securing more land rights, while important, does not address the broader socio-economic issues identified in the passage, such as addiction. Legal rights are crucial for ensuring the tribe's economic stability and cultural preservation, but the passage emphasizes the need for a multifaceted approach that includes addressing social issues directly. By ignoring the importance of targeted social welfare interventions, this option falls short of providing a comprehensive solution to the challenges faced by the tribe. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

89. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "A pressing concern, however, is the widespread issue of alcohol addiction within the community."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) Asserting that legal land rights are the foundation of tribal welfare simplifies the complex array of challenges faced by tribal communities. While the passage acknowledges the importance of legal rights, it also highlights the need to address broader socio-economic and social issues, such as addiction. This statement fails to capture the holistic approach advocated in the passage, which calls for comprehensive interventions beyond legal solutions to ensure tribal well-being. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) This statement accurately reflects the passage's emphasis on the interconnectedness of economic improvement and social welfare. It acknowledges that without addressing critical social issues like addiction, economic advancements for tribal communities may not translate into meaningful improvements in their overall quality of life. The passage argues for a comprehensive approach to tribal welfare that includes both economic support and targeted interventions for social issues, making this statement a succinct summary of the author's viewpoint. Hence, Option b) is the correct answer.

c) Suggesting that effective support for tribal communities means promoting their integration into urban cultural settings misrepresents the passage's stance. The passage calls for targeted support that respects and preserves tribal identities and lifestyles, rather than pushing for assimilation into urban cultures. It emphasizes the need for interventions that address the specific challenges faced by tribes, including maintaining their cultural practices while improving socio-economic conditions. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) The idea of phasing out traditional livelihoods in favour of modern jobs oversimplifies the complex relationship between tribal communities and their traditional practices. The passage suggests that while non-traditional livelihoods are increasingly being adopted due to external pressures, there is value in

preserving traditional practices and ensuring that any transition is supportive rather than coercive. This statement fails to acknowledge the nuanced approach to livelihoods presented in the passage, which does not advocate for a wholesale replacement of traditional activities. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

90. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "The addiction issue is not isolated to Makuta but is a common narrative across several tribal villages in the Western Ghats."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) The notion that tribal communities inherently resist modernization mischaracterizes the dynamics discussed in the passage. The shift from traditional to non-traditional livelihoods is portrayed as a response to external pressures rather than an inherent aversion to change. The passage suggests that economic challenges and exploitation force tribes to adapt, indicating a pragmatic approach to livelihood changes rather than a blanket resistance to modernization. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) Claiming that access to education and healthcare alone can mitigate the socio-economic challenges faced by tribal communities oversimplifies the situation. While these are important components of tribal welfare, the passage emphasizes the need for a comprehensive approach that addresses a wide range of issues, including addiction. It suggests that socio-economic challenges are multifaceted and require interventions beyond basic services to effectively improve tribal living conditions. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) The passage argues for a multifaceted approach to addressing addiction within tribal communities, indicating that legal land rights, while important, are insufficient on their own. This reflects an understanding that the socio-economic and social challenges faced by tribes are complex and intertwined, requiring interventions that go beyond legal solutions. The emphasis on targeted support to address addiction underlines the passage's broader argument for comprehensive government interventions. Hence, Option c) is the correct answer.

d) Suggesting that the government's role should be limited to legal assistance for land claims contradicts the passage's advocacy for a holistic approach to tribal welfare. The passage calls for government interventions that not only secure legal rights but also address social welfare issues, including addiction. It underscores the necessity of broad-based support that encompasses both legal and social welfare interventions to effectively tackle the socio-economic challenges faced by tribal communities. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

91. **Answer: A**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "Trade using the Indian Rupee is also advantageous because the currency remains stable against most international currencies."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) The Rupee's past stability doesn't guarantee future performance, questioning its long-term trade appeal. This option directly challenges the assumption that historical performance is a reliable predictor of future outcomes in the volatile realm of international finance. Given the multitude of factors that can affect currency stability, including geopolitical events, economic policies, and market sentiment, relying solely on past stability to argue for the Rupee's future attractiveness in international trade is inherently flawed. Such an argument neglects the unpredictable nature of financial markets, where past trends are not always indicative of future movements. Hence, this option correctly identifies a logical gap in reasoning, making it the correct answer.

b) Disinterest from various countries in Rupee trading automatically confirm its stability or future potential. This option is not relevant to the passage. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) Special rupee Vostro account implementation does not ensure Rupee's future market performance stability. Implementing special Vostro accounts for the Rupee aims to facilitate international trade by allowing foreign banks to hold Rupees in India. While this is a strategic move to enhance the Rupee's international usability, it does not directly influence the currency's intrinsic stability. Market performance and stability are influenced by broader economic indicators, trade balances, and investor confidence, which cannot be assured by operational mechanisms alone. This option correctly identifies a limitation in the argument but does not directly address the core reasoning regarding the Rupee's appeal as a stable currency for trade. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) The Rupee's appeal based solely on its US dollar performance overlooks broader stability factors. This option critiques the narrow focus on the Rupee's performance against the US dollar as a metric for its overall stability and attractiveness in international trade. Currency stability and attractiveness depend on a wide array of factors, including economic fundamentals, inflation rates, and geopolitical risks, not just performance against another currency. By highlighting this oversight, the statement points to a flaw in reasoning but may not directly address the broader argument about the Rupee's intrinsic stability as attractive for trade. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

92. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "By avoiding the need to convert transactions into a third currency, both parties can significantly reduce transaction costs."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) Reduced transaction costs benefit only smaller economies. This option suggests that the advantages of trading in the Indian Rupee are unevenly distributed, primarily aiding smaller economies. While it may introduce an important consideration regarding the differential impact of Rupee trading, it does not directly challenge the overarching claim that transaction costs could be reduced. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) Converting transactions to the Indian Rupee incurs hidden costs, potentially outweighing transaction fee savings. This option directly undermines the central claim by introducing the concept of hidden costs, which could negate the apparent savings from avoiding currency conversions. If the process of converting transactions into Rupees entails additional expenses—such as fees for setting up Vostro accounts, managing currency risk, or dealing with regulatory compliance—these costs could erode the savings from reduced transaction fees. By challenging the net benefit of Rupee transactions, this statement provides a strong counterpoint to the argument, making it the correct answer.

c) The active pursuit by many countries to trade in their currencies underscores the Rupee's role in cost reduction. This option seems to support rather than weaken the argument by highlighting a trend towards local currency trading, which could be seen as an endorsement of the Rupee's potential to reduce costs. However, it misdirects from the question at hand by implying that the movement towards domestic currency trading validates the Rupee's efficacy in cost-saving. The focus here is on a broader trend rather than directly addressing the potential drawbacks or limitations of Rupee transactions in reducing costs. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) Special rupee Vostro accounts are widely praised for cutting costs, supporting the argument for Rupee trade's efficiency. By emphasizing the positive reception of Vostro accounts, this option reinforces rather than weakens the argument for the Rupee's role in reducing transaction costs. The praise for Vostro accounts suggests they are an effective mechanism for facilitating Rupee trade, aligning with the argument's premise that such trade can be cost-effective. However, this option fails to challenge the claim or introduce any considerations that might diminish the perceived benefits, making it unsuitable as a counterargument. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

93. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Reference Lines: "Many countries are expressing their interest in initiating direct transactions between their local currencies and the Indian Rupee."

Difficulty Level: Easy

a) A group of friends decides to settle all group expenses in a single currency to avoid the hassle and expense of currency exchange during their travels. This scenario effectively mirrors the rationale for countries' interest in Rupee transactions, emphasizing the convenience and cost-saving aspects of using a single currency. Just as the group of friends seeks to simplify transactions and minimize exchange-related expenses, countries looking to trade in Rupees aim to reduce complexities and costs associated with currency conversion. The parallel here is clear: both scenarios seek to streamline financial transactions by limiting the need for multiple currencies, making it the correct answer.

b) An online marketplace implements a policy requiring all transactions to be conducted in its own virtual currency to streamline operations and enhance security. While this scenario shares similarities with the concept of using a single currency for simplicity and efficiency, it diverges by focusing on the creation of a virtual currency and the motives of operational streamlining and security enhancement. The core reasoning behind countries' interest in Rupee transactions—reducing transaction costs and avoiding currency exchange hassles—is not directly mirrored here. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) A local business exclusively accepts payments in the local currency to support the community and avoid exchange rate fluctuations. This scenario highlights the benefits of using a local currency for stability and community support but does not fully capture the mutual benefits and international trade focus of Rupee transactions. While avoiding exchange rate fluctuations is a shared benefit, the scenario is more inward-looking, focusing on local transactions rather than international trade dynamics that underpin the interest in Rupee transactions. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) A software company adopts a global pricing model, charging customers in their local currency to increase market penetration and customer satisfaction. Although this scenario addresses the adaptation to local currencies for strategic business reasons, it centers more on pricing strategies and customer experience rather than on simplifying transactions and minimizing exchange-related costs. The intent here is more aligned with marketing and sales tactics, diverging from the primary rationale of reducing costs and simplifying international trade processes through Rupee transactions. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

94. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Reference Lines: "More and more countries are realising the advantages of trading in their own domestic currencies."

Difficulty Level: Easy

a) Rupee adoption in trade will not harm balance of international currency ecosystem. The argument presumes that trade in rupees will not harm the diversity and balance of the international currency ecosystem. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) Rupee Vostro account setups by Indian banks are vital for the Rupee's global integration. This statement aligns with the passage's discussion on mechanisms facilitating the Rupee's acceptance and usability in international trade. Vostro accounts are crucial for enabling foreign transactions in Rupees, serving as a foundational element for the currency's broader adoption. The passage suggests that such infrastructural developments are key to integrating the Rupee globally, indicating the author's likely agreement with this statement. Therefore, Option b) is not the correct answer because the author would probably agree with it.

c) Local currency trading, including with the Rupee, boosts financial stability and independence. This option reflects the passage's positive view on the benefits of trading in local currencies, such as enhancing financial stability and fostering economic independence. By reducing reliance on dominant reserve

currencies and promoting local currencies in international trade, countries can potentially achieve greater control over their economic policies and minimize exposure to external financial shocks. The author's arguments in favour of Rupee trading and the broader trend towards local currency usage suggest an agreement with this statement. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer because the author would likely agree with it.

d) The trend of countries trading in their domestic currencies is short-lived and unsustainable. This statement directly contradicts the passage's narrative, which highlights the growing interest and perceived advantages of trading in domestic currencies, including the Indian Rupee. The passage implies that this shift represents a significant and potentially lasting change in global trade practices, favouring financial stability, independence, and reduced transaction costs. By suggesting that the trend is unsustainable, this option stands in opposition to the author's optimistic view of the future of domestic currency trading. Therefore, the author would most likely disagree with this statement, making Option d) the correct answer.

95. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference Lines: "India's push for using the rupee globally began with its first-ever payment in rupees for crude oil purchased from the UAE."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) The Indian Rupee demonstrates exceptional stability against major currencies for the next decade. This option supports the passage's positive outlook on the Rupee's role in international trade, emphasizing its stability as a key factor for its acceptance. Stability is crucial for a currency's attractiveness in trade as it reduces risks associated with exchange rate fluctuations. If the Rupee maintains stability, it would likely enhance its appeal rather than challenge its acceptance. Therefore, this option would reinforce, not challenge, the author's arguments, making it an incorrect choice.

b) Countries return to established reserve currencies for trade, valuing convenience and existing deals. This scenario directly challenges the premise that trading in the Rupee (or other domestic currencies) offers significant benefits over traditional reserve currencies like the US dollar or the euro. If countries revert to these established currencies, it could indicate that the perceived advantages of Rupee transactions—such as reduced transaction costs and increased financial independence—are not sufficiently compelling. This return to the status quo would question the viability and future acceptance of the Rupee in global trade, making this option the correct answer.

c) Rupee Vostro accounts significantly boost India's trade volume with its partners. By facilitating trade and enhancing the Rupee's usability internationally, the success of Rupee Vostro accounts would likely support, not challenge, its global acceptance. This option indicates that the mechanisms put in place to promote the Rupee are effective, leading to increased trade volume and potentially strengthening the currency's international position. Therefore, this outcome would align with the author's arguments in favor of the Rupee's role in international trade, making it an incorrect choice.

d) Global bodies advocate for domestic currency use in trade, praising the Indian Rupee's model. This statement would further validate the arguments made in the passage, indicating that the push for trading in domestic currencies, exemplified by the Rupee, is gaining international support and recognition. If global financial institutions and trade bodies endorse the model, it would likely bolster the Rupee's acceptance and encourage its use in international transactions. Hence, this option would not challenge but rather support the author's viewpoint, making it an incorrect choice.

96. **Answer:** B

Explanation: A. India's trade deficit has decreased since the implementation of rupee trade agreements.

This statement does not necessarily strengthen the argument regarding the advantages of trading in Indian Rupee. A decrease in trade deficit could be attributed to various factors and may not specifically be linked to rupee trade agreements.

B. This statement directly supports the main argument of the passage by highlighting one of the advantages of trading in Indian Rupee in international trade - its stability against most international currencies. This stability makes the rupee an attractive currency for trade transactions.

C. The majority of developed countries have already adopted the rupee trade mechanism for their transactions with India.

There is no indication in the passage that the majority of developed countries have adopted the rupee trade mechanism. While some countries, including those in the Gulf region, have expressed interest, the passage does not mention widespread adoption among developed nations.

D. India's Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) amendments have resulted in a significant increase in bilateral trade with partner countries.

Although amendments to the FTP may have facilitated rupee trade, the passage does not provide evidence to support the claim that these amendments have resulted in a significant increase in bilateral trade. The focus of the passage is on the advantages and potential of rupee trade, rather than specific outcomes of FTP amendments.

97. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference Line: "A groundbreaking study has brought to light the significant effects that even short sessions of meditation can have on cognitive skills and decision-making abilities."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) An examination of the procedural methodology used in mindfulness meditation studies. This option suggests the passage focuses on the processes and methods utilized in conducting mindfulness meditation research. However, the primary content of the passage revolves around the outcomes of such studies rather than the methodologies themselves. The distinction is critical; the passage's emphasis on results, particularly on cognitive skills and decision-making, diverges from a procedural analysis. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) A detailed analysis of the diverse educational backgrounds of meditation study participants. While this option introduces an element of participant diversity into the discussion, it misrepresents the passage's main thrust. The mention of participants' educational backgrounds, if at all present, serves more as a peripheral detail rather than the core subject matter. The focus is on meditation's impact, not the demographic or educational nuances of the study cohort. Therefore, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) The impact of short mindfulness meditation sessions on cognitive skills and decision-making. This option directly captures the essence of the passage, which presents findings from a study or studies indicating how brief engagements with mindfulness meditation can significantly affect individuals' cognitive functioning and their ability to make decisions. This summary aligns with the key message intended by the author, making it the most accurate reflection of the passage's content. Hence, Option c) is the correct answer.

d) The historical development of mindfulness meditation practices and their cultural significance. Although mindfulness meditation indeed has a rich historical and cultural background, this option veers away from the passage's central theme. The focus on historical development and cultural significance would entail a discussion far removed from the empirical findings related to cognitive skills and decision-making abilities highlighted in the passage. As such, this choice does not accurately summarize the primary focus. Therefore, Option d) is not the correct answer.

98. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference Line: "To explore these effects, researchers assembled a diverse group of 60 participants...This cohort was divided randomly into two groups, with one engaging in mindfulness meditation."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) The historical significance of meditation in enhancing cognitive flexibility and stress management. This option diverts attention towards the general and historical benefits of meditation, which, while valuable, do not directly support the specific claims made in the passage about the immediate impacts of short meditation sessions. The passage aims to discuss contemporary findings rather than historical perspectives, making this option misaligned with the author's central evidence. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) Anecdotal reports from individuals who have experienced improvements in decision-making after meditating. While personal testimonies can be compelling, they do not constitute the robust empirical evidence that the passage relies on to make its case. The passage references a structured study with a clear methodology and measurable outcomes, which stands in contrast to the less formal nature of anecdotal evidence. This discrepancy indicates that Option b) fails to capture the type of evidence underpinning the author's argument. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) A study involving 60 participants who underwent a brief session of mindfulness meditation before a decision-making task. This option is directly aligned with the passage's narrative, which emphasizes the structured examination of mindfulness meditation's effects through a well-defined participant group and controlled conditions. It's this scientific approach and the findings it yields that form the backbone of the author's argument, making it clear that Option c) accurately reflects the primary piece of evidence. Hence, Option c) is the correct answer.

d) The theoretical frameworks that support the psychological benefits of long-term meditation practices. While theoretical underpinnings are essential for contextualizing research, the passage focuses more on empirical evidence from specific studies rather than on broad theoretical discussions. This option, therefore, points to a background element rather than the core evidence driving the author's argument about the immediate impacts of short meditation sessions. Consequently, Option d) does not represent the primary evidence. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

99. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference Line: "Individuals who engaged in the brief mindfulness meditation session demonstrated a markedly improved capacity to learn from positive feedback in scenarios characterized by uncertainty."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) The cultural significance of meditation naturally predisposes individuals to its cognitive benefits. This interpretation suggests a somewhat deterministic view where the cultural backdrop of meditation directly leads to cognitive enhancements. However, the passage concentrates on the experimental outcomes of mindfulness practice rather than cultural influences. The cause-and-effect relationship is established through empirical study rather than cultural predisposition, making this option a misrepresentation of the passage's content. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) Participants' varied educational backgrounds introduce variability in decision-making study outcomes. While acknowledging participant diversity is important in research for generalizability, this option misconstrues this diversity as a direct causal factor in the study's findings. The passage does not establish participant background as a cause for the observed effects of meditation on decision-making, instead focusing on the meditation practice itself as the causal factor. Therefore, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) A brief mindfulness meditation session enhances the ability to utilize new information under uncertainty. This choice succinctly captures the specific causal relationship highlighted in the passage: engaging in a short session of mindfulness meditation leads to improved cognitive performance, particularly in adapting to new information in uncertain scenarios. This direct linkage between a brief meditation practice and enhanced cognitive ability closely aligns with the study's findings as described, making it the accurate representation of the cause-and-effect relationship. Hence, Option c) is the correct answer.

d) The novelty of meditation study participation leads to a placebo effect that improves cognitive skills. This option introduces an alternative explanation for the observed cognitive improvements, attributing them to a placebo effect rather than the meditation practice itself. However, the passage focuses on the tangible outcomes of actual meditation practice, with no indication that the improvements could be attributed to placebo effects from the novelty of participation. This speculative cause-and-effect relationship is not supported by the passage's content. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

100. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference Line: "In contrast, the control group was assigned a neutral activity involving Chinese Tangram puzzles."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) Participants who had previously practiced meditation did not show significant differences in cognitive improvement compared to novices. This statement introduces an interesting perspective on the effectiveness of meditation across different experience levels. However, it does not directly challenge the claim that brief sessions enhance cognitive skills and decision-making abilities in general. The absence of a significant difference between novices and experienced practitioners could suggest other factors at play but doesn't invalidate the benefits of brief sessions. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) The control group engaging in Tangram puzzles showed similar improvements in cognitive skills and decision-making abilities. This option presents a direct challenge to the unique effectiveness of mindfulness meditation by suggesting that similar cognitive enhancements could result from engaging in an entirely different activity. If both activities yield comparable outcomes, it questions the specific contribution of mindfulness meditation to cognitive improvements, directly undermining the argument's basis. This direct comparison effectively weakens the claim about the unique benefits of brief mindfulness sessions. Hence, Option b) is the correct answer.

c) A larger study replicated the significant cognitive improvements seen in participants after brief meditation sessions. This option is strengthening the study performed on a small group of people. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) Mindfulness meditation's benefits are largely attributed to its long-term practice rather than brief sessions. Suggesting that the primary benefits of mindfulness meditation manifest through long-term practice rather than brief sessions could seem to undercut the emphasis on short sessions. However, this option does not directly weaken the claim about the impact of brief sessions on cognitive skills and decision-making abilities. It implies a distinction in the nature of benefits derived from short versus long-term practice, without disputing the effectiveness of the former. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

101. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference Line: "Their findings have underscored the transformative power of meditation, revealing that sessions as brief as five minutes can lead to enhanced learning capabilities."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) All forms of meditation have a uniform impact on cognitive skills and decision-making abilities. This option overgeneralizes the impact of meditation by implying that any form of meditation, irrespective of its specific practices or principles, would have the same effects on cognitive skills and decision-making. The passage, however, specifically highlights the benefits of mindfulness meditation, suggesting a unique contribution that may not be universally applicable to all meditation forms. This broad generalization misaligns with the passage's focused discussion on mindfulness meditation. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) Cognitive skills and decision-making abilities can be enhanced without any form of mental training or intervention. This statement implies a natural or spontaneous improvement in cognitive functions and decision-making without any specific practices or interventions. It contrasts sharply with the passage's

premise, which underscores the effectiveness of a particular intervention (mindfulness meditation) in enhancing these abilities. The passage's argument is built on the assumption that such improvements are the result of mindfulness meditation, not spontaneous developments. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) Short sessions of mindful meditation is uniquely capable of providing cognitive benefits. This option precisely captures the underlying assumption of the passage: that mindfulness meditation, even when practiced for very short periods, can yield significant cognitive benefits. This specificity about the unique capability of mindfulness meditation and the emphasis on the duration of practice aligns with the passage's focus, indicating that these brief sessions are sufficient to enhance cognitive skills and decision-making abilities. Hence, Option c) is the correct answer.

d) The psychological effects of meditation are predominantly placebo effects resulting from participants' expectations. This option introduces an alternative explanation for the observed benefits of meditation, attributing them to psychological factors like the placebo effect rather than the meditation practice itself. However, the passage presents mindfulness meditation as having a direct and tangible impact on cognitive abilities, supported by empirical evidence, rather than suggesting that improvements are merely the result of participants' expectations. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

102. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference Line: "This inquiry stems from an appreciation of mindfulness meditation's deep and far-reaching impact on cognitive functions."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) Studies show physical exercise improves cognitive skills and stress management, paralleling meditation benefits. While this option highlights the cognitive benefits of physical exercise, it does not directly strengthen the argument regarding the specific effects of brief mindfulness meditation sessions. The parallel drawn between exercise and meditation is interesting but fails to provide direct evidence supporting the unique cognitive enhancements attributed to brief mindfulness practices. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) After brief mindfulness sessions, participants report higher relaxation levels compared to other activities. Reporting higher relaxation levels after brief mindfulness sessions contributes to understanding the benefits of meditation but does not directly address the core argument about cognitive skills and decision-making abilities. While relaxation is undoubtedly beneficial and may indirectly support cognitive functioning, this option does not provide the direct link needed to strengthen the argument about specific cognitive improvements. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) Research indicates brief mindfulness sessions elevate brain activity in learning and decision-making areas. This option offers direct empirical support for the argument by linking brief mindfulness meditation sessions to increased brain activity in areas specifically associated with learning and decision-making. Such a direct correlation between meditation practice and enhanced brain function in relevant cognitive domains offers strong, specific evidence that bolsters the claim about the significant impact of brief mindfulness sessions. Hence, Option c) is the correct answer.

d) Long-term mindfulness practitioners display superior cognitive skills over non-meditators, suggesting foundational benefits. While this option underscores the benefits of long-term mindfulness practice, it does not directly strengthen the specific claim about the impact of brief sessions. The focus on long-term practice and its comparison with non-meditators provides valuable insight into the overall benefits of mindfulness but falls short of reinforcing the argument about the immediate effects of short sessions on cognitive skills and decision-making. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

103. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Reference Lines: "The government faces the task of establishing a credible cost estimation and price fixation process, balancing various factors to prevent inflated costs that undermine UHC."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) Private sector growth has significantly improved healthcare access and quality. The author acknowledges the positive contributions of the private sector to healthcare, recognizing its role in enhancing access and quality. This acknowledgment implies that the author values the improvements brought about by private sector growth in healthcare. However, the focus of disagreement here is with a statement that contradicts the author's viewpoint on cost regulation. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) Scientific cost estimation in hospitals could hinder Universal Health Coverage goals. The passage underscores the necessity of establishing a reliable cost estimation process to prevent inflated costs that could impede the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The statement suggesting that scientific cost estimation could hinder UHC goals directly opposes the author's perspective that careful cost management is essential for making healthcare affordable and accessible. Therefore, the author is most likely to disagree with this statement, making Option b) the correct answer.

c) Supreme Court's regulation judgment will make healthcare more equitable and accessible. This statement aligns with the author's views on the positive impact of regulatory measures on healthcare equity and accessibility. The author is supportive of steps that aim to make healthcare more equitable and accessible, including judicial interventions. The Supreme Court's judgment, in the author's view, likely represents a step toward achieving these objectives, indicating agreement rather than disagreement. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) The mix of public and private healthcare sectors was an unplanned but beneficial development. While the author might acknowledge the existence and contributions of both public and private sectors in healthcare, the focus of the passage is on the challenges and necessities of regulating the private sector to achieve UHC. The statement does not directly contradict the author's main arguments regarding the need for regulation and cost management to ensure accessible and affordable healthcare. Therefore, the author might not specifically disagree with this notion, making Option d) not the correct answer.

104. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Reference Lines: "Monitoring out-of-pocket expenditure, catastrophic health expenditure, and the impact on poverty levels are essential to gauge progress towards UHC."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) A significant decrease in out-of-pocket expenditures for healthcare services due to increased regulation of private healthcare costs. The passage discusses the importance of financial protection and the regulation of private sector costs as part of achieving UHC. By regulating these costs, the government aims to make healthcare more affordable, potentially leading to a reduction in out-of-pocket expenditures for individuals. This outcome directly aligns with the goals of UHC as described in the passage, making Option a) the correct answer.

b) An overall improvement in healthcare quality as private hospitals strive to meet government-set pricing without compromising service. Although regulating costs could incentivize some improvements in efficiency or quality, the passage does not explicitly link cost regulation with an overall improvement in healthcare quality. The primary focus is on making healthcare affordable and accessible rather than directly improving quality. Therefore, while this is a possible outcome, it is not the most directly supported by the passage. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) A surge in the number of people opting for private healthcare due to enhanced transparency and cost regulation. The passage focuses on the affordability and accessibility of healthcare through cost regulation, rather than suggesting an increase in the preference for private healthcare. The main goal is Universal

Health Coverage, which includes both public and private sectors without specifically aiming to drive people towards private healthcare. Thus, this option does not directly follow from the author's arguments. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) An increase in the administrative burden on healthcare providers, leading to potential delays in care and reduced efficiency. While regulating private healthcare costs might introduce some administrative challenges, the passage does not address this as a likely or primary outcome of implementing UHC. The focus is more on the benefits of cost regulation for affordability and access, rather than on potential negative consequences such as administrative burdens. Therefore, this option does not align closely with the passage's implications. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer. implementation, making this a less likely direct outcome based on the author's description.

105. **Answer: C**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "To measure progress towards UHC, indicators such as out-of-pocket expenditure... are monitored."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) Evidence shows that countries with regulated healthcare costs have lower rates of healthcare access compared to unregulated markets. This option could potentially challenge the necessity of cost regulation by suggesting that such regulation might not always lead to improved healthcare access. However, it does not directly address the specific context of India or the primary factors contributing to catastrophic health expenditures, which are central to the passage's argument. Therefore, while relevant, it does not directly weaken the argument in the context of India. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) Data indicates that out-of-pocket healthcare expenditures have decreased significantly in India over the past decade without stringent cost regulation. This option suggests that significant progress has been made in reducing out-of-pocket expenses without the direct intervention proposed by the author. While this could imply that other measures might also be effective, it does not directly refute the argument that regulating costs is essential for UHC. The passage suggests that regulation is still a critical component of achieving UHC, making this option a weaker choice for directly weakening the argument. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) Studies reveal that private healthcare costs are not the primary factor contributing to catastrophic health expenditures in India. This option directly challenges the premise that private healthcare costs are a significant barrier to achieving UHC. If private healthcare costs are not the main factor driving catastrophic health expenditures, then the emphasis on regulating these costs as essential for UHC would indeed be undermined. This directly weakens the argument by challenging its foundational assumption, making Option c) the correct answer.

d) Surveys demonstrate high patient satisfaction with private healthcare services, correlating with the quality rather than the cost of care. While high patient satisfaction is important, it does not directly address the issue of healthcare affordability or the necessity of cost regulation for achieving UHC. Patient satisfaction can coexist with high costs, and thus, this option does not effectively weaken the argument that cost regulation is crucial for UHC. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

106. **Answer: B**

Explanation: Reference Lines: "While much care in the public sector is free, the private sector significantly supplements this capacity."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) Despite the private sector's key role in healthcare, its regulation is essential to prevent financial hardship. This option describes a situation where regulation is necessary despite the private sector's contributions, but it does not capture the essence of a paradox. The need for regulation to prevent financial

hardship is presented more as a logical step than a paradoxical situation, focusing on the balance between leveraging the private sector's role and ensuring affordability. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) Even with public sector's free care, high out-of-pocket costs arise from the private sector's role. This option effectively captures the paradox described in the passage: the existence of free public healthcare alongside significant costs incurred in the private sector, leading to high out-of-pocket expenditures. This paradox highlights the contrast between the intention of providing free care and the reality of financial burdens from private healthcare, making Option b) the correct answer.

c) The government's Universal Health Coverage push contrasts with the private sector's resistance to regulation. While this option describes a potential conflict between government objectives and private sector interests, it does not encapsulate a paradox within the healthcare system itself. The focus here is more on the dynamics between different stakeholders rather than a paradoxical situation arising from the system's structure. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) The National Health Policy's universal access goal contrasts with increased costs due to the private sector's growth. This option suggests a contradiction between policy goals and the implications of private sector growth, but it does not directly present a paradox in the way that free public care coexisting with high private costs does. The contrast between goals and outcomes is a common challenge in policy implementation, lacking the paradoxical nature of free care leading to high costs. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

107. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Reference Lines: "Achieving UHC involves... extending health service provision across the population." and "The Supreme Court's recent judgement... has sparked debate."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) The first highlights the goal of Universal Health Coverage; the second argues the necessity of regulating private healthcare costs to achieve this goal. This option accurately describes the relationship between the bold-faced statements, connecting the overall goal of UHC with the specific strategy of regulating private healthcare costs. The passage articulates that achieving UHC requires addressing financial barriers, with cost regulation being a critical aspect of this effort. This causal relationship is central to the author's argument, making Option a) the correct answer.

b) The first emphasizes the benefits of the private healthcare sector; the second discusses government initiatives to supplement public healthcare. While the passage may touch on these topics, this option does not accurately represent the relationship between the bold-faced statements. The focus of the passage is not on the benefits of the private sector or government initiatives in isolation, but rather on how these elements interact within the broader context of achieving UHC. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) The first discusses financial challenges in healthcare; the second offers solutions through public-private partnerships. This option captures elements present within the broader discussion but does not accurately describe the specific relationship outlined by the bold-faced statements. The passage's focus on cost regulation as a means to achieve UHC is not adequately captured by the general discussion of financial challenges and public-private partnerships. Hence, Option c) is not the correct answer.

d) The first describes the Supreme Court's role in healthcare regulation; the second critiques the government's approach to healthcare cost management. While the passage may mention the Supreme Court and government policies, this option does not accurately reflect the relationship between the bold-faced statements regarding the goal of UHC and the necessity of cost regulation. The emphasis is on the strategic approach to achieving UHC rather than a critique of government policies. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

108. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Reference Lines: "Expanding service coverage without jeopardizing financial protection poses a challenge."

Difficulty Level: Moderate

a) The historical evolution of India's healthcare system and the consequent rise in the private sector's dominance in urban areas. This option addresses an aspect of the healthcare system's development but does not capture the primary focus of the passage. The passage is more concerned with current challenges and strategies for achieving UHC than with a detailed historical analysis of the healthcare system's evolution. Hence, Option a) is not the correct answer.

b) The Supreme Court's judgment on regulating private hospital charges and its implications for the healthcare system. While the Supreme Court's judgment is mentioned, it serves as a part of the broader discussion on cost regulation and its role in achieving UHC. The judgment is not the primary focus of the passage, but rather one element within the discussion on making healthcare more affordable and accessible. Hence, Option b) is not the correct answer.

c) The challenge of achieving Universal Health Coverage in India, balancing service expansion and financial protection. This option directly reflects the passage's main focus, highlighting the dual challenges of expanding healthcare services to achieve UHC while ensuring that financial protection is maintained. The passage discusses the complexities involved in achieving this balance, making this the most accurate summary of its primary focus. Hence, Option c) is the correct answer.

d) The benefits and concessions provided to private hospitals, such as land price concessions and exemptions on equipment customs duties. While the passage may mention benefits and concessions to private hospitals as part of the broader narrative, these details are not the central focus. The main discussion revolves around strategies for achieving UHC and managing healthcare costs, rather than on specific benefits provided to private hospitals. Hence, Option d) is not the correct answer.

Quantitative Techniques

109. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Number of paper cups sold by seller 'A' = 720 – 640 = 80

Required percentage = $\{(360 - 80)/80\} \times 100 = 350\%$

Hence, option D.

Common Explanation (Q109 to Q114):

Average cups sold by seller A $\Rightarrow \frac{2}{3}$ of cups sold (Plastic) by E

$\Rightarrow \frac{2}{3} \times 480 \Rightarrow 320$

Therefore total cups sold by A = 320 × 2 = 640

Total cups sold by B = 960

i.e, Plastic + Earthen = 960 (1)

Difference between the two types of cups sold by B

Earthen – Plastic = 320 (2)

(According to Note earthen > Plastic for seller B)

On solving both the equations

E + P = 960

E – P = 320

We get Earthen cups = 640

And, Plastic cups = 320

Total cups sold by C = $\frac{160}{100} \times 300 = 480$

Therefore Earthen cups sold by C

\Rightarrow Total cups – Plastic cups (given)

$\Rightarrow 480 - 300$

$\Rightarrow 180$

Average cups sold by D = Total cups sold by C – 200

= 480 – 200

= 280

Therefore Total cups sold by D = 280 × 2 = 560

Number of Earthen cups sold by E = 640/2 = 320

Earthen cups sold by A = LCM of 36 and 10

i.e, = 180 × 2 = 360

Earthen cups sold by E = $280 \times \frac{5}{7} = 200$

Seller	Total Cups Sold	Plastic	Earthen
A	640	280	360
B	960	320	640
C	480	300	180
D	560	360	200
E	800	480	320

110. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Required difference = 960 – (300 + 480) = 180

Hence, option D.

111. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Required ratio = (180 + 320):320 = 500:320 = 25:16

Hence, option C.

112. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Required average = (640 + 200)/2 = 420

Hence, option A.

113. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Total number of cups sold by seller 'F' = $800 + 200 = 1000$
 Number of plastic cups sold by seller 'F' = $360 \times (5/4) = 450$
 Therefore, number of earthen cups sold by seller 'F' = $1000 - 450 = 550$
 Hence, option A.

114. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Total Cups sold by A = 640
 50% will be = 320
 Total cups sold by B and E = $960 - 800 = 160$
 Sum = $320 + 160 = 480$

115. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Let number of malaria patients admitted in the hospital on Thursday = '7x'
 Number of diarrhoea patients admitted in the hospital on Thursday = $(5/7) \times 7x = '5x'$
ATQ,
 $(7x - 5x) = 150$
 Or, $2x = 150$
 So, $x = 75$
 Sum of number of malaria and diarrhoea patients admitted in the hospital on Thursday =
 $(7x + 5x) = 12x = 12 \times 75 = 900$
 Therefore, total number of patients admitted in the hospital on Thursday = $(900/0.60) = 1500$
 Hence, option B.

Common Explanation (Q115 to Q120):

As per the given information:

Days	Total number of patient admitted	Sum of number of malaria and diarrhoea patients admitted as percentage of total number of patients admitted	Ratio of number of malaria to that of diarrhoea patients admitted
Tuesday	500	–	5:4
Wednesday	1000	38%	–
Thursday	–	60%	7:5
Friday	2500	40%	2:3

116. **Answer:** C

Explanation: Total number of malaria and diarrhoea patient admitted in the hospital on Friday = $0.40 \times 2500 = 1000$
 Total number of malaria and diarrhoea patient admitted in the hospital on Tuesday = $1270 - 1000 = 270$
 Number of diarrhoea patient admitted in the hospital on Tuesday = $270 \times (4/9) = 120$
 Hence, option C.

117. **Answer:** A

Explanation: Total number of patients admitted in the hospital on Tuesday = 500
 Total number of patients admitted in the hospital on Saturday = $1.50 \times 500 = 750$
 Number of male patients admitted in the hospital on Saturday = $0.16 \times 750 = 120$
 Hence, option A.

118. **Answer:** D

Explanation: Total number of patient admitted in the hospital on Wednesday = 1000

Total number of malaria and diarrhoea patient admitted in the hospital on Wednesday = $0.38 \times 1000 = 380$

Number of diarrhoea patient admitted in the hospital on Wednesday = 100

Number of malaria patient admitted in the hospital on Wednesday = $380 - 100 = 280$

Required ratio = $280:1000 = 7:25$

Hence, option D.

119. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Patients admitted on Tuesday = 500

Patients admitted on Friday = 2500

Average will be = $(2500 + 500)/2 = 3000/2 = 1500$

Its 33.33% will be = $1500 \times 1/3 = 500$

120. **Answer:** B

Explanation: Total patients = 2500 on Friday (given)

Other patients = $2500 \times (60/100) = 1500$

Patients of malaria and diarrhoea = $2500 - 1500 = 1000$

Ratio is given for malaria to diarrhoea in the question i.e, 2 : 3

Diarrhoea patients = $(1000/5) \times 3 = 600$

Difference = $1500 - 600 = 900$ patients
